

Bold ideas



Careers Magazine

How a Goldsmiths degree can
benefit your future career

Goldsmiths
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

bright futures

Welcome

Goldsmiths is one of the great creative universities. Here, creativity isn't just something you study – it's how you learn, think and approach the world across every subject.

During your degree, you'll develop knowledge and skills that shape how you see things – and where you see yourself within them. You'll be encouraged to question assumptions, connect ideas across disciplines, and approach problems in original and thoughtful ways.

But your time here is also about what comes next.

We know that thinking about your future can feel exciting and uncertain at the same time. Careers today are rarely linear, and success doesn't look the same for everyone. Whether you're aiming for a specific profession, exploring the creative industries, considering further study, or thinking about starting something of your own, we're here to help you explore your options and build a path that works for you.

Goldsmiths graduates go on to work across a wide range of sectors – from arts and culture to healthcare, education, media and technology. You'll find our alumni at organisations such as the BBC, the NHS, Tate, Sony and Google, as well as launching their own businesses and creative projects.

What they all share is not a single career path, but the ability to think creatively, adapt, and bring new perspectives to whatever they do.

And we know it works. 80% of our undergraduates move into highly skilled work or further study, and 73% say what they do is meaningful. Goldsmiths is also a top-three UK university for producing business founders, and among the leading institutions for CEOs and managing directors. We are ranked in the top 10 universities in London.

At Goldsmiths, your degree is only part of the picture. Our Careers Service will support you throughout your time here – helping you build confidence, gain experience, and take your first steps into the world of work.

Our aim isn't to define success for you, but to give you the skills, insight and creative confidence to shape it on your own terms.

This magazine brings together advice, opportunities and alumni stories to show where a Goldsmiths education can take you. I hope it gives you a sense of what's possible – and the confidence to shape what comes next.



Professor David Oswell
Interim Vice-Chancellor of
Goldsmiths, University
of London

Sources: Graduate Outcomes Survey 2022; Hitachi Capital Invoice Finance 2021; Complete University Guide 2025.

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Words of Wisdom



One degree, limitless futures

There are so many ways to use your degree after you graduate. At Goldsmiths, we give you the chance to find your niche, your passion, and your future. Explore what career paths your subject could lead to: *

Anthropology

You'll gain global perspective, developing a cross-cultural understanding. You can apply your knowledge of social and cultural processes to many roles.

- You could work in:
- Advertising and marketing
 - Central and local government
 - Charities and non-governmental organisations (NGOs)
 - Socially focused professions
 - Social research organisations and think tanks

Art

From creative problem solving to meeting deadlines, you'll be equipped to become a practising artist or work across a variety of industries.

- You could work in:
- Art Practice
 - Freelance art
 - Community and education
 - Curating and PR
 - Galleries and arts organisations

Computing

You'll learn in-demand technical skills such as designing, developing, and applying software; an in-depth understanding of the fundamentals of computing such as programming languages; to more general skills like teamwork and creative thinking.

- You could work in:
- IT companies
 - Financial services
 - Telecommunications
 - Software and user experience design
 - Technical support for retailers and manufacturers
 - Games development

Design

You'll learn about creative problem solving, visual presentation, imagination, and creativity. We expose you to critical, theoretical, and creative perspectives, aiding your ability to think systematically through issues and apply them after university.

- You could work in:
- Freelance design
 - Education
 - Media and advertising
 - In-house design across various industries

English and Creative Writing

You'll learn to solve problems, think creatively and to communicate with clarity. These skills can be applied to a broad selection of job roles.

- You could work in:
- Education
 - Media and advertising
 - Publishing
 - As a writer, copywriter, author or editor

Educational Studies

You'll be prepared for a career in teaching but could also opt for a wide range of other careers because of the skills you'll develop.

- You could work in:
- Teaching roles
 - Teaching support roles such as teaching assistants
 - Educational psychology
 - Educational policy making, administration and technical support
 - Community arts and education
 - The police and probation services
 - Youth, social work, and charity sectors

History

From analytical knowledge to critical and independent thinking, a degree in history will provide you with adaptable skills which are highly desirable to employers.

- You could work in:
- Central and local government
 - The third sector including museums
 - Education
 - Information management
 - Social research organisations and think tanks

History of Art and Curating

Studying modern and contemporary art history and visual culture will develop your critical and analytical skills that can be used in a variety of industries.

- You could work in:
- Education
 - Journalism and publishing
 - Museums, galleries and heritage

Law

You can begin your journey to become a lawyer in the UK and gain practical experience and great skills to help you find your future career.

- You could work in:
- Practising law as either a solicitor or barrister
 - Human rights and the third sector
 - Finance
 - The civil service
 - Patent and trademark litigation
 - The government
 - The Crown Prosecution Service
 - The police or prison service
 - Legal recruitment
 - Academia

*Remember, you aren't limited to any of these fields. You can use transferable skills from your degree and apply them to so many different careers!

Management Studies

During your degree you'll develop knowledge, skills, and abilities that business leaders and entrepreneurs need.

You could work in:

- Accountancy, banking, and finance
- Recruitment and human resources (HR)
- Business consulting and management
- Transport and logistics
- Retail and sales
- IT and information services

Media, Communications and Cultural Studies

Media, Communications and Cultural Studies covers a wide range of topics. In terms of future employment, this means you can focus on areas of interest and use these to help decide on a career area.

You could work in:

- Advertising, marketing and PR
- Media, publishing and creative industries
- Charities and non-governmental organisations (NGOs)
- Central and local government
- Social research organisations and think tanks
- Journalism

Music

Your degree will provide both the practical and academic skills you'll need to start your career. From performance and composition to analytical thinking, you'll be able to find the right job role when you graduate.

You could work in:

- Performance such as orchestras, bands, or as a session musician or solo artist
- Composing
- Music production
- Engineering
- Teaching
- Arts administration
- Events
- Music marketing, management, and PR

Politics and International Relations

You'll learn a variety of skills that are highly sought by graduate employers including an understanding of UK governance and a cross-cultural insight into international politics.

You could work in:

- Politics
- Business and graduate management schemes
- Central and local government
- Charities and non-governmental organisations
- Social research organisations and think tanks

Psychology

Your degree could be the starting point for a career as a chartered psychologist, or you may decide to go into a related field that draws on your interests and skills.

