



SCHOOL LINKS

National Progression Award (NPA)

Digital Media Animation

SCQF Level 5

Your school has joined with North East Scotland College to offer you the opportunity to undertake a vocational qualification as part of your school studies. This information leaflet is designed to answer your questions and explain a bit about the course you will be taking.

WHAT IS IT?

The National Progression Award (NPA) in Digital Media Animation at SCQF Level 5 has been developed due to the growing use of animation in areas such as the web, gaming and mobile platforms and is designed to equip candidates with an understanding of the production of digital animation in both 2D and 3D development environments.

This award has been designed to develop the fundamental knowledge and competence required in planning, creating and evaluating computer animations whilst also gaining practical skills in a range of software applications and tools used in industry. The mapping of the course units to National Occupational Standards in this also gives the NPA credibility with employers.

There are no specific entry requirements for the National Progression Award in Digital Media Animation at SCQF Level 5 but it would be beneficial to have some basic skills in the use of IT in a creative context.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The course is composed of three units designed to develop your knowledge and understanding of the processes used by industry to create computer animations, develop the relevant technical skills required by industry, provide you access to industry standard software and develop an understanding of the legislative issues related to the ownership of assets. All units focus on realistic situations so that candidates will achieve these aims as they progress through the qualification.

Introduction to Computer Animation: This first unit is designed to introduce you to the theory and practice of computer animation. The intention is to provide an opportunity for you to explore different animation techniques in an introductory fashion. You will work to produce both 2D and 3D work.

Digital Media: Still Images Editing: The purpose of this unit is to plan and produce animation ready graphics for the final project and to train you to identify the image requirements of a brief, plan a strategy for the creation of the images, report on and justify reasons for your proposed strategy, then present the images in a format appropriate to the requirements of the project brief.

Computing: Animation Fundamentals: This unit is designed to introduce you to the techniques and concepts involved in producing two-dimensional (2D) animation using industry standard software and techniques. The unit is practical in nature and you will gain knowledge and understanding of the practical techniques and concepts used in the creation of a computer animation project.

HOW WILL I BE TAUGHT?

You will participate in lecturer led presentations and demonstrations of practical techniques in animation practice. Classes will take place in a well-equipped computer studio at a College campus where you will have access to industry standard software for both 2D and 3D animation. You will work towards a series of projects that will involve work in sketchbooks that will be translated in digital animation. Evidence will be produced continually throughout the delivery of the NPA. Blogs and social media will be used for presentation and discussion of the work.

WHAT DO I NEED?

Materials required for the course are:

- **A4 sketchbook.**
- **Basic drawing materials (range of pencils, eraser, sharpener)**
- **4GB Memory Stick**

Eating and drinking are not permitted in classrooms. Drinking water is available from water dispensers in the corridors within the College buildings.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

To successfully complete the NPA you will produce a folio of work that includes a range of elements that includes (but is not limited to):

- **Annotated research material.**
- **Written plans and visual storyboards.**
- **Sketchbook development work for animation planning.**
- **Computer generated animation in both 2D and 3D environments**

WHAT CAN I DO AFTER THIS COURSE?

Candidates can use the NPA to progress further in the field of animation and other related industries, whether it is simple web animation or complex character animation for the film and games industries. This NPA may provide opportunities for progression on to the following further education courses:

- **HND Visual Communication**
- **HNC 3D Computer Animation**
- **HNC Art & Design**

WHO DO I SPEAK TO ABOUT THIS COURSE?

If you are interested in this course and want to find out more about it you should speak to your Guidance Teacher at school.

It is expected that pupils enrolling on this course will remain enrolled with their school for the duration of the course. Therefore this course is **not** suitable for those school pupