

# DIGITAL ARTS FAQ

## 1. WHAT IS DIGITAL ARTS?

**W**hat makes Digital Arts exciting is the combination of the arts and technology sectors. It can be approached from either direction: the creative arts through the **BA in Digital Arts**, or the information engineering side through the **BEngSc in Digital Arts**.

While the degrees focus on very different things, students develop a familiarity with the intersecting elements in the fields. To this end, students in both degrees attend core courses side by side, working together in an interdisciplinary environment.

## 2. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO DEGREES?

**T**he **BA Degree**'s creative arts emphasis in the **Digital Art** programme covers a variety of multi-modal approaches to contemporary art-making. It's an interactive way of approaching storytelling, animation and games; experimental and relevant to our modern technological world.

The **BEngSC Degree**'s side of **Digital Art** covers the core tenets of Electrical and Information Engineering, but also facilitates the creative aspects of game design and practical coding, allowing a flexible and diverse range of skill that extends upon your base learning.

Both courses compliment each other, rather than working in isolation, meaning that students always collaborate and learn together in a fun and cohesive environment.

## 3. WHICH SUBJECTS SHOULD I TAKE?

**W**e are often asked which subjects a Grade 9 learner should choose in order to best equip them for their studies in Digital Arts, so by degree, these are what we can recommend:

**BA:** English, Art or Design, Math. I.T. is very beneficial.

**BEngSc:** English, Math, Physical Science and/or Physics.

Many applicants also ask whether they need to have any coding experience or skills, and our answer is that prior knowledge is always helpful, but not compulsory. All coding will be taught in the programme, with a focus on C# as a programming language.

## 4. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS?

**T**he two Degrees have different entry requirements, which are listed below:

**BA:** An APS of 34 or more, English on a minimum of 65%. An art portfolio and samples of critical writing.

**BEngSc:** An APS of 42 or more, English, Math, Physical Science and/or Physics on a minimum of 70%. A sample of critical writing is also required.

All applicants must also attend a compulsory workshop that introduces them to the Digital Arts staff, as well as what to expect in the programme.

## 5. HOW LONG WILL MY STUDIES BE?

**T**he two Degrees run for different lengths, as described below:

**BA:** The BA is a 4-Year Professional Degree (Honours Equivalent). The curriculum is module-based, allowing customisation of specialisations in the senior years.

**BEngSc:** The BEngSc is a 3-Year Degree, with the option of continuing on to full-certification (EIE), BA Honours or to go into the industry.

## 6. WHAT ARE MY CAREER OPPORTUNITIES?

**A** common misconception is that following your studies in Digital Arts, you'll be relegated to strictly game design. This is most certainly not the case - whilst Game Design is definitely a core mandate of the course, graduates often find employment in various fields, including bespoke software development, app development, character animation, gamification, art direction and many other fields.

Digital Arts graduates are incredibly versatile and sought-after because of their innate problem-solving abilities and diverse skillsets.

## 7. DO WE OFFER POST-GRADUATE COURSES?

**W**its Digital Arts has a fantastic range of postgraduate study opportunities, starting with our Honours Degree and continuing into Master's Degrees and even PhD offerings.

The **Honours** course is a mix of practical and theoretical subjects which can be customised according to fields of interest and specialty. Candidates can choose from Animation, Interactive Media, Game Design (prior experience required) and/or Writing and Interactivity.

Our **MA** and **PhD Degrees** can be undertaken as either full dissertation (research based) or creative practise (a combination of practical output and reflective writing), depending on topic and supervisor availability.

### Application Requirements:

**Honours:** A Bachelor's Degree within a related field (e.g. Software Development, Graphic Design, Architecture) with an overall aggregate of 65% for practical subjects, as well as 65% theory. Applicants will be requested to supply a critical writing sample as well as practical portfolio.

**MA:** An Honours Degree within a related field with an overall aggregate of 65% for practical subjects, as well as 65% theory. A 500 word essay detailing an idea for a research topic must be supplied upon application, as well as any relevant practical/ industry work where relevant for creative practise research.

**PhD:** An MA degree with a minimum of 65%, research concept papers should be presented to a proposed supervisor.

## 8. I HAVE A DIPLOMA, CAN I APPLY FOR HONOURS?

**S**tandard Diplomas do not carry a high enough NQF (National Qualifications Framework) level to attend an Honours-level programme, regardless of the total length of studies. Applicants that wish to apply for an Honours qualification with a Diploma will first be required to attend an academic bridging course for a year as an Arts Occasional Student and achieve at least 65% for the final exam.

Upon doing so, a candidate will be nominated to undergo the RPL (recognition of prior learning) process, but please note that places cannot be guaranteed in the programme even upon successful completion of this. This process is a special consideration and is done on a case-by-case basis.

## 9. CAN I ATTEND A POST-GRADUATE COURSE WITHOUT PREVIOUS QUALIFICATIONS?

**A**pplicants that have extensive industry experience, but no academic qualifications can apply to be considered for the RPL process (recognition of prior learning), in which skillset, ability and experience are considered. We cannot guarantee a position using this process, but it is an option for highly-skilled applicants that did not have the opportunity to study for various reasons. We will still recommend attendance in an academic bridging course, but this is also handled on a case-by-case basis.

## DID WE MISS ANYTHING?

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