You could work in:

- Different professional psychology roles including clinical, educational, forensic and occupational psychology
- Advertising and marketing
- Counselling and advice work
- Human resources

Sociology and Criminology

Studying Sociology and Criminology offers a wide range of topics. In terms of future employment this means you can focus on areas of interest and use these to help decide on a career area.

You could work in:

- Central and local government
- Community work and advice work
- Socially focused professions e.g. youth work or counselling
- Social research organisations and think tanks

Social Work, Therapeutic and Community Studies

You'll develop a variety of skills that can be applied to a broad range of sectors. From developing an understanding of fostering trust to advocacy and campaigning in the community, there are so many skills to be gained.

You could work in:

- Community engagement
- Counselling and psychotherapy
- Not-for-profit sector
- Social work

Theatre and Performance

This highly practical area of study will allow you to try out varied skills from performance to planning. You'll learn to push creative boundaries giving you the confidence to thrive after university.

You could work in:

- Professional acting
- Backstage roles such as lighting and costume design
- Arts management
- Community arts
- Events management, marketing, or PR
- Self-employment or freelancing in the creative fields
- Teaching

There are so many ways you can apply what you learn at Goldsmiths. We've got loads more information on the skills you gain on our website at

[explore.gold/careers/skills-careers](https://explore.gold.ac.uk/careers/skills-careers)

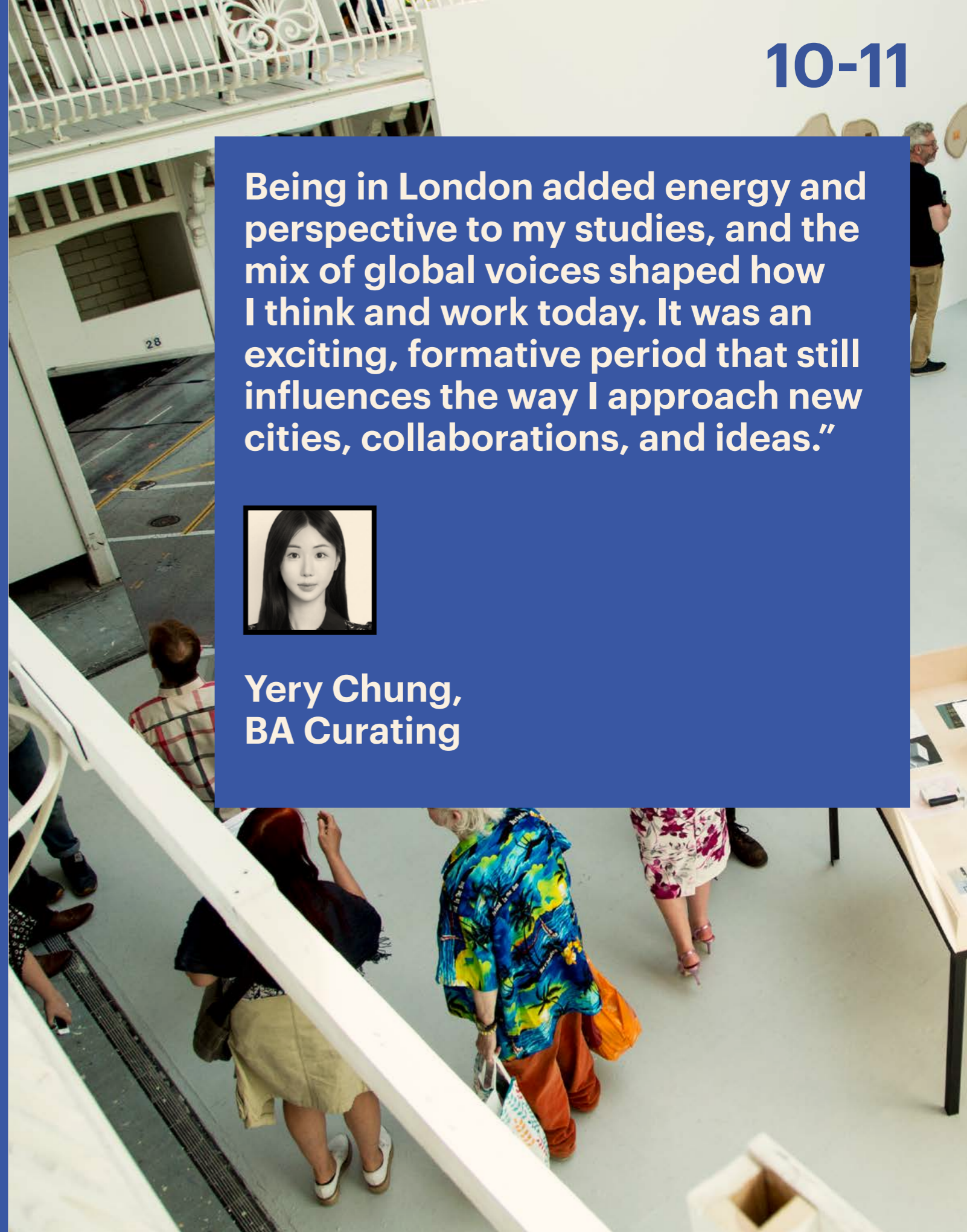


“What I loved most was how learning extended beyond the classroom. Ideas flowed through exhibitions, public talks, long walks across the city, and conversations with people from very different backgrounds. Goldsmiths encouraged exchange and curiosity, which made the experience feel open and alive.

Being in London added energy and perspective to my studies, and the mix of global voices shaped how I think and work today. It was an exciting, formative period that still influences the way I approach new cities, collaborations, and ideas.”



Yery Chung,
BA Curating



Distinctive learning, outstanding outcomes

The skills, connections and confidence you'll gain while studying at Goldsmiths will position you as a strong candidate in the job industry. Our degrees have excellent outcomes, with the majority of our graduates going into high-skilled employment.

Anthropology

87%

of our Anthropology graduates go on to employment or further study.

Art

82%

of our Art graduates are in employment within 15 months after graduating. 64% are self-employed.

Computing

89%

of our Computing graduates are in high-skilled employment, with the majority in computer programming or consultancy jobs.

Design

100%

of our Design graduates are in high-skilled employment. 50% are self-employed, while 7% are running their own business.

