

# NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY

## BACHELOR OF VISUAL ARTS PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENTS

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your application to study the Bachelor of Visual Arts (BVA) at Nelson Mandela University. Acceptance into our programme is done through a departmental selection panel consisting of lecturers relevant to the disciplines offered in the BVA programme: fine art, graphic design, photography, fashion and textiles. You are required to submit a creative portfolio, essay and personal information for our panel to review. The portfolio must consist of **your own original works** of art. While you may receive some input and guidance, no one can assist you with the execution of the required projects. You may independently research drawing techniques if you do not have any formal training in visual arts. You **may not download images from** the internet as your own! For Project 3, only work that has been completed in the last two years may be submitted.

## PORTFOLIO

### PROJECT 1: STILL LIFE DRAWING (COMPULSORY)

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This drawing must include 2 objects overlapping, one man-made object (cup, vase, bowl etc.) and one organic one (e.g. fruit or vegetables). You must draw from life. In other words, you must observe and draw real objects. Drawings that are derived from photographs and tracings will NOT be accepted. Place your objects on a plain background (preferably close to a window so that you can see a range of tones – highlights, mid-tone areas and shadows). The following competencies will be evaluated:

- Compositional and layout skills
- Visual articulation of spatial relationships and depth
- Mark-making
- Understanding and use of formal elements

Medium: pencil

Size: A4

**STILL LIFE DRAWING GUIDELINES:**



(SUBMIT THE PHOTO OF YOUR DISPLAY WITH YOUR DRAWING AS ILLUSTRATED ABOVE)

- DO use the full page.
- DO pay attention to details of the objects on the surface (eg. straight, curved outlines, light and shadow).
- DO draw the objects sizes as big or small as they appear when next to each other

<p style="text-align: right; color: red;">X</p>	<p style="text-align: right; color: green;">✓</p>	<p><b>Do not</b> use a small area of your page. Your still life should fill most of the A4 page leaving some negative space. The focus should be on the still life and not the whole scene.</p>
<p style="text-align: right; color: red;">X</p>	<p style="text-align: right; color: green;">✓</p>	<p><b>Do not</b> draw the objects individually, they should overlap.</p> <p>Objects should have shadows and not appear to be floating.</p> <p>Consider the scale of each object in relation to one another. They should not be bigger or smaller than what they are when next to one another.</p>
<p style="text-align: right; color: red;">X</p>	<p style="text-align: right; color: green;">✓</p>	<p><b>Do not</b> block colour in tones, rather use shading techniques.</p>

## PROJECT 2: PORTRAIT DRAWING (COMPULSORY)

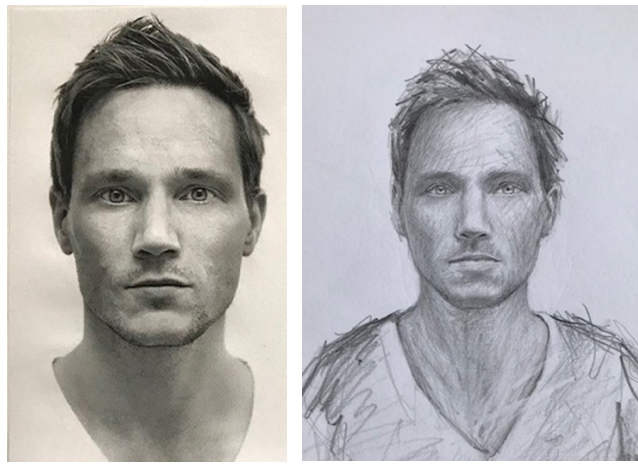
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Draw a **self-portrait** which you feel best represents YOU. You can draw from a photograph or mirror. The following competencies will be evaluated:

- Observational skills
- Accurate placement and proportion of facial features
- Mark-making

Medium: pencil (you may use other drawing materials if you wish)

Size: A4

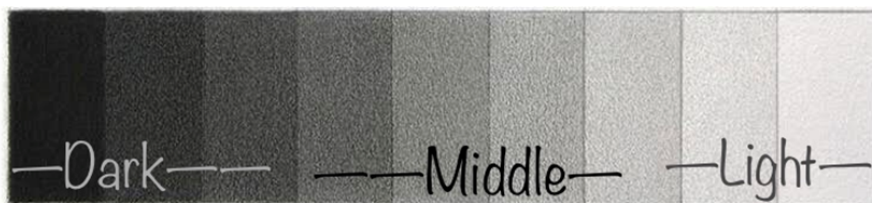


(SUBMIT THE PHOTO AND THE DRAWING OF YOURSELF AS ILLUSTRATED ABOVE)

- DO use the full page.
- DO draw the head and shoulders as illustrated in the image above.
- DO pay attention to the details of your face (the shape of your eyes, nose and mouth) and **DRAW WHAT YOU SEE**.

### **PENCIL TONAL SCALE**

- DO pay attention to the different **tones** on the face, neck, and hair (dark, middle and light tones). SEE PENCIL TONAL SCALE BELOW.



## PROJECT 3: 3 TO 5 IMAGES OF YOUR WORK WHICH REFLECTS YOUR CURRENT ABILITY

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It can be any of the items listed below or a combination of the following:

1. Fine Art: For students considering studying in this stream, you may submit artworks in the medium/media that you feel most competent with, including: drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, ceramics or mixed-media.
2. Fashion and Textile: At least one of the following; moodboards, articles you have sewn, crafts you have made, sketches of your designs.
3. Graphic Design: Drawings, logo designs, visual communication designs. Please choose one example of something/anything you think is a great design and please explain why you think so.
4. Photography: A portrait, landscape, still life and two of your own choice. The portrait, landscape and still life should be natural colour. Do NOT apply any special effect filters in post-production.

## TIPS ON HOW TO PHOTOGRAPH YOUR WORK

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- When photographing a flat artwork, such as your drawing, try and hold the camera parallel to your artwork to avoid converging lines.
- When photographing 3-dimensional artworks, avoid holding the camera too close to the artwork so that there is no distortion. Place work on a neutral background to avoid distracting elements.
- Be aware of reflections.
- All images should be in focus.
- Shoot your artworks in a well-lit area, close to a window. Avoid harsh lighting conditions.
- No filters maybe used for editing. You may edit the brightness and contrast slightly if need be.
- All work must be submitted digitally. Limit your file size to a maximum of 2MB per image.

## ESSAY

1. Tell us which particular career in the Visual Arts you aspire to. For example: a graphic designer, photographer, fashion designer, textile designer, painter, sculptor, ceramicist, printmaker. Discuss your reasons for wishing to pursue studies in this area.
2. Briefly tell us who and what inspires you.
3. Talk about your short and long term goals. In other words, what do you hope to achieve in the future?
4. Provide some background detail about yourself. For example, tell us about your interests in films, music, sport, the books you read etc.

## PERSONAL DETAILS

Please complete the attached form.

## SUBMISSION CHECK LIST

The following documents should be sent together on the same day. Incomplete submissions will not be reviewed.

	BVA_Student Departmental information document
	School results
	Picture of yourself
	Essay
	Portfolio project 1 (still life) – photograph of the actual still life Portfolio project 1 (still life) – drawing of the still life
	Portfolio project 2 (portrait) – photograph of you, you used to draw from Portfolio project 2 (portrait) – self-portrait drawing (draw yourself)
	Portfolio project 3 (Personal work)

We wish you every success with your application.

Regards,

The Visual Arts staff