

# DIPLOMA IN FINE ART



FACULTY OF  
ARTS &  
DESIGN

DEPARTMENT OF  
FINE ART &  
JEWELLERY  
DESIGN

01 JAN - 31 DEC 2026

## Diploma in Fine Art

**NQF Level: 6**

**SAQA ID: 100802**

**Qualification Code: DIFARI (Mainstream)  
DFAFI (ECP)**

**Location: City Campus**

## Description of the Programme

The programme is designed to develop the learners' unique creative talent and understanding of the role art plays in the world through a variety of disciplines.

Since its establishment in 1884, the Fine Art Programme at the Durban University of Technology has maintained its position as one of the best in Southern Africa. It is proud of its students who have gone on to excel in their chosen fields, the high standards set by the staff, all professional artists in their own right and of the excellent facilities that the department has to offer.

The programme is offered full-time and the department is situated on the City Campus (Painting, Printmaking, Drawing and Art Theory) as well as at the ML Sultan Campus (Sculpture and Ceramics).

The programme is organised on an incremental basis, the first three years lead to the award of a Diploma in Fine Art. After the first year of study, you may choose to specialise in two of the studio subjects, supported by courses in Art Theory and General Education.

The programme is designed to develop your unique creative talent and understanding of the role art plays in the world through a variety of disciplines: these include Drawing, Painting, Sculpture, Printmaking and Ceramics.

Alongside these studio subjects the study of Art Theory and Communication sets out to develop your understanding and familiarity with the traditions of art and the exciting and at times challenging contemporary scene. Entrepreneurial Studies and Professional Practice prepare you for entry into the world of the working artist whether as an exhibiting artist, craftsperson, community art officer, gallery curator, designer or teacher.

All students are provided with the opportunity to serve the community through practical community work

## Duration

This programme is offered on a full-time basis for three years.

## Career Opportunities

The field is diverse and challenging. On completion of the programme, the student will be qualified and prepared to embark on a career as a professional artist working individually from a private studio or in collaboration with other artists to produce work of exhibition standard for galleries and collections of fine art throughout the country.

A recent survey has indicated that most of our past students have been gainfully employed as self-employed professional artists or within the educational or design fields as lecturers, technical art advisors, textile designers, gallery assistants, illustrators, advertising designers and visualizers.

## Explanation of Points scale:

SENIOR CERTIFICATE (SC)		
SYMBOL	HIGHER GRADE	STANDARD GRADE
A	8	6
B	7	5
C	6	4
D	5	3
E	4	2
F	3	1
NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE (NSC)		
%	LEVEL	POINTS
90-100	7	8
80-89%	7	7
70-79%	6	6
60-69%	5	5
50-59%	4	4
40-49%	3	3
30-39%	2	2
20-29%	1	1

## MINIMUM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

### GENERAL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

A person will only be considered for registration for an instructional programme approved by the Institution's Senate if the person complies with:

- The minimum admission requirements stated in DUT general handbook (refer to DUT website for general handbook).
- Institutional faculty, departmental and/or instructional programme specific rules; and

### MINIMUM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS IN TERMS OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION QUALIFICATIONS SUB-FRAMEWORK (HEQSF)

#### G7 rule: For Diploma:

"a National Senior Certificate (NSC) as certified by the Council for General and Further Education and Training (Umalusi), with a minimum of achievement rating of 3 for English and a minimum achievement rating of 3 in four recognised NSC 20-credit subjects."

#### Entry Requirements (Diploma in Fine Art)

NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE (NSC) (01 January 2009)		SENIOR CERTIFICATE (SC) (PRE 2009)
NSC DIPLOMA ENTRY		SENIOR CERTIFICATE (SC)
Compulsory Subjects	NSC Rating Code	
English	3	
And <b>FOUR</b> 20 credit subjects (not more than one language) as per G7 Rule stated above	3	

#### Additional Entry Requirements:

You will need to have a National Senior Certificate or its equivalent to enter the first year of study. Further to this, there is a selection process, which will be guided by a set of criteria, which include evidence of a high standard of creativity and interest in art and an adequate level of written and spoken English. Art as a qualifying subject will be an advantage. You will need to come to an interview to which you should bring a portfolio of at least 20 drawings of objects drawn from life and a self - portrait drawn from a mirror. Additional creative work (drawings, paintings, sculpture, prints, etc.) will be an advantage. At the interview, you will be required to complete a 40-minute visual- comprehension test.

