

ART FUTURE CAREERS

Art at Goldsmiths: Some future career paths

The Department of Art at Goldsmiths offers the opportunity to study contemporary art making, curating and writing practices in a dynamic environment. The Department has an international reputation and the interdisciplinary nature of the programmes offered will provide you with unique opportunities to develop cross-cultural projects and will enable you to progress to a variety of careers.

What do Goldsmiths Art graduates do?

The majority (75.6%) of Goldsmiths Art graduates of 2014 were in full- or part-time work six months after graduating.

A large proportion of graduates (29.7%) were in part-time work. In the creative industries it is common to have a variety of part-time jobs and freelance work which combine to form what is often called a 'portfolio' career.

Some of the graduate-level careers for Goldsmiths Art graduates of 2014 are:¹

- Freelance Photographer
- Freelance Artist
- Studio Artist
- Artist's Assistant
- Art Technician
- Freelance Camera Assistant
- Graphic Design Trainee
- Self-Employed Designer
- Freelance Researcher
- Shop Manager
- Sales and Marketing Administrator

Employers include: ¹

- British Council
- Ruskin Mill Trust (education charity)
- Inner Space Studio (pilates studio)
- Testronic (digital media)
- Riseam Sharples (solicitor)
- Rye Lane Studios
- Mail Boxes Etc. (box manufacturer)
- Hatcham College
- Trinity Management Advisers
- VIP Electronic Cigarette
- Odeon
- Vedic Art

¹Source: Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education
This data is collected six months after graduation and shows where graduates start their careers.

What skills will I gain?

Studying Art at Goldsmiths will provide you with a variety of skills that can be applied to a broad range of employment areas. Skills include:

- creative problem solving
- resourcefulness
- effective oral and written communication
- observational and analytical skills
- teamwork
- IT, particularly using creative software
- organisation and planning
- self-motivation and self-management
- working to briefs and meeting deadline
- decision-making
- an appreciation of diversity

“The Fine Art course at Goldsmiths is completely open. You are not given projects to do or segregated by the medium you choose to work with. Instead you are given a studio and from day one are expected to begin to work as an artist. With support from the tutors and technicians it’s totally possible to prepare for a career in the arts, as an artist or curator or whatever you may want to do.

My experiences as a Goldsmiths student enhanced my employment prospects. I am now working as an artist, and just got back from a three-month residency in New York in which I produced a body of work called Pleasure Pieces. I had a studio that I made all of the work in and at the end of the three months I had my first solo show, which was really exciting.”

Phoebe, BA Fine Art (graduated 2009)

What kinds of graduate employers might be interested in me?

Lots of different sectors will be interested in your skills and knowledge. Here are some ideas to get you started but you can relate your degree to many more areas.

Community and Education

Community arts workers collaborate with groups and organisations at a local level. As an arts worker you will encourage the use of artistic activities to support the development of the local community. Generally arts workers are employed in areas where there are social, cultural or environmental issues that need to be addressed.

Curating and PR

Curators work within museums, galleries, heritage centres and tourist attractions. They acquire, care for, develop and display a collection of artwork or artefacts in order to inform, educate and entertain the public. Alongside this you may be involved in other activities such as public relations and marketing.

Galleries and Arts Organisations

After graduating you may decide to work as a freelance artist or behind the scenes as an arts administrator. In this vibrant industry no two days are ever the same. As an arts administrator your job will involve planning and organising logistics related to events, buildings, performers/artists and other personnel. As a freelance artist you will interact with galleries and arts organisations and manage your own time, working to produce artworks for exhibition or sale.

Where can I find further information?

On the Prospects website, the ‘What can I do with my degree?’ section is a useful starting point. Here you can access detailed information about careers relating to art.

www.prospects.ac.uk/options_with_your_subject.htm

Community and education

Get Into Teaching (Department of Education)

- getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/Creative

Futures (music and arts children’s charity) -

www.creativefuturesuk.com

Engage (gallery education) - www.engage.org

Curating and PR

Chartered Institute of Public Relations - www.cipr.co.uk

Institute of Practitioners in Advertising - www.ipa.co.uk

Arts Job Finder - www.artspromotional.co.uk/jobs

Museums Association -

www.museumsassociation.org/home

Museum Jobs - www.museumjobs.com

Galleries and arts organisations

British Council Visual Arts Department -

visualarts.britishcouncil.org

Creative Skillset - www.creativeskillset.org

Crafts Council - www.craftscouncil.org.uk/

Artquest (resource for visual artists) -

www.artquest.org.uk

International Council of Museums - icom.museum

Creative Choices (Creative and Cultural Skills) -

ccskills.org.uk/careers

Arts Professional - www.artspromotional.co.uk

Goldsmiths Careers Service

The Careers Service has a full programme of events - you can find out more at www.gold.ac.uk/careers

From the moment you arrive at Goldsmiths you can use us to help you plan your future - pop in and book an appointment with a careers consultant.

<http://learn.gold.ac.uk> (search ‘Goldsmiths Careers Service’)

www.facebook.com/goldsmiths.careers

[@CareersGold](https://www.instagram.com/CareersGold)