English and Creative Writing

83%

of our English and Creative Writing graduates are in employment, 83% of whom are in high-skilled employment.

Educational Studies

95%

of our Educational Studies graduates are in employment, with 93% of those in high-skilled employment.

History

100%

of our History graduates are in employment.

History of Art and Curating

100%

of our History of Art and Curating graduates are in employment.

Law

100%

of our Law graduates are employed in high-skilled positions, with the majority in legal and accounting activities.

Management Studies

100%

of our Management Studies graduates are in employment.

Media, Communications and Cultural Studies

82.5%

of our graduates in employment are in high-skilled roles.

Music

83%

of our Music graduates are employed in high-skilled roles, while 67% are self-employed.

Politics and International Relations

86%

of our Politics and International Relations graduates are in employment, 86% of whom are employed in high-skilled positions.

Psychology

71%

of Psychology graduates are in employment or employment and further study, with 11% going onto further study. The majority are working in human health activities or education.

Sociology and Criminology

81%

of our Sociology and Criminology graduates are in employment, 71% of whom are in high-skilled positions.

Social Work, Therapeutic and Community Studies

92%

of those employed are in high-skilled roles, while 41% are self-employed. The majority of those in employment are working in public administration and defence or human health activities.

Theatre and Performance

100%

of our Theatre and Performance graduates are in high-skilled employment.

Juno

Building a creative practice

Throughout her Fine Art degree, Juno explored different mediums of art, such as sculpture and video. However, after discussions and individual support from her tutors, she decided to focus on photography. She spent a lot of time utilising the darkroom and commercial photography studio facilities at Goldsmiths to focus on her craft. "When I was in third year, I tried to use it as much as possible, just to build up my portfolio." The staff helped her navigate the tools and equipment. "I built up knowledge in that area, and then I brought it out for my career journey as a professional photographer," she says.

After her graduation in 2023, Juno went on to do a Masters and now she works in a photography studio while continuing to be a practising artist, submitting work to open calls and doing exhibitions. "I really like taking photos. It's just my general joy," says Juno. "It's just me and the tool, you know, the silent interaction is really cool. I mean, it's therapeutic in a way." She focuses on product and object photography for her work. "Even the post-production part, removing all the dust and marks is kind of a healing process, making it in a better condition."

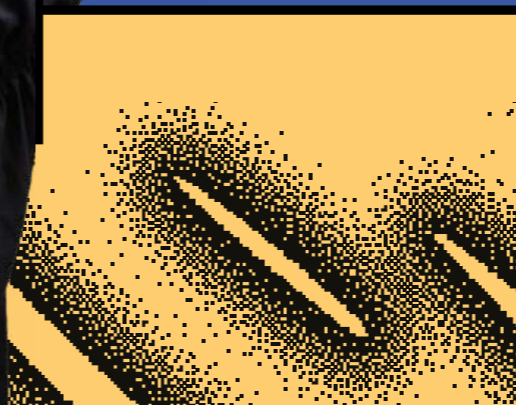
During the Fine Art degree show (a chance for final year students to exhibit their final work in a public exhibition), Juno presented a very personal photography project about her grandmother, before and after her death. The artistic vulnerability in Juno's art didn't go unnoticed — she received an award from the prestigious Royal Photographic Society for her project. "It was such a great honour. That's my biggest achievement so far," says Juno.



She hopes to become a full-time artist one day. However, Juno describes a successful life as "not only about being a big person in the industry, but also just keeping doing what you're doing and not losing it".

Even after graduation, Juno still keeps in touch with her tutors. "I always get a lot of help from them, even now," she says. Juno also stays connected through Alumni news, where she receives information on open calls, voluntary experiences and other ways of getting involved with the Goldsmiths community. "Still, even after graduating, I feel like they care about you," she says. "I really feel like the general care and support level is totally different".

Artist, photographer and Fine Art graduate Juno came to study at Goldsmiths from South Korea. She was influenced by the success stories of other artist alumni. "In the beginning I felt different, like I had this fear that I can't really be involved," says Juno. "But the tutors did their role, to make everyone involved, during the critique or any group session. And to make you feel that you're a part of it."



Robin

Life after Goldsmiths, ten years on

From an early interest in digital tools to becoming the Lead Creative Technologist at Burberry, Robin credits Goldsmiths for his ability to balance creative and technical skills: “Through my degree, I was being given the technical skills, but then also shown how you can use those skills to make cool and interesting designs, art, media and apps”

As a teenager, Robin was initially interested in creating electronic music. It was through experiments using music software on his family’s computer that he discovered his interest in creative technologies: “There was just this feeling of like, ‘oh wow, you can make something and other people use it’”.

That curiosity led him to study Creative Computing at Goldsmiths from 2012 to 2016.

During his time at Goldsmiths, one of the defining aspects of his study was the creative mindset it encouraged: “The big one is the critical thinking and questioning why something is the way it is,” he explains. “Anyone I’ve met who went to Goldsmiths that’s the underlying thing that they come out with.”

Alongside this, he developed strong technical foundations. Programming didn’t come easily at first, Robin explains, “it was a big learning curve...a lot of long hours”.

While his degree offered the freedom to explore technology in creative ways, it was grounded in industry knowledge. Guest lectures from industry professionals allowed him to see how the creative projects he was working on could be applied in real-world scenarios: “It was the first time where I was like, ‘oh, so maybe some of these things that I’m learning that seem like purely creative endeavours can actually have uses in completely different fields’”.

Robin’s career began through a connection made at his final year degree show. It was attended by industry professionals, and one conversation led to an internship and then a full-time role at the design agency Fjord.

Over five years at Fjord, he worked on projects ranging from websites to large-scale digital tools. One professional highlight was collaborating with scientist Dr Peter Scott-Morgan to redesign accessibility software for people with motor neurone disease. “That was really mind-blowing, I’ll remember that for the rest of my life.”

Today, he is the Lead Creative Technologist at Burberry, where he explores how new technologies can shape the future of a heritage brand: “It’s this juxtaposition of a 170-year-old brand and brand-new technology...trying to mash those together.”



Looking back, Robin acknowledges the transferable skills he found outside of his lectures and how they inform his work today. As manager of the student radio station, Wired, he gained hands-on experience organising teams, running events, and building a creative community. “I didn’t realise at the time, but there were definitely lessons about how to organise people and organise yourself.”

