



Study Mode:

Full-time (equivalent to 4 days a week) or part-time (equivalent to 2 and half days a week)

Programme Length:

2 years full-time / 3 years part-time

Programme Location:

Oxford & Cherwell Valley College - Oxford Campus

Year of entry:

September 2012

Home/EU fee:

£6,900 per year (full-time)/TBC (part-time)

UCAS code:

W261

Institution code:

B94/0

Foundation Degree in Furniture: Design and Make

The programme is awarded by Bucks New University and delivered by Oxford & Cherwell Valley College

Why choose this programme?

The programme is delivered in the Rycotewood Furniture Centre for Excellence, which is part of the National School of Furniture in partnership with Bucks New University. You will be taught by highly professional furniture designer/makers who have been in industry and are kept up-to-date with current practices.

Summary of programme

The Foundation Degree in Furniture: Design and Make concentrates on the craft aspect of the subject, helping students to develop their making skills and realise their own designs. This is a direct response to the needs of the Craft Furniture Industry and employers looking for furniture designer makers of excellent ability.

You will also be encouraged to engage in the college life and to become mentor/ambassador in our marketing and other functions. The programme will culminate in a professional public exhibition for the industry and networking opportunities.

“

We have a good working relationship with staff, who are very responsive to our needs. The assessment requirements are clear and we have good facilities with enough space to work and the library is a particularly good resource

”



Programme content

Please note that as programmes are reviewed regularly, the module list may vary from that shown here

Level 4

- Technical and Visual Communication
- Furniture Craft
- Design and Make
- Manufacturing and Material Culture

Level 5

- Advanced Technical and Visual Communication
- Professional Practice
- Advanced Design and Make
- Advanced Manufacturing and Culture

Teaching and Learning experience

Throughout the programme, you will be given opportunities to participate in:

- **Lectures** which provide essential concepts, principles, knowledge and case studies necessary to support self-directed investigation and practical application;
- **Seminars** to discuss less formally, in an open session, issues and work that relate to the subject;
- **Demonstrations** of practical techniques prior to personal reflection and practice;
- **Practical studio sessions** under tutor guidance to ensure the relevant and successful progression of project work;
- **Critiques** or formative assessment which provide feedback through discussion, reflection and the evaluation of learning outcomes with both tutor and peer groups;
- **Self-directed study** involving investigation and practical assignments to further knowledge and understanding;
- **Written evaluation** of learning outcomes which develops the ability for objective self-reflection and assessment of response.

You will receive work schedules and guidance on how to manage any self-directed learning effectively. References will be made to case studies to illustrate and explain concepts and theories of taught content.

Contacts with the creative industry are given a high priority throughout each level of the programme and maintained through visiting specialists and guest lecturers, industry engaged projects and visits to relevant exhibitions.

You are encouraged to take an active role in your learning, utilising effective time management and use of resources.

Approximate number of teaching & learning hours over the duration of the programme	Fig 1
Guided learning hours	900
Independent study	1500

Work-related opportunities

The learning experience is complemented by integrated visits to exhibitions, institutions, museums and workshops in order to put the role of the designer-maker in the wider context. Visiting lecturers and speakers are scheduled throughout the year and industry partners are linked closely with projects in the design and make modules at levels 4 and 5.

You are encouraged to engage in live projects and national competitions. Current examples are New Forest Trust Wood Competition, 'One Oak' project and school seating projects.

During the second year, there is the opportunity for you to take part in the Gordon Russell Project with a tour of Museums and Makers, sponsored by Hands and The Worshipful Company of Furniture Makers.

Assessment methods (fig. 2 & fig. 3)

There are four main overarching generic criteria for the assessment of any given brief, and these trace the development of the design process. They are:

- **Intellectual content** – assessed through collected information, sketchbook notation and written research reports.
- **Creative content** – assessed through sketchbook development work via drawings and writing, CAD work, sketch and professional model making, full size workshop prototypes.
- **Quality of outcome** – assessed through the effective link between original brief, research, and development toward an effective solution as shown by all work on display.
- **Transferable skills** – assessed through the presentation and clarity of writing in reports, the quality of production and intention behind sketch models, prototypes and 2D visuals, and the verbal presentation to the tutors or students on the day of assessment.

