

Design

General senior subject

General

The Design subject focuses on the application of design thinking to envisage creative products, services and environments. Designing is a complex and sophisticated form of problem-solving that uses divergent and convergent thinking approaches that can be practised and improved. Designers are separated from the constraints of production processes to allow them to appreciate and exploit innovative ideas.

In Unit 1, students will learn about and experience designing in the context of stakeholder-centred design. They will be introduced to the range and importance of stakeholders and how the design process is used to respond to their needs and wants. In Unit 2, students will learn about and experience designing in the context of commercial design, considering the role of the client and the influence of economic, social and cultural issues. They will use a collaborative design approach. In Unit 3, students will learn about and experience designing in the context of human-centred design. They will use designing with empathy as an approach as they respond to the needs and wants of a particular person. In Unit 4, students will learn about and experience designing in the context of sustainable design. They will explore design opportunities and design to improve economic, social and ecological sustainability.

The teaching and learning approach uses a design process grounded in the problem-based learning framework. This approach enables students to learn about and experience design through exploring needs, wants and opportunities; developing ideas and design concepts; using sketching and low-fidelity prototyping skills; and evaluating ideas. Students communicate design proposals to suit different audiences.

Students will learn how design has influenced the economic, social and cultural

environment in which they live. They will understand the agency of humans in conceiving and imagining possible futures through design. Students will develop valuable 21st century skills in critical thinking, creative thinking, communication, collaboration and teamwork, personal and social skills, and information & communication technologies (ICT) skills. Collaboration, teamwork and communication are crucial skills needed to work in design teams and liaise with stakeholders. The design thinking students learn is broadly applicable to a range of professions and supports the development of critical and creative thinking.

Students will develop an appreciation of designers and their role in society. They will learn the value of creativity and build resilience as they experience iterative design processes, where the best ideas may be the result of trial and error and a willingness to take risks and experiment with alternatives. Design equips students with highly transferrable, future-focused thinking skills relevant to a global context.

Pathways

A course of study in Design can establish a basis for further education and employment in the fields of architecture, digital media design, fashion design, graphic design, industrial design, interior design and landscape architecture.

Objectives

By the conclusion of the course of study, students will:

- describe design problems and design criteria
- represent ideas, design concepts and design information using visual representation skills
- analyse needs, wants and opportunities using data
- devise ideas in response to design problems
- evaluate ideas to make refinements
- propose design concepts in response to design problems
- make decisions about and use mode-appropriate features, language and conventions for particular purposes and contexts.

Structure

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
Stakeholder-centred design <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designing for others 	Commercial design influences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responding to needs and wants 	Human-centred design <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designing with empathy 	Sustainable design influences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responding to opportunities

Assessment

Schools devise assessments in Units 1 and 2 to suit their local context.

In Units 3 and 4 students complete *four* summative assessments. The results from each of the assessments are added together to provide a subject score out of 100. Students will also receive an overall subject result (A–E).

Summative assessments

Unit 3		Unit 4	
Summative internal assessment 1 (IA1): • Design challenge	20%	Summative internal assessment 3 (IA3): • Project	25%
Summative internal assessment 2 (IA2): • Project	30%	Summative external assessment (EA): • Examination — extended response	25%