Alongside his professional work, Robin has continued developing Ocean, a music-making platform that began during his time at university. It reflects the same motivation that first drew him into computing: “That loop of having an idea, building it, and people using it”.

After more than a decade in the industry, Robin’s idea of success has shifted. His early goals focused on getting a job and progressing professionally, but now, balance matters more: “That feels like a kind of successful state, more than working for a certain company or earning a certain amount.”

As he looks to the future, his ambition is to grow Ocean into a full-time venture, and while he has found success after university, he also recognises that his learning didn’t stop after graduating:

“If anything, there are still topics that I remember coming into contact with at Goldsmiths that I’m still curious about that I can learn about later in my life.”

Supporting you to shape your future

Some people start university with their heart set on a particular career, while others keep an open mind about where university will take them. We can help you discover the different routes your future could take.

Use our Careers Service

While studying at Goldsmiths you'll have access to our Careers Service. The expert team are on hand from day one to help you develop new skills and get valuable work experience. Whether you have a particular career in mind or are unsure of your next steps, you'll also be able to get advice and support with one-to-one appointments with careers consultants, have your CV checked and practice your interview technique.

If you're looking for work, you'll also have access to our databases to find jobs and paid internships. That's not all – you can start to build your network while studying at regular careers fairs and events.

If working for yourself is more your thing, we also offer lots of support and advice around setting up a business and developing your entrepreneurial skills.

“The Careers Service has been incredibly useful. In particular, the CV check-in service really helped my professional development. The Careers Service led me to two volunteering opportunities that I love and were so easy to apply for.”

Cameron Murphy,
BA Media & Communications



Become a Student Ambassador

If you want to gain paid work experience during your studies, becoming a Student Ambassador is a great way to gain employability skills during your degree, and to find out more about the things you enjoy doing. You'll have the chance to earn a competitive hourly rate and work across a broad range of activities at Goldsmiths.

The Gold Award

As a Goldsmiths student you'll have the opportunity to complete The Gold Award, a programme designed to help you identify your skills, develop new ones, and gain experiences through co-curricular activities – from volunteering to mentoring. Find out more about the programme at explore.gold/careers/gold-award

“Outside of my studies, I am a student ambassador, where I support the university with events such as Open Days and take on regular work in the IT department. The role has helped me develop a range of new skills I didn't expect. I've found I'm quite extroverted – I like going out to events or even hosting. Working as a student ambassador and developing these new skills has helped me expand my career options.”

Saugat,
BSc Computer Science



Get out into industry

Many of our programmes offer the opportunity to take an industry placement. These are a fantastic way to develop skills and build a network of useful contacts.

We also set up a variety of internships: on campus, in research,

and in small businesses and start-ups.

Even if you don't take a placement or internship, we run regular careers fairs, networking events and industry panels where you can hear from professionals working in a variety of sectors.



80%

of our undergraduate students move on to highly-skilled work after their studies. (Graduate Outcomes Survey)

Find out more about the careers support we have on offer at

explore.gold/careers/support



Nikita

Finding her path after university

Nikita began to explore career paths early on at Goldsmiths, something which was supported by the Careers Service and the School of Media, Communications and Cultural Studies: "I was very keen to just get actual experience." As part of a work placement module, Nikita secured an internship at TikTok, an opportunity that would shape her future plans. She credits finding the internship to the Media and Communications Jobs board, a virtual listing site hosted by the School, sharing relevant jobs and internships with students: "I wouldn't have seen some of the opportunities I did end up getting if it weren't for the Media Jobs board".

Working in TikTok's go-to-market team, Nikita gained hands-on experience in a global company, contributing to campaigns across five European markets. "You see that like a billion people have seen this...I thought, 'Whoa, this is a lot of people,' and I think that was exciting." The internship extended beyond the summer, with Nikita continuing part-time alongside her studies, an experience that gave her an insight into the pace and expectations of the workplace.

Alongside her studies, Nikita also made the most of student life by working with a group to relaunch the student newspaper. As Treasurer and Head of Advertising, she led a team responsible for securing advertising and running campaigns. "I had to manage a team, delegate tasks and follow up on it without being irritating" she says. "That's a skill." She recognises that those skills continue to be of use today, informing how she works with teams and colleagues in her current work.

After graduating, Nikita moved into her current role as a Marketing Executive at a healthcare startup. In her day-to-day, she runs paid advertising campaigns and manages social media. Alongside this, she freelances in content creation and editing, applying the practical production skills she developed at Goldsmiths: "We would produce films or documentaries, I feel like there's nothing like it, especially for media, you have to go film something, make something out of it, which I think was quite useful."

Reflecting on her journey, Nikita believes success comes from making the most of opportunities available. "Get involved," she advises. "Learn to juggle many things".

Still at the beginning of her journey, Nikita is keeping her options open and considering her next steps: "On one hand, it'd be nice to be a creative director of a company or head of marketing. I think it'd be fun to climb up that kind of way. And if not that, I think I would be an entrepreneur and open my own media agency, which is terrifying. And I'm not sure I'm built for it. But yeah, you don't know if you don't try."



Having graduated in 2024 with a degree in Media and Communications, Nikita is already building an exciting career in marketing, working as a Marketing Executive at a startup and freelancing in content creation. While she is still figuring out exactly what direction she wants to take her career, she recognises the value in the experiences she is undertaking: "I think I'm still quite early in my career," she says, "but whatever skill set I'm picking up has been quite useful."

Grace

Making contacts for career success

A defining moment came when Grace took a creative writing module in her third year. Her seminar leader had just published a book, and encouraged Grace to get in touch after graduation if she needed any advice. "I did, and she approached her publishing contacts for me," Grace explains. This "really positive moment" set the wheels in motion for a series of roles at several publishers, and – just 10 years after graduating – Grace was promoted to Deputy Publicity Director at Little Brown Book Group, and worked as Acting Director of Literary Publicity while her manager was on maternity leave.

Grace acknowledges that publishing can be quite an "opaque" industry in that it's sometimes tricky to know about the different jobs within it until you get a foot in the door. So what does she do in her role? "Basically, I'm a publicist for books and authors," she explains. "This could include dealing with the press – trying to get book reviews, lining up author interviews, and getting features written – or working with the broadcast media, trying to get the author on TV or radio. There are also loads of wonderful book bloggers and influencers out there, which is really useful if you're struggling to get press." The industry has changed a lot in recent years with the rise of social media, including #BookTok on TikTok. "Our company has had some massive bestsellers just from having books go viral on there", she says.