Fig 1 - Teaching and learning activity: full-time

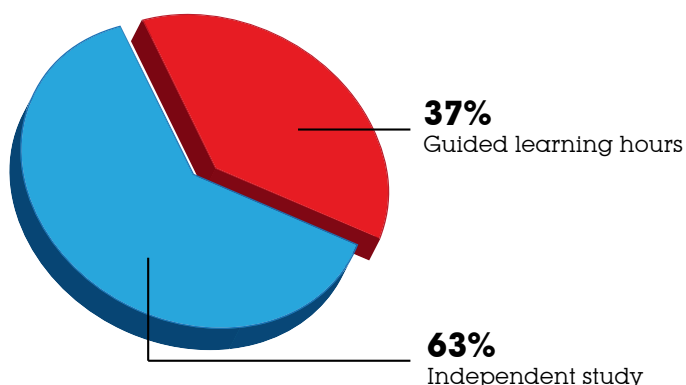
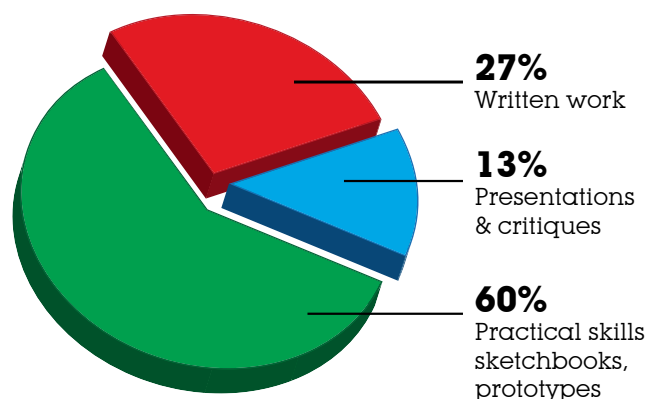


Fig 2 - Proportion of assessment methods: Level 4



At each level of study you will be asked to participate in formative assessment procedures which require you to consider your own work against the agreed assessment criteria. This allows you to reflect upon your own practice, with tutors, and to take responsibility for acknowledging areas of strength and areas for further development in your work.

Resources

You will be provided with a suitably equipped place to work when attending college, which will include access to specialist staff, IT facilities and other learning resources which will be appropriate for the nature of work you will be required to undertake. Additionally, the College offers a wide range of other resources and facilities which will be available to you, further details of which can found in the Higher Education Student Handbook.

Each student will be allocated their own work bench and space in the HE workshop. Students have access to a dedicated IT suite, veneer room, spray finishing workshop, design studio and wood machine workshop.

As well as being enrolled at Oxford & Cherwell Valley College you will also be registered and enrolled with Bucks New University and so will benefit from the same facilities and services as on campus students. These include: use of Bucks' libraries, Student Centre and Students' Union, study support and mentoring and professional advice and information from Bucks' Careers and Employment Service.

Study support

If you do not have a recognised disability or specific learning difficulty, but feel that you require additional support with your studies, you may be eligible to access some discrete sessions in one of the following areas:

- Assistive software training
- IT upskilling
- Essay planning and structure
- Proof reading and editing written work
- Bibliographies and referencing
- Time management and personal organisation
- Revision and exam tips
- Presentation techniques

N.B. Your eligibility for any of the above support will be reviewed with your course tutors and a member of the study support team on your campus.

Entry requirements

Entrants to the Programme should normally possess the following:

- Art Foundation course
- (Extended) General Art and Design or Design Crafts
- City and Guilds technical practical course
- Access to Art and Design – Mature students over 21 years of age
- Advanced Diploma in Manufacturing and Product Design
- A Level 3 qualification, such as National Diploma merit profile in a related subject, Art and Design Foundation or A level, City and Guilds in Furniture Crafts.

Students should have a strong GCSE profile, including English at Grade C, or equivalent.

All applicants to the programme will be interviewed and their portfolios reviewed. This will enable the course team to assess the candidate's suitability and compatibility to the programme in a comprehensive way. It also allows flexibility in pre-requisite qualification requirements given the variety of entry points to the programme. As a minimum, the portfolio interview should be able to demonstrate that the applicant can do the following:

- Read, write and converse in English, to a standard necessary for academic study; normally this would be IELTS Level 5.5 or equivalent
- Show that they have an understanding of the chosen programme
- Demonstrate that they have the necessary (or required) academic, artistic and practical skills, as appropriate, to enable them to embark upon their chosen programme of study
- Show that they are motivated to undertake the chosen programme of study
- Show an awareness of, and interest in, creative ideas

OCVC welcome applications from mature students without formal qualifications, who now want to take the opportunity for some practical skills development. It also welcomes those who wish to place their experience and knowledge within a formal educational framework.

