



**Cardiff**  
Metropolitan  
University

Prifysgol  
Metropolitan  
**Caerdydd**

**BA Hons Ceramics**

**SCHOOL OF ART AND DESIGN**

**Summer Project & Tool kits  
September 2023**

## Ceramics – Summer Project & Tool Kits - 2023

### **Welcome:**

Welcome to the BA (Hons) Ceramics course at Cardiff School of Art & Design.

We are very excited to be welcoming our new intake into the course in September 2023. Ahead of you, lies three exciting years of learning in a stimulating and supportive environment which will form the base of your future careers in creative practice.

Here at Cardiff School of Art and Design we look at Ceramics from a multitude of directions. We teach to the discipline placing skills, both traditional and innovative this is at the centre of our delivery. Then we find ways to see it afresh. We re-situate Ceramics in relation to other ways of thinking: sculpture, fine art, textiles, product design, fashion design, illustration, animation; to prompt new ideas, interpretations and connections that enhance the way we think about it, and the ways in which you will perceive your own work. We take the time to contemplate and pay close attention, to create a space in which Ceramics has the opportunity to appear in unexpected ways.

No two student journeys are ever the same and we will support you in finding your unique creative voice.

And so begins your journey, you will learn things you never imagined, you will make friends for life, you will visit extraordinary places and make extraordinary things, it is our pleasure and our privilege to take you on that journey!

Duncan Ayscough MA CertEd FHEA FCPA FRSA.

Admissions Tutor: Ceramics BA (Hons)

### **Summer Project**

In order to prepare you for the start of the programme and to have something to discuss when you arrive, we would like you to complete a small summer project, the details of which are outlined below:

As you will be aware, the school provides the clay and glaze materials necessary for you to undertake the programme modules. There is however so much more to the earth that lies beneath your feet. Part of your first subject module explores the physical properties of unrefined clay. In preparation for this, we would like you to collect clay sourced from an area local to you. Clay can be found in riverbanks, building sites, beaches and tidal estuaries. If you dig approximately 40 cm below the surface you are likely to find a thicker, 'plastic' and malleable substance similar to that of a bought bag of clay. As it has not yet been processed, expect to find leaves, stones, sand, roots or pebbles meshed into it.

We would like you to dig up about 3-5 kilos, half to three quarters of a carrier bag or bucket. Break the clay into small lumps i.e. size of a grape or smaller and **\*leave to dry thoroughly\*** – this will alleviate some of its weight and give you a head start on the project. Bring it to the first year studio on our first day in the studio.

The following link to Ceramic Art Daily will give some helpful insight into where to locate clay and how we will process.

<http://ceramicartsdaily.org/ceramic-supplies/pottery-clay/going-local-how-to-dig-and-process-your-own-clay/>

**NOTE: If you are travelling to Cardiff from overseas there is no need for you to bring clay from your home country with you but we do expect you to conduct the research described below.**

We would like you to conduct a simple study of the area where you located the clay. In this instance we would like you to investigate relationships between how the earth may have been used for production such as potteries, farming, chalk deposits or coal - and its socio-historic timeframe such as the literal and economic growth of a village, town or city. To do this, you need to log, through satellite or manual navigation, the co-ordinates of where the clay was found, and use this as part of research into the geology and history of its locality.

As part of this project, we would also like you to undertake some research about the area you live and where you sourced your clay starting with the geology of that area. A great starting point for this is the national geological survey <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/data/mapViewers/home.html> This gives invaluable data about the geology of the entire UK.

Can you identify any history of ceramic manufacture in your area?

### **Pre-induction Tasks**

Within the department we are very committed to our application of best practice in regards to health and safety. It is essential that you have the appropriate personal protective equipment of the appropriate standard. These are listed below and you will have the opportunity to purchase them in the first week of term:

All ceramics students need to wear a terylene apron when working with clays, glazes and plaster at all times in both the workshops and in the studio, these will cost approximately £10. You are also required to have your own respirator mask when working with dry materials, these cost approximately £26.

### **General equipment:**

These **very important basic tools** are all widely available yet essential:  
Large bucket, washing-up bowl, jumbo sponge, small sponge, set of small plastic lidded containers, ruler, set of 3 plastic mixing bowls, plastic measuring jug, paint scraper, plastic funnel, large wooden rolling pin, small and large decorators' paintbrushes, roll of plastic bin liners, old newspapers.



Basic Tools

Specialist equipment needed from a specialist pottery tools supplier:  
Available from specialist suppliers listed below but also ebay and amazon sellers

Pottery knife; set of 6 boxwood modelling tools; metal modelling tool/riffler; clay wire; small surform; large and small looped turning tool; blade/spade turning tool; wooden throwing rib; metal kidneys (smooth and serrated type); potters pin; small sponge on a stick!

It is essential that you start with a basic tool kit and as you progress you will add to this equipment more necessary to your mode of working.



Specialist Tools

- <http://www.toppotsupplies.co.uk/>
- <http://www.bathpotters.co.uk/>
- [http://www.pottery crafts.co.uk/?gclid=CjwKEAjwqdi7BRCL6Zmjk5-rsTwSJABmrVabuLGutegQR1aELGYTRUoZ3vJEI8BbrS8q52hiTdbN1hoCKoLw\\_wcB](http://www.pottery crafts.co.uk/?gclid=CjwKEAjwqdi7BRCL6Zmjk5-rsTwSJABmrVabuLGutegQR1aELGYTRUoZ3vJEI8BbrS8q52hiTdbN1hoCKoLw_wcB)
- [http://www.potclays.co.uk/studio/?gclid=CjwKEAjwqdi7BRCL6Zmjk5-rsTwSJABmrVabWvzHra7eGCTTQGpJaBzIXSjiEumnVXlrtBCinDB6WBoCI3zw\\_wcB](http://www.potclays.co.uk/studio/?gclid=CjwKEAjwqdi7BRCL6Zmjk5-rsTwSJABmrVabWvzHra7eGCTTQGpJaBzIXSjiEumnVXlrtBCinDB6WBoCI3zw_wcB)

If you need any help or advice on how to complete this task, please send an email to our school administration team stating the name of the course you are about to join and the questions you want to ask to the following email address: [csadadmin@cardiffmet.ac.uk](mailto:csadadmin@cardiffmet.ac.uk)