Grace also lines up author events and accompanies authors on publicity tours where they might speak at international literary festivals and appear on popular television programmes. She's represented authors including Celeste Ng, Ronan Farrow (who wrote 'Catch and Kill', the exposé of Harvey Weinstein), Delia Owens and Armando Iannucci.

When thinking about advice for anyone considering coming to Goldsmiths, Grace emphasises the importance of making use of the Careers Service, and doing as much work experience as you can – as it's one of the best ways of figuring out the path that would best suit you.

English graduate Grace came to Goldsmiths partly because she was "desperate to come to London", having grown up in rural Cornwall where the nearest bus stop was three miles away. She threw herself into the student nights and culture of the capital, and enjoyed the step up from further education. She says: "At secondary school and college it had felt like you were learning to be good at exams, rather than learning to think independently and critically, which was fostered at Goldsmiths."



At Goldsmiths we support independent thinking. Whether you want to work for yourself or set up your own company, we want to help you achieve your goals.

Different ways to work for yourself

If you're planning on working for yourself, there are a variety of ways you can do this.

You could set yourself up as self-employed or freelance. This means you'll usually be undertaking fixed contract or project-based work. This is a popular choice in the creative industries and gives you the freedom to be your own boss.

Alternatively, you may want to set up a business. There are three main ways you can do this:

- Sole trader
- Ltd companies
- Partnerships

Your choice will depend on what you want to achieve, how you'd like to work, and what resources you have.

Whatever route you choose, our Careers Service can offer support via one-to-one sessions. They can advise on applying for funding, writing a business plan, how to market your business and more.

If you need more information and advice, visit www.gov.uk/set-up-business

Network with others

Studying at university helps you develop valuable skills both inside and outside the classroom that will go on to benefit your career. Our student cohort is diverse, meaning you'll meet people from a wide range of backgrounds, many of whom may go on to become future collaborators in your professional life.

Our Students' Union also runs a wide range of societies, giving you the opportunity to meet others who share your interests and passions. The connections you build through these communities can lead to career advice, mentorship, and even job opportunities later on. You may also choose to run for a committee position for a society, where you can develop practical skills such as leadership, budget management, and event organisation.



At Goldsmiths, there are many ways we can help you develop your enterprise skills – including providing access to programmes to build a freelance business, supporting you with business plans and accessing funding, to running workshops and events that will prepare you for enterprise competitions, working for yourself and taking your business to the next level.

Enterprise

Our Enterprise team is dedicated to working with the local, national and international communities. They can help to support and grow your business by sharing knowledge and expertise.

This includes specialist start-up assistance, offering you mentoring and support. You can read more about how they can support you at explore.gold/careers/start-up

SYNAPSE

Through our SYNAPSE programme, we offer workshops and business development support for students to explore entrepreneurial tools, think about their wider future, and realise their potential. Our workshops and mentoring programmes enable students to apply 'entrepreneurial thinking' to their degree courses and develop plans for their future careers. explore.gold/careers/synapse

Goldsmiths is in the top three universities in the UK for producing business founders, and 12th for producing CEOs and MDs.

(Hitachi Capital Invoice Finance, 2021)

You can find out more about how we can help you work for yourself after graduating on our advice page

explore.gold/careers/working-for-yourself



Michelle

Developing the confidence to become a business founder

Michelle found herself growing in confidence during her education studies degree. "At school I would tend to blend into the background," she remembers. "I was quite shy – I never used to put my hand up or ask questions. But at Goldsmiths I felt like I could really do that, and I found myself joining in discussions." Part of that confidence came from feeling at home. "I felt completely comfortable, like I wasn't being judged," Michelle explains. "It was very inclusive, very open." She also made some great connections with other students: "Literally from day one I met some people who've become my closest friends."

During her studies, Michelle undertook cat-sitting jobs to earn money in a less hectic environment than the retail and bar work she'd done previously. "I was able to bring my laptop and uni books with me and get my assignments finished, and spending time with the cats was really therapeutic," she says. This experience gave Michelle the inspiration for the business that she set up following her graduation. "I'd always had this entrepreneurial fire inside of me, and I'd always wanted to start a company," says Michelle. "The cat-sitting was really taking off, and I had a lot of clients, so I started Chatty Cats Care. At first it was just me, but now I have around 60 cat sitters working for me. Most of them are university students, some from Goldsmiths! It's the perfect student job." An unintentional effect of Chatty Cats is that it has

brought together like-minded people. "I've created this amazing community of cat lovers, from the clients to the actual cat sitters," explains Michelle. "I even created a podcast as a passion project during the Covid lockdown, The Catmaste Chronicles, focusing on how pets contribute to our wellbeing. It took off really well, and was one of iTunes' top 10 podcasts in several countries for a while."

Michelle has only positive things to say about the impact that Goldsmiths had on her and her business. "I had a lot of self-doubt before university," she remembers, "and I had no idea that I could ever achieve something like this. Studying at Goldsmiths gave me the confidence to believe that I could start a company and make it successful, and I've been able to apply a lot of the things I learned there into running my own business, which has been really beneficial."



After experiencing a lack of support at secondary school, Michelle was a little nervous about starting at Goldsmiths, particularly as a mature student who hadn't been sure that university was right for her. "But I came to Goldsmiths with an open mind, and the lecturers were so supportive – I felt like they really cared about me as a person," she explains.



Korinna

Creating change and inspiring others

Entrepreneur and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Korinna has been in business since the age of 15, but her focus on creating real social change through her work developed while she studied a politics and economics degree at Goldsmiths. “You just can’t avoid wanting to make change – that hunger is there to be like ‘we can make a difference!’”, she says. Korinna embraces this spirit to this day as CEO of Shadow to Shine, a charity that works to help young people from disadvantaged backgrounds find work experience and develop employability skills.



