



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE  
NEW UNIVERSITY

EST. 1891



# INTERVIEW GUIDANCE PRODUCT DESIGN COURSES



Andrea Gomez De La Vara: first prize in Pewter Live student competition for her pewter and wood wall hooks; Dominic Smyth second prize for his wooden bowl with poured pewter inserts 2017

**Admissions will inform you if you have been selected for interview.**

## Preparing for your interview

Please read carefully the following information and instructions, which are intended to help you with your interview.

You are required to bring along the following for interview:

### Portfolio

Your portfolio is a collection of work that represents your creative potential and demonstrates your ability and interest in your chosen subject. The requirement to produce a portfolio of work is the linking factor between all art and design courses. The quality of your portfolio is an important factor in the offer of a place on a course. It is likely that the interviewer will look at your portfolio with you so be sure that you are able to discuss each piece of work: why you chose that topic, what you were trying to achieve, and the process you went through to achieve the final product. When preparing your portfolio, think about your strengths and what you are trying to express to the interviewer.

What should be included?

Your portfolio should include the strongest examples of your creative design work; follow your instincts but also seek advice from your teachers. Portfolios can vary from student to student but typically a portfolio should contain work from a variety of media. Quality is better than quantity so only include **10 – 15** pieces that you consider best shows off your skills. If you have created 3D pieces of work, photographs of these can also be included.

How should your portfolio be presented?

Try to make your portfolio as clear and as organised as possible. If the work does not explain itself, include a label which details the title of the piece. It could also be useful to include a date when the work was completed. It is advisable to present the work in related groups, rather than in chronological order, as this will show how your idea developed.

### Sketchbooks, Research and Supporting Material

Sketchbooks and supporting materials are essential. They will allow the interviewer to get a glimpse into how you think creatively and discover how you have developed your ideas. We don't expect these to be

neat, tidy or organised. We also don't expect these to contain finished ideas. We also like to see documentation of journeys, visits and activities outside your main studies, which may have inspired you.

### An Example of Written Work

It is advantageous to support your portfolio with some written work. This can be an essay or a contextual report, which will give us some insight into how you write formally and your familiarity with key texts.

## E-Portfolios

Whilst showing work digitally is an option please ensure work is formatted correctly for easy viewing on a Mac computer, we would suggest a PDF file. It is important that digital portfolios are accompanied with physical sketchbooks as detailed above.

You email a link to your website or online portfolio, to [admissions@bucks.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@bucks.ac.uk). Alternatively, a reduced size PDF file consisting of 12-20 pages maximum can be sent. Your email must be received at least a week before your original allocated interview slot. This will be followed up with a telephone or Skype interview, or feedback via email. Please provide your Skype name and your telephone number in your application to make it easier for us to contact you. We will arrange a mutually acceptable time to contact you.

## Interview process

We know that an interview can be a daunting experience. We make allowances for nerves and we endeavor to make the process as enjoyable as possible. The interview will be relatively informal and will include a course overview, as well as an interview with academic staff. Your interview will include a review of your portfolio, discussion of your aspirations and your interest in our course. The interview will normally be held with Stephen Sheffield, Course Leader for Product Design, or with a nominated representative of the core course team.