OR

### Admission Requirement based upon Work Experience, Age and Maturity

#### For admission to entry level DIPLOMA and certificate studies:

A person may, subject to such requirements as the Senate may determine, be admitted to the Institution even if such a person is not in a possession of a National Senior Certificate, Senior Certificate, or an equivalent certificate, provided that:

- The person shall have reached the age of 23 in the first year of registration and shall have at least: three years' appropriate work experience; and/or capacity for the proposed instructional programme, which shall be assessed at the discretion of the respective Head of Department by a Senate approved admission assessment comprising of a DUT Standardised Assessment Test for Access and Placement (SATAP), Academic Literacies (Al) & English for Academic Purposes (EAP) and/or an appropriate subject or programme specific written assessment designed and marked by the relevant Department; and
- The relevant Faculty Board shall be satisfied that the person's standard of communication skills, ability to study successfully and/or work experience are such that the person, in the opinion of the relevant Faculty Board, should be able to complete the

- proposed instructional programme successfully. If required, the communication skills and study skills should be tested; and
- (c) The person's application for admission in terms of work experience, age and maturity is approved prior to registration. Applicants intending to gain admission through work experience, age and maturity must submit their applications at least four months before commencement of the academic year inclusive of the date of scheduling writing a requisite eligibility assessment.

**Applicants intending to gain admission through work experience, age and maturity must submit their applications at least four months before commencement of the academic year.**

## Tuition Fees

To assist you with your planning, the **2025** fees have been indicated. An increase for next year to accommodate the inflation rate can be expected.

**Please Note:** DUT cannot be held liable for the fees in this brochure, as the **2026** fees are not yet final.

<b>First Year Curriculum (Diploma in Fine Art)</b>				
<b>Name of the Module</b>	<b>Module Code</b>	<b>HEQSF Level</b>	<b>SAQA Credits</b>	<b>2025 Fees</b>
<b>Semester One</b>				
Art Theory IA	ATHA101	6	12	R2510.00
Cornerstone 101	CSTN101	5	12	R3910.00
Studio Practice IA	STPA101	5	32	R13510.00
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>R19930.00</b>
<b>Semester Two</b>				
Art Theory IB	ATHB101	6	16	R2510.00
English for Arts	EGLA101	5	12	R3610.00
Studio Practice IB	STPB101	5	32	R13510.00
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>R19630.00</b>
<b>Total Credits for Semester One &amp; Two</b>			<b>116</b>	
<b>Second Year Curriculum</b>				
<b>Semester One</b>				
Art Theory IIA	ATHA201	6	12	R2510.00
Studio Practice IIA	STPA101	6	23	R13510.00
Interpersonal Communication and Self	ICMS101	5	8	R2260.00
Media and Visual Literacy	MVLT101	5	12	R3610.00
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>R21890.00</b>
<b>Semester Two</b>				
Art Theory IIB	ATHB201	6	12	R2510.00
Community Engagement Project	CMEP101	5	8	R2840.00
Professional Practice II	PFSP201	8	6	R3250.00
Studio Practice IIB	STPB201	5	32	R12050.00
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>R20650.00</b>
<b>Total Credits for Semester One &amp; Two</b>			<b>122</b>	
<b>Third Year Curriculum</b>				
<b>Semester One</b>				
Art Theory IIIA	ATHA301	7	12	R2510.00
Critical Thinking	CRTH101	5	10	R3610.00
Information & Communication Tech Literacy and Skills	ICTL101	5	8	R2430.00
Studio Practice IIIA	STPA301	7	28	R12050.00
World of Work	WVWRK101	5	8	R2260.00
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>R22860.00</b>
<b>Semester Two</b>				
Art Theory IIIB	ATHB301	7	12	R2510.00
Professional Practice III	PFSP301	7	8	R3150.00
Social Responsibility	SRSC101	5	12	R2150.00
Studio Practice IIIB	STPB301	5	32	R12050.00
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>R19860.00</b>
<b>Total Credits for Semester One &amp; Two</b>			<b>130</b>	

## Application

Applicants who wish to enrol for the programme must apply through the CAO system by no later than 30 September of the previous year.

**CAO Online Application visit:** <http://www.cao.ac.za>

## CAO Contact Details

Private Bag X06

Dalbridge

4014

Tel: (031) 268 4444

Fax: (031) 268 4422

**CAO Code: DU-C-DFA**

**Closing date for applications: 30 September 2025**

**For Further Information** Contact the Department of Fine Art Durban University of Technology

P.O. Box 1334 DURBAN,  
4000.

Tel: (031) 373 6600

Fax: 086 674 0308

**Financial Aid:**

For Financial Aid application for a DUT programme please apply online at [www.nsfas.org.za](http://www.nsfas.org.za) or call the NSFAS call centre on 0860 067 327.

For an explanation on how to fill out the application form, please go to [www.nsfas.org.za](http://www.nsfas.org.za) or contact the call centre on the number above.

**Please note** that completing a form does not guarantee Financial Aid. For further assistance, please consult the Department of Financial Aid and Scholarships on (031)3732931/2557/2054.