Korinna’s own experiences were like those of the young people she works with today: “I’m from a council estate; none of my family had been to uni.” However, she felt comfortable at Goldsmiths and embraced the extracurricular opportunities she found while studying. Korinna became a Student Ambassador, a scheme designed to provide work opportunities for Goldsmiths students on campus while they study. She loved the experience, saying: “Being a Student Ambassador kickstarted my career.” One of her ambassador roles involved working with Goldsmiths’ Development and Alumni Office, eventually leading to a full-time role after graduating. She was encouraged by her manager to take part in a graduate scheme, but entrepreneurial Korinna had another calling. Inspired by self-made entrepreneur Becky Fatemi, Korinna decided to pitch her business idea to her. Korinna bravely quit her job and collaborated with Becky to co-found Shadow to Shine. Four years later, Korinna and Becky are still working together and Shadow to Shine has helped over 300 young people. The positive change Korinna’s business creates still amazes her: “When I see a young person and they’ve gone from no confidence – and maybe getting in trouble with the law – to starting their own brand, it’s major.”

Korinna hasn’t stopped there. Her desire to create social impact has extended to two more inspiring businesses. Korinna is one of the co-founders developing a new app called Black Book, to help people who may not have work experience – but still have talent to share – showcase their work. “We’ve created a platform that is essentially like a disruptive tool to find creative talent” she explains. The app is currently in its pre-launch phase, but the exciting project has already caught the eye of celebrity investor Maya Jama, and Korinna hopes it will help change how young people find work in the future.

Last but not least, Korinna is working on a brand new project called NeuroDoes, which aims to help neurodiverse Black women connect and support each other. This project is close to Korinna’s heart: “I found out that I was neurodiverse when I was 23. So, I went through uni without knowing this – we’ve created this platform to enable other neurodiverse women to thrive.” Another example of how Korinna is making positive social change for a better future. While her career may not directly relate to her degree, Korinna attributes her focus on business with a social purpose to her time at Goldsmiths.

She explains: “As long as you can hold onto that Goldsmiths spirit of ‘let’s make a change’, then I can see why Goldsmiths grads become CEOs and business owners. You look around the world and think ‘I don’t like any of this’ – so if you don’t want to work anywhere, the only option really is to just create your own opportunities.”

Learn creatively, thrive professionally

If you want career inspiration, then look no further than our alumni community. Our alumni are a worldwide group of amazing individuals working as thinkers, writers, advocates, entrepreneurs, artists, musicians, actors, activists, filmmakers, educators and more. They're making a positive change to the world we all live in, and you can join them.

Take a look at what Goldsmiths alumni are doing now to get inspiration for your future career*.

The top 5 industries that Goldsmiths alumni work in are:

Arts

Education

Media, communications and publishing

Healthcare and wellbeing

Digital and technology

Some of the top employers of our alumni are:

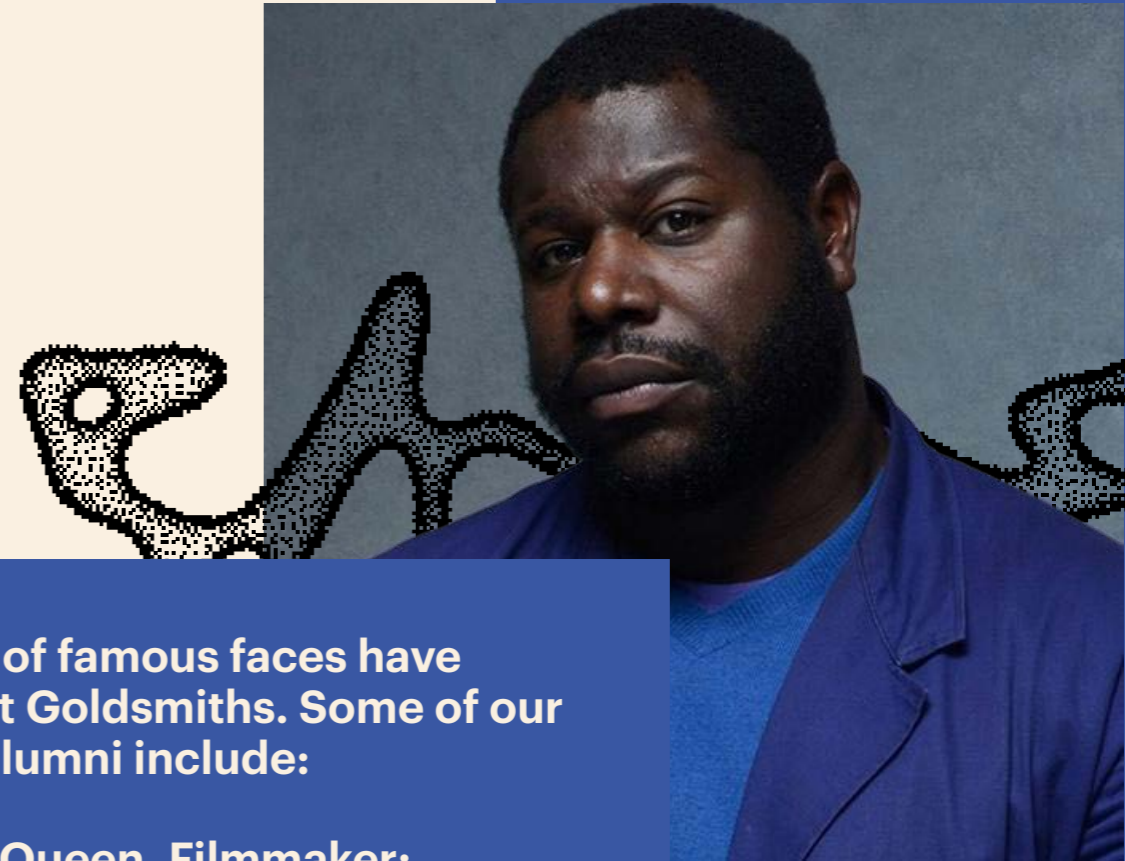
BBC

NHS

Sony

Tate

Google



A variety of famous faces have studied at Goldsmiths. Some of our notable alumni include:

Steve McQueen, Filmmaker; James Blake, Musician; Bernadine Evaristo, Author; Paris Paloma, Musician; Antony Gormley, Sculptor and Artist; Mary Quant, Fashion Designer; Ali Smith, Author; Damien Hirst, Artist; Sam Taylor-Wood, Film Producer; Alex James and Graham Coxon, Musicians (Blur); and Katy B, Musician to name a few.

You can find out more about our Alumni team and community at

explore.gold/careers/alumni



*This information is from data collected by our Alumni team based on updates provided by our alumni.