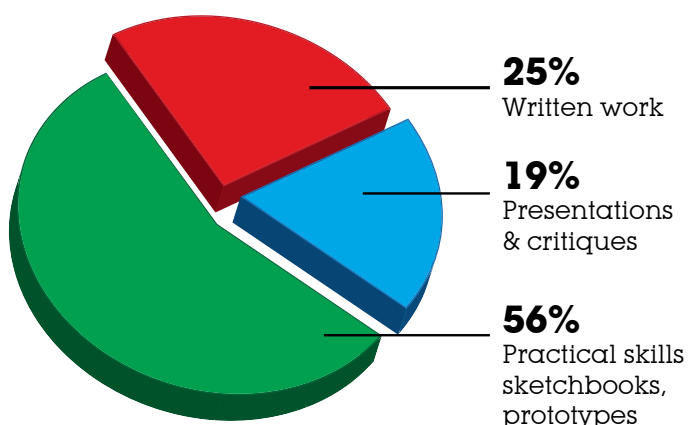
What you can progress to

Most students will aspire to become independent designer-makers, but many find it useful first to gain experience working in established workshops. Other graduates are employed as designers for firms in furniture and associated industries, or become freelance designers.

Graduates normally progress into either the Craft Furniture Industry working for top designer makers or start their own workshop.

Upon successful completion of the Foundation Degree in Furniture: Design and Make, graduates will be able to progress to the final year of either the BA (Hons) Furniture: Design and Craft or BA (Hons) Furniture: Contemporary Design at Bucks New University.

Fig 3 - Proportion of assessment methods: Level 5



How to apply

Full-time applicants should apply via UCAS. Please visit www.ucas.ac.uk

UCAS code: W261

Institution code: B94/O

Part-time applicants should apply directly to OCVC.

Visit www.ocvc.ac.uk to download an application form, or call **01865 550 550** for more information.

Fees information

Home/EU Fee: £6,900 per year (full-time)/TBC (part-time)

International Fee: £9,800 per year

For further details on fees and financial help please contact one of our friendly customer service advisors on **01865 550 550** or email uni@ocvc.ac.uk

Accommodation

The College does not have the facility to arrange accommodation for individual students.

To help you in your search for accommodation we have provided information on the college's website, which hopefully you will find useful. We would advise that before you begin your enquiries you visit www.direct.gov.uk and, using their site search facility, type in "Student Accommodation". This will give you valuable information about how to get the best from your accommodation.

For further information please visit:

[www.ocvc.ac.uk/Student life/Accommodation.aspx](http://www.ocvc.ac.uk/Student%20life/Accommodation.aspx)

NSS (National Students Survey) Results 2010/11

These results are based upon responses from students studying at all levels and modes of study within the programme. The survey was undertaken by the College using the standard NSS statements.

Further information

Visit www.ocvc.ac.uk or contact our Customer Services team on **01865 550550** or e-mail enquiries@ocvc.ac.uk for further details. Oxford & Cherwell Valley College, FREEPOST (OF2194) Oxpens Road, Oxford OX1 1SA

Statement	% of Agreement	
	College results	National results
Staff are good at explaining things	94%	86%
Staff have made the subject interesting	98%	82%
Overall, I am satisfied with the quality of the programme	100%	82%
I have received sufficient advice and support with my studies	91%	78%
Feedback on my work has been prompt	91%	76%
Feedback on my work has helped me to clarify things I did not understand	85%	74%
The library resources and services are good enough for my needs	94%	79%
I have been able to access general IT resources when I needed to	85%	83%

Other indicators of quality

'A prominent example is the Rycotewood Furniture Centre...the only professional specialist centre of its kind in Britain offering qualification from foundation to honours degree levels for the furniture industry. Students achieve well, and some win high-profile industry awards and competitions. The employers provide very good support to students' teaching and learning through work experience, tours of factories and design studios, master classes, demonstrations and, ultimately, employment to some students.' (Ofsted 2009-10 good practice survey programme: the role of employers in work-related education and training. April 2010)

In FdA Furniture Design feedback and interaction with employers is particularly extensive and students benefit from exposure to the practices and standards required in order to succeed in industry. The programme is designed so that students undertake commissions, exhibit at industry exhibitions and perform (successfully) in national competitions. Formative feedback from employers and the local community is a planned outcome of these activities. (Developmental engagement report [QAA], December 2009)

"The Foundation Degree seems to be a good compromise between the vocational excellence expected of Rycotewood Furniture Centre and the broad demands of a more generic 3D design degree". John Miller (Director of Design, Falmouth University)

FdA Furniture Design - External examiner comments 201/11

- A wide range of achievement was in evidence in this new programme. In many cases the best work presented for review exceeded my expectations.
- The work of this group of level 4 students was generally of a good to excellent standard with some practical work demonstrating excellent making skills at this level.
- Facilities at the College are first rate
- Links with industry and the general public are well developed