

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES: Bachelor of Arts in Fine Arts (AFA01)

Thank you for your interest in applying for the BA (Fine Arts) degree with the Wits School of Arts for 2026.

The BA (Fine Arts) degree is a four-year professional degree, and our undergraduate teaching programme is run by a dedicated team of lecturers, artists, scholars, writers, tutors and technical staff specialising in different contemporary art media.

A formal academic application must have been submitted to the Student Enrolment Centre (SEnC) by **30 September 2025**. No late applications will be considered. Online applications are available at www.wits.ac.za/applications

In addition, all BA (Fine Arts) applicants are required to submit **an online questionnaire together with a portfolio of artworks and a transcript of recent grades or matric results**. The BA (Fine Arts) degree is a highly competitive programme for which we receive many applications. There are a limited number of places available, and you should aim to submit your portfolio as soon as possible but by no later than **31 October 2025**. Your application will be considered incomplete WITHOUT A PORTFOLIO.

Please click

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdhyOOsyOGuI5mN_b84V97y9PeUVV2KIQkkPiywUToV8UM0CA/viewform to complete the questionnaire and upload your transcript and portfolio of artworks.

Once you have submitted the complete questionnaire and required documents, we will aim to review your application within two weeks. You will then receive a letter from the Student Enrolment Centre (SEnC) with an update on the status of your application. You can also view your application status on the student self- service portal - <https://self-service.wits.ac.za/>

If you have completed your school leaving, or tertiary qualification, you could receive a firm offer or be placed on a waiting list.

If you are currently in Grade 12, you could receive a provisional offer, be placed on a deferred status (subject to the release of your final matric results and available places), or be unsuccessful. PLEASE NOTE that acceptance of your application is dependent on the evaluation of the complete questionnaire, your portfolio and your Matric results. SEnC will confirm if your application is successful once your Matric results have been published in 2026.

A firm offer by the University will allow you to register in January/February 2026. Registration dates will be published on the Wits website, as well as details about orientation activities and the start of term in February 2026.

Important

You must submit the following with your questionnaire:

1. Your personal information

- Include your full name, address, telephone and email contact information, the name of the last school you attended, and year of matriculation (or planned year of matriculation).

2. A transcript of your most recent marks

- Certified copy of your final grade 11 results, Matric certificate, or Academic Transcript.

3. A portfolio of creative work

Your artistic portfolio is an important part of your application and should showcase your creative skills, work and ideas. Because you are applying for a fine arts degree, we are interested to see visual artworks, including drawings, sketches, paintings, collages, photographs, installations, images of sculptures or digital designs. We are happy to see whatever you have produced over the past 2-3 years. If you do not have any work, spend some time working on your portfolio before you submit. If you are not sure what medium to use, you can work through anything that excites or concerns you. Select the artworks you feel strongly about. You can also add a link in the PDF document to a blog/website, videos or Instagram page.

In our foundation courses we focus intensely on different drawing methods and media, and we are therefore interested to see 1-2 *observational sketches* in your portfolio. These can be done in any medium by observing and drawing anything in your environment (it does *not* need to be detailed or photo realistic).

Format: PDF document or slideshow, with all your images in one file (i.e. rather than separate JPEG images). You can use <https://tinywow.com/> if you need to convert images to pdf. You may include as many types of work as you wish (*minimum* 10 images) in the PDF/presentation). You may also upload *additional* material, such as sound or video pieces.

If you struggle with digital formats, please email info.fineart@wits.ac.za. Include your person/student number and **2026 APPLICATIONS** in the subject heading of the email.

Applicants who fail to respond to all questions and submit all documents will not be considered.

Online workshop:

The Fine Arts Department will host two online workshops for applicants, one in June and one in September. The workshop will involve a more comprehensive introduction to the undergraduate degree and courses as well as a Q&A session. If you are interested in participating, please indicate this in the online questionnaire.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Whilst the department offers professional courses as part of the BA Fine Arts degree, the University is foremost an academic institution. Applicants will be assessed on their practical, artistic, and academic abilities.

Minimum Admission Requirements (*Meeting the minimum admission requirements does not guarantee admission for any applicant*)

National Senior Certificate (NSC):

Each candidate requires an APS of at least 34 points and a minimum of 60% for English Home Language OR English First Additional Language in order to be considered for acceptance into the BA Fine Arts degree. The Student Enrolment Centre communicates a FIRM offer only, and not the Wits School of Arts (WSoA).

Applicants with 30-33 APS points and at least **60% for English Home Language OR English First Additional Language**, as well as a good portfolio will be wait-listed, and may be accepted in January subject to available places.

International Qualifications:

Relevant exemption from the SA Matriculation Board

English Language O/IGCSE Level A-C | AS Level A-C | A Level A-C

Further info:

<https://www.wits.ac.za/undergraduate/entry-requirements/>

<https://www.wits.ac.za/wsoa/fine-arts/undergraduate/>

<https://www.thepointoforder.org/about>