

**LLN Research Database** by sussexlearningnetwork

**ID:** 11498300000022051

**Title:** Evaluating the role of the Cultural and Supporting Studies curriculum on BA (Hons) degree courses in Art and Design at Northbrook College

**Keywords:** arts & new media; Northbrook College; cultural and supporting studies; CASS; BA (Hons); art and design; curriculum development

**Organisation:** Sussex Learning Network

**Purpose:** We aim to evaluate the role of the Cultural and Supporting Studies (CASS) curriculum on BA (Hons) degree courses in Art and Design at Northbrook College. We will assess the relationship between theory and practice, since CASS provides a key component of academic study in courses based mainly around practical activities in various studio disciplines. Particular focus will be placed on the CASS component of the BA (Hons) Fashion Design. We will explore the ways in which the relationship between theory and practice, in particular academic studies and studio-based practical work, can be developed and improved. The first stage of the project will be to critically evaluate current teaching strategies and revise and plan new integrated approaches incorporating research and design activities. We will build on existing initiatives (for example the theoretical input into the Fabric Deconstruction studio project on BA (Hons) Fashion in Level 1), and develop new briefs. We will also examine aspects of teaching and learning strategies that have a bearing on theory and practice: use of text and visual material in written and practical projects, the division of teaching areas between studio and classrooms, and maximising the potential of visits to museums, exhibitions and foreign visits. We intend to revise existing project briefs in order to integrate studio-based work and academic study into a holistic programme, which would encourage students to take a reflective approach to personal research and further their skills and appreciation of critical enquiry, analysis, written and visual presentation. As well as planning and delivering this revised curriculum, the project will entail a formal evaluation based on a series of interviews and questionnaires completed with staff and students.

**Method:**

**Outcomes of research:**

**Is a final report available?:** No

**How will the findings be disseminated?:** Through the Sussex Learning Network website and the Lifelong Learning Network National Forum

**Where can it be found?:**

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**Records:** View Record

Access the SLN Research Database online at <http://www.sussexlearningnetwork.org.uk/research>