

13. FURTHER STUDY

LEARNING OUTCOMES Students will:

- be able to identify possible career pathways they may take based on the knowledge and skills they have gained at art school
- develop a logical process through which they identify which further skills they need and how they might achieve them

“It is only a recent development within Australia that artists have been able to consider their practices in the context of a ‘career’, although now this is the broader framework within which many artists see their vocation. The visual arts industry on every level is becoming increasingly sophisticated and competitive. There are also more possibilities for the kinds of work an artist can do to support his or her practice, but there is more competition at the entry points. The training sought by artists is changing in response to this competition. It is no longer the case that artists are satisfied with a simple Bachelor of Arts degree. Artists are increasingly progressing to postgraduate degrees to aid their hopes of a career within the industry. This further study is particularly relevant if there is the desire to teach, in the more and more tenuous world of higher education.”¹

As with many other professions, the skills learnt within a diploma or degree arts course may need to be extended. Upon finishing their initial training practitioners may choose to expand on their knowledge of visual arts and craft practice, or they may decide to study other disciplines that will assist their practice – such as marketing or business skills or curatorial studies. Or they may decide to study a course that provides them with employment opportunities in a related field, such as teaching or arts administration.

Postgraduate study is becoming more widespread in the arts sector. Honours and postgraduate degrees including Masters and Doctorates are taught in most institutions around Australia. All universities have comprehensive web pages or publications for interested potential students.

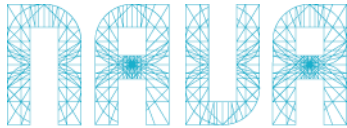
Some financial support for postgraduate study is available. There are scholarships available from many sources, including sources within educational institutions and some offered by philanthropic trusts etc. There are also a number of scholarships accessible to Australian artists and craftspeople for study and travel overseas, some of which are offered by Australian based agencies, others are offered by overseas agencies.

It is now commonly accepted that changes in society have lead to changes in the employment market. The focus of students has shifted from direct entry into the work force to a flexible approach to their career objectives. Graduates from a visual arts or craft course have a number of strengths that will assist them through their career path:

“...visual arts graduates are highly skilled and visually literate in a changing environment that is increasingly privileging the visual. Their education ensures that they are flexible, adaptable, resourceful, self-motivated, adept at problem-solving and skilled in a range of specialised techniques and communications...”²

1. Bullock, M. Making the land go salty: Issues surrounding sustainability for the emerging artist in Artists Talk: Issues Facing Australian Artists ed. Holt, R. and Jones, B. West Space, Melbourne

2. Snell, Ted (2001) in Zero 1: Western Australian Art no. 7 (eds) Cotter, Barbara and Snell, Ted, published by the Visual Culture Research Unit, Curtin University of Technology, p.78



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Related fields

- advertising
- art education/museum education
- art therapy
- art within science
- art writing
- arts administration
- community cultural development
- cultural planning
- cultural tourism
- curatorial work
- design in/for media
- fashion design
- graphic design
- heritage interpretation
- illustration
- industrial design
- IT and new technology
- promotion and marketing
- residencies
- teaching
- theatre and event design
- web design
- whatever opportunities come your way...
- whatever opportunities you create yourself...

ASSESSMENT EXERCISES

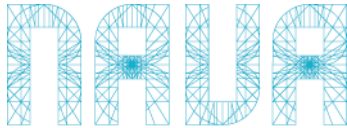
Tutorial Questions

- Higher education is becoming increasingly important in the competitive world we live in and many practitioners are progressing to postgraduate level to assist their career development. How is it advantageous to hold a university degree in the visual arts sector?
- Many practitioners supplement their art/craft income through engagement in another occupation. Some practitioners prefer to work in an occupation that makes use of their art/craft skills or that is linked to the art/craft industry. Others choose to earn income in a totally unrelated field. Research career options available outside of a studio practice but within a related field, and, choosing one or a few options, discuss the connections and synergies that could be developed between that form of income production and an art/craft practice.

Practical Task

POSSIBLE CLASS EXERCISE

- Create a skills audit of the skills you expect to have at the completion of your art degree, including skills you have gained outside of your course. Create another list of the sorts of skills you expect to need to meet your immediate career goals, identifying any deficiencies. Research and list further training options you could undertake to meet your skill requirements. Note: the training does not have to be provided by the Australian tertiary sector. *Submission: skills audit and research on future training options.*



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Readings/Resources

Visual Arts Net – Artists Stories. <http://www.visualarts.net.au/ag/stories.asp>

What Do Graduates Do? (online) available:

http://www.prospects.ac.uk/student/cidd/wdgd/articles02/ed_arts.htm-destinations (July 2002)

Destinations and Reflections: Executive Summary (online) available:

<http://www.uce.ac.uk/crq/publications/dr/drexec.html> (July 2002)

Grant Search (online) available: <http://www.grantsearch.com.au> (September 2002)

Rowley, S. 'Serious Practicing, Professional: Identifying Australia's Artists' *Craftlink* Vol. 1 1 No 5 June 1995 pp3-6

Bullock, M. 2000 'Making the land go salty: Issues surrounding sustainability for the emerging artist' in *Artists Talk – Issues Facing Australian Artists* Holt, R. and Jones, B (eds.) West Space, Melbourne pp25-29

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