

What can I do with a degree in
Fine Arts?



Fine Arts.



Learn more

It is important to do some research when planning a future career. Speak with, ask questions of, and follow relevant professional bodies, organisations and professional networks.





What skills can graduates gain?

Fine Arts degree graduates can develop a range of practical and creative skills and competencies. These can include:

- Technical skills and knowledge relevant to the specialisation chosen
- Capacity to think and work creatively; generating various ideas and perspectives to one situation
- The ability to convey messages in a range of ways to diverse audiences
- Problem solving and adaptability
- Analytical and critical thinking
- Cooperation, teamwork and leadership
- Time management and organisation.

Applied learning

Graduates can gain experience holding exhibitions to build up a portfolio of work.

Applied learning opportunities are available through:

- Volunteering at local art galleries and arts organisations
- Undertaking internships in the film sector, design studios, archives, and arts organisations
- Exhibiting work publicly
- Contributing to and/or being commissioned to generate creative projects.

These experiences can deepen graduates' skillset, awareness of others, working knowledge, and employability.

What do employers look for?

Many employers look for generic skills such as communication, client/customer-focus, bicultural competence, cultural awareness, teamwork and initiative.

With technology, globalisation, and other drivers changing society, skills such as resilience, problem solving, and adaptability are important.

Skills that are likely to grow in importance include analytical and creative thinking, systems thinking, technological literacy, AI and big data.*

*World Economic Forum: www.weforum.org/agenda/2023/05/future-of-jobs-2023-skills

How can these skills be developed?

- Some skills are gained through studying
- Extra-curricular activities can help, such as getting involved in clubs, mentoring, cultural groups, part-time work or volunteering
- Be open to professional and personal development opportunities, whether it is undertaking work experience, overseas exchange, skills seminar, or joining an industry group.

Where have graduates been employed?

Fine Arts graduates might pursue opportunities in:

- Running their own business, studio or freelance consultancy
- A specialised agency
- A larger organisation as an in-house professional.

Potential employer destinations include:

- Arts management, art galleries and museums
- Fine arts auctioneers and valuers
- Photography studios or image providers
- Film and game industries
- Design studios or agencies
- Media, marketing and communications
- Publishing
- Education
- Government bodies.

Digital influences

The internet, digital marketing, social media, globalisation and e-commerce shapes the demand for:

- Visual skills of photographers, video production and editors, and online marketing/web design
- The accessibility and mass production of art, allowing people to search for, and purchase art from afar
- Creatives to control the dissemination, ownership and financial benefits of their work.

What jobs and activities might graduates do?

Graduates with this degree are employed in a range of jobs — see some examples below.

Artist

- Research and implement creative ideas
- Produce artwork for exhibitions and commissions in specialist medium
- Liaise with clients and art galleries

Graphic designer

- Meet with clients to identify requirements
- Create new graphic ideas/solutions
- Use creative-based software to design print and online materials

Photographer

- Take photos to meet a client's brief
- Edit and supply finished photos
- Develop and promote their portfolio

Film professional, cinematographer

- Capture/create the visual elements of a project
- Contribute to the final product production

Secondary school teacher

- Prepare and deliver learning experiences in specialised subjects
- Understand the learning needs of rangatahi, observe progress to personalise support
- Promote the wellbeing of rangatahi

Art gallery manager / director / curator

- Assess/select art, negotiate purchases
- Plan and present exhibitions, events, seminars, outreach activity

Digital content analyst

- Develop multi-channel communications strategy
- Increase web traffic and digital engagement

Product designer

- Research a client's brief or a gap in the market
- Prepare designs and prototypes for products

Arts administrator / manager

- Manage logistics, budgets, schedules for events and venues
- Contribute to marketing materials and media

Illustrator

- Interpret a client's requirements
- Create new illustrations and graphics for multiple mediums

Examples of other job titles and careers include:

- Arts advisor

Caitlin

Kaiwhakahaere, tautahi Kōwhiri
Artist

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Sculpture