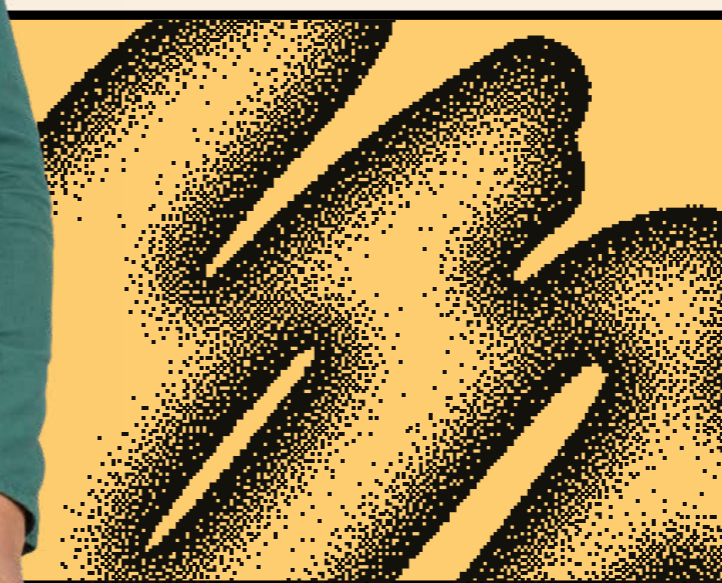
Checan

Thinking differently to drive positive social change

“What motivates me is the potential to have a positive impact on people’s everyday lives,” explains Checan, who completed a BA Politics degree in 2014. He has certainly done that since graduating. He was a Strategic Communications Manager in the Cabinet Office during the Covid pandemic, running the marketing campaign for the UK’s furlough scheme, and working on global vaccine confidence with organisations like the World Health Organisation and United Nations.



Checan credits Goldsmiths with encouraging him to break out of conventional ways of thinking. This catalysed his interest in international studies, and the experiences of countries beyond the UK. “I now have a much broader set of perspectives and tools through which to look at the world,” he explains. These skills have been regularly put to use in his working life. As part of the Cabinet Office role he was posted to the Western Balkans, delivering campaigns on issues such as election turnouts – so his cultural understanding and ability to see things differently has been invaluable. “I’ve had to sometimes quite quickly adapt things for different contexts,” says Checan. “Being able to think critically, take insights from different audiences around the world, and turn that into something you can action has probably been the most important skill in my career. Feeling like I could contribute ideas, lead projects, and brief ministers and ambassadors has also been really useful experience to build on.”



Checan is now working at the Wellcome Trust – one of the biggest global health foundations in the world – in another strategic communications role. “A lot of my work is about trying to link what Wellcome is doing on things like infectious disease, or their massive discovery research programme, and think about the communications engagement and influencing objectives within that,” he explains. There’s a focus on advocating for government and those in power to make sure that health outcomes are fair across the world, and encouraging the engagement of researchers from under-represented regions globally. “We’re also trying, in the post-pandemic world, to make sure that countries are better prepared for outbreaks of infectious disease, and we’re thinking about how that interlinks with the climate as well – making the link between climate and health more visible for people.”

The politics degree made Checan more of “a person who likes to challenge things and spot opportunities, and change the way things have been done” – an approach that he’s bringing to the role at Wellcome. “It’s great to be that conduit to really turn things on their head and ask why we’re doing things in certain ways,” Checan says. “Are there alternatives to best be inclusive and equitable, and to make sure we’re global in our approach?” He feels more confident to make these positive changes thanks to his experience at Goldsmiths.

Johnny

Redefining football culture

Goldsmiths exposed Johnny to alternatives to the traditional career paths that had been presented at his school and sixth form. "I just knew that wasn't what I wanted to do," he explains. After graduating, Johnny worked in the advertising department at The Guardian, and at marketing insights company Contagious. But he says his career properly started when he got a job as Brand Partnerships Manager at live music streaming platform, Boiler Room, getting brands to sponsor shows. "It was my absolute dream job at the time," he says.

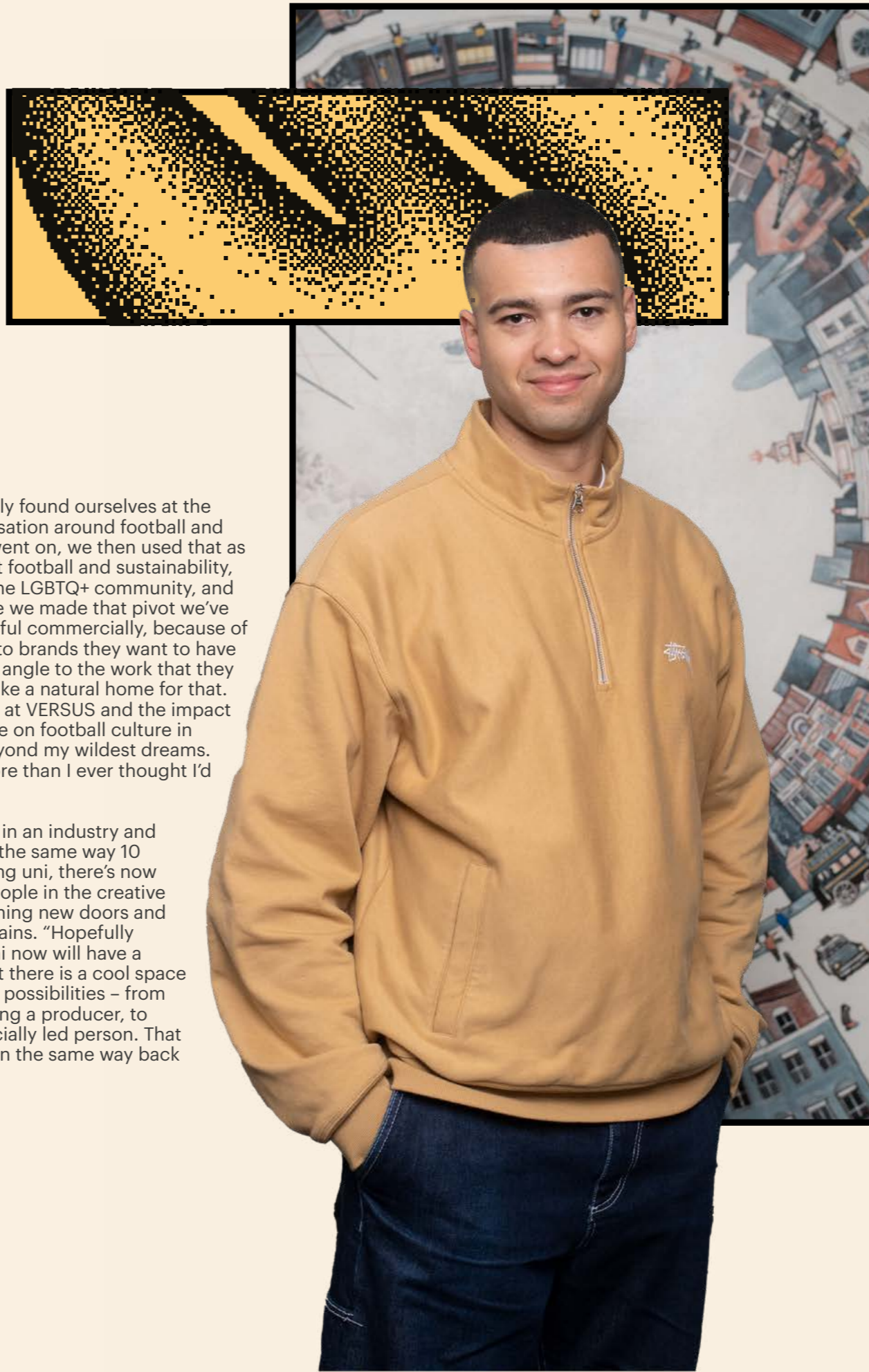
This led him to his current role at football culture publisher, VERSUS. Following a role as Brand Partnerships Director, he's recently been promoted to Head of Partnerships.

