Digital Portfolio*
Workshop

*AKA e-folio
Before we do anything...

SAVE IT AS YOU GO AND BACK IT UP

Seriously – we cannot stress this enough.

Don’t risk losing work!
What is a digital portfolio?

What it says on the tin
  - a digital version of your full portfolio
  - AKA a fancy powerpoint

To create one you will need to photograph or scan in your work and sketchbooks, and present them as digital slides.
Why am I being asked for one? How is it used?

Competitive courses with lots of applicants
  • an initial selection

Make the process fairer
  • the same format for everyone

Some courses/universities will only ask for a digital portfolio
Where asks for one?

University of Dundee
Edinburgh Napier University
Glasgow School of Art
Edinburgh College of Art

2-stage selection

E-folio only!
Where asks for one?

University of Dundee

Edinburgh Napier University

Glasgow School of Art

Edinburgh College of Art
Where asks for one?

University of Dundee

Edinburgh Napier University

Glasgow School of Art

Edinburgh College of Art
Where asks for one?

University of Dundee

Edinburgh Napier University

Glasgow School of Art

Edinburgh College of Art
University of Dundee
Edinburgh Napier University
Glasgow School of Art
Edinburgh College of Art
OMG that deadline is early
OMG that deadline is early

Don’t panic – academic selectors know that you won’t have done all your advanced higher work/have lots finished by January.

The e-folio is a snapshot – it should be the highlights!

What you can do (and should be doing) is crack on with your development, documentation and planning.
OMG that deadline is early

Don’t panic – academic selectors know that you won’t have done all your advanced higher work by January

The e-folio is a snapshot – it should be the highlights!

What you can do (and should be doing) is crack on with your development, documentation and planning

They’re actually more keen to see this than finished work
OMG that deadline is early

Don’t panic – academic selectors know that you won’t have done all your advanced higher work by January

The e-folio is a snapshot – it should be the highlights!

What you can do (and should be doing) is crack on with your development, documentation and planning

Do this as you go – makes your life easier in December!
What to include

Everything that you normally would!

Sketchbooks and development are still very important

Remember the squiggle!
Squiggle?
Squiggle?
Squiggle?

Starting point  Development  Final piece/conclusion
What does good development look like?

- **Research**: ideas, theory, relevant artists, designers or architects.
- **Observational study**: drawings, photographs, collections.
- **Experimentation**: playing, developing your media, your subject, your skills.
- **Development**: keep track of what you are doing and show evidence of this – photograph your work at all stages and include these in your sketchbooks.
- **Sketchbooks** are vital, and some courses specifically ask to see them.
- **Drawing** in general is important – always try to draw from life rather than photographs wherever possible. Be confident!
Documenting your work

**Step 1:** Document your work using a camera, your phone or a scanner

- Clean background
- Good light
- Don’t zoom

- Adobe Scan app!
Documenting your work

**Step 2: Polish it up**

- Crop
- Levels (brightness)
- Curves (colour)
- Resize/Resolution

REMEMBER

This isn’t the time to show off your photoshop prowess.

Editing should enhance your work, not change it.
Documenting your work

**Step 3:** Put it all together
- Powerpoint is easiest
- You can save in a variety of formats
Tips

• Check your **formats and deadlines** before you start

• Think about what course you are applying for – do you have **relevant work**?

• Photograph your work **as you go** – it will save time later
  • Document it as you’re making it too!

• Don’t bother shooting in RAW if using a DSLR – it just makes your file sizes huge

• The devil is in the details – make sure everything is properly **aligned**

• A little **annotation** is good – but selectors can’t/read tonnes of text

**Start early** – don’t leave it til the week before

• Keep it **simple** – now is not the time for jazzy backgrounds
Tips

- Check your **formats and deadlines** before you start
- Think about what course you are applying for - do you have **relevant work**?
- Photograph your work **as you go** - it will save time later
  - Document it as you’re making it too!
- Don’t bother shooting in RAW if using a DSLR - it just makes your file sizes huge
- The devil is in the details - make sure everything is properly **aligned**
- A little **annotation** is good - but selectors can’t/read tonnes of text
- **Start early** - don’t leave it til the week before to start making it
- Keep it **simple** - now is not the time for jazzy backgrounds
Tips

- **Submit in good time**
  - Don’t leave it til the last minute! The system crashes every year

- **Consider your influences**
  - You should be able to show your inspirations
  - Are they generic? Try to think of unusual ones, and a good mix of traditional and contemporary

- **Include self-directed work** - E.g. Personal projects, ACES work
Tips

LET US HELP YOU

ACES
Plan plan plan plan!
What now?

- Research your formats and deadlines
- Check what help is available to you
  - Are ACES running masterclasses or sessions? If so, go!
- Get advice and guidance
  - Take notes, make plans
- Email us for help
  - aces@dundee.ac.uk

Check websites, posters or ask!

Remember to ask academics if you can get their help before bombarding them.

Set a good impression - write a proper email.