

## Leeds College of Art announces new degree courses



Leeds College of Art is pleased to announce an expansion of its current portfolio with five new undergraduate degree courses. 2018 will see the addition of BA (Hons) Filmmaking, BA (Hons) Fashion Design, BA (Hons) Fashion Branding with Communication, BA (Hons) Comic and Concept Arts and BMus (Hons) Popular Music Performance to the current portfolio of creative arts degrees.

The BMus (Hons) Popular Music Performance is designed for instrumentalists and vocalists to develop their musicianship, performance, production and technical skills to a professional level within a specialist creative environment. The course offers opportunity for collaboration with a wide range of creative practitioners, and provides advanced training for musicians, preparing them for work in the contemporary music industries.

BA (Hons) Filmmaking provides hands-on experience of making films, with opportunities to gain an understanding of a wide range of production roles, methods and techniques, and the artistic and technical process of film production. Students on the course will work together as a production team, collaborating with other students from across the College's creative portfolio.

BA (Hons) Fashion Design and BA (Hons) Fashion Branding with Communication will take the place of the current BA (Hons) Fashion course and have been developed to allow greater opportunity for specialism in a chosen field. BA (Hons) Fashion Branding with Communication students will explore the theories behind fashion branding and develop skills in how to creatively position and promote a brand to consumers.

The BA (Hons) Fashion Design course teaches up-to-date methods and innovative approaches to design, alongside traditional techniques and technical skills, preparing students for a career in the fashion industry.

Students interesting in commercial and comic arts illustration will now have the opportunity to study an industry focused specialist BA (Hons) Comic and Concept Arts. The course is designed to prepare students for work as commercial illustrators, artists and designers, learning to build and manage their professional practice. This new course will run alongside the established BA (Hons) Illustration, BA (Hons) Graphic Design, BA (Hons) Animation and BA (Hons) Creative Advertising courses.

**Professor Simone Wonnacott, Principal, Leeds College of Art said:**

*“The announcement of these new courses comes at an exciting time for the College. Our state-of-the-art building and facilities expansion is underway and we await confirmation of our status as the only specialist arts university in the North of England. Expanding our provision allows us to offer students a more diverse mix of courses, with the opportunity to collaborate across art, design, music and filmmaking.”*

The music and filmmaking courses will be taught in specialist new facilities, part of the College’s new £22 million state-of-the-art expansion, which also includes a 230 seat auditorium, a larger specialist arts library, open plan atrium-style entrance with a public exhibition gallery and coffee shop, and an enterprise centre which will also allow the College to engage more fully with regional businesses, and the local and wider communities of Leeds.

In September 2016, the Privy Council confirmed the College had been granted Taught Degree Awarding Powers (TDAP) meaning students now study for degrees awarded in the College’s name and, following a recent application for university title, awaits confirmation of its place as the first specialist arts university in the North.

#### **Editor’s Notes**

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Leeds College of Art

Founded in 1846 as the Leeds Government School of Art and Design, Leeds College of Art has contributed significantly to the development of art education in Britain and across the world. Today, Leeds College of Art remains one of only a few remaining independent art schools in the UK, leading the way as a centre for art and design education. The College has an impressive history of notable past students, Henry Moore and Barbara Hepworth were students in 1919 and 1920. In later years Damien Hirst, Marcus Harvey, Eric Bainbridge, Clio Barnard and Georgina Starr all studied at the College, known then as the Jacob Kramer College. The College’s recent graduates continue to win prestigious international awards year on year and enjoy successful careers in the creative industries.

Leeds College of Art has recently started of building works on a new £22 million state-of-the-art expansion, due to be completed by summer 2018. This new build is the biggest capital investment that the College has ever embarked upon and has been two years in development. The expansion marks the start of an exciting journey for the College, with plans in place to become the only specialist arts university in the North of England.

[www.leeds-art.ac.uk](http://www.leeds-art.ac.uk)