"We work with everyone from Nike to Adidas, and Dr Martens to Visa, when they have a product coming out or a big brand story they want to tell," explains Johnny. "We have a young, diverse, progressive football audience that these brands want to speak to. So my job is trying to connect the brands with our audience in interesting ways – through making a film, photoshoots, written editorial, events, podcasts... a whole range of things, really."

Johnny has been at the forefront of widening the reach of VERSUS beyond the commercial, recognising that there was an opportunity to explore how football intersects with wider culture and society, and where the possibilities for social impact lie. "In 2020 you suddenly had the murder of George Floyd, which sparked the biggest global civil rights movement of all time," remembers Johnny.

"At VERSUS we suddenly found ourselves at the forefront of the conversation around football and race. And as the year went on, we then used that as a platform to talk about football and sustainability, access to football for the LGBTQ+ community, and women's football. Once we made that pivot we've also been very successful commercially, because of course when it comes to brands they want to have that socially conscious angle to the work that they do, and VERSUS feels like a natural home for that. I look at what I've done at VERSUS and the impact we've been able to have on football culture in the UK, and it's well beyond my wildest dreams. I've achieved much more than I ever thought I'd have been able to."

Johnny is now working in an industry and role that didn't exist in the same way 10 years ago. "Since leaving uni, there's now a new generation of people in the creative industries that are opening new doors and creating roles," he explains. "Hopefully someone coming to uni now will have a broader awareness that there is a cool space that offers a breadth of possibilities – from being a creative, to being a producer, to being a more commercially led person. That stuff didn't really exist in the same way back when I graduated."



"I look back on Goldsmiths as a life-changing experience," explains Johnny, who graduated from an English literature degree in 2014. "I'm really happy and comfortable with who I am today, but I wouldn't have ended up as this person had I not gone to Goldsmiths." Johnny puts this down to meeting so many people who had artistic, musical or societal interests, and who opened up the possibility of thinking in different ways. "It was the best thing I could have done in terms of expanding my world view," he says.

You've read their inspiring stories, now our alumni want to share some words of advice for you to take on your journey at Goldsmiths.

The amount of opportunity and everything that's here in London is just unbelievable. I think a lot of the people who I've met who are from different parts of the UK have had similar experiences where the idea of moving to London was discouraged. So I would say if you are very sure you want to be here, don't be swayed by those voices. You could end up missing this and some of the opportunities that are here, which would be regrettable. Go for it. - Robin



Try to look up the opportunities out there, because there's so many. Try to be open for feedback, opinions or advice that you can receive from anyone, from students or from tutors. Try to use all the equipment for free, because outside of university, you need to pay for everything. But while you're here, you need to use everything! - Juno



I was unbelievably anxious about joining university and coming to Goldsmiths. But there's actually nothing to be nervous about - it's a very, very welcoming place. If you didn't find your place in school, Goldsmiths is somewhere you will find yourself and find your people. I'm confident of that. It was definitely the case for me. - Johnny



Work experience - or getting to talk to people in industry, and learning what different jobs entail - is so important. - Grace



Go for it! Goldsmiths has been life-changing for me, to be honest. It's helped me to develop in so many ways and has impacted my life so positively. Also, don't worry about having to stay on the same rigid path - there are so many directions you can take after university. Just follow your heart. You'll know what feels right for you. - Michelle



Throw yourself into everything, especially if you're from an environment where this is new. Rather than looking at people as different, embrace them - you don't know who those contacts might be when you graduate. Try something, even just once. If there's an opportunity, go for it. Use your fellow students to your advantage - become friends, and be open to people on different courses, not just those on your own course. - Korinna



Goldsmiths is very open-minded and very liberal. And I think that's a huge plus point, it really helps you develop a very nuanced take on the world and if that's something that fits you, it's the right place to be. - Nikita



Your future starts here

We hope you've taken away lots of helpful hints and feel ready to start your future at Goldsmiths. We can't wait to welcome you and watch you grow.

It's now time to take your next steps towards accepting your offer with us:

- Visit the Applicant Hub to get the latest information about starting here at explore.gold/careers/applicant-hub



- Find out more about our accommodation at explore.gold/careers/accommodation
- Discover what you can enjoy in the local area at explore.gold/careers/london
- Chat with other offer holders on Unibuddy at explore.gold/careers/unibuddy

"I came away from Goldsmiths with a whole new perspective on life, amazing friendships, a degree and the confidence to venture into new work environments."

- Nicole Griffiths, BA Social Science, Community Development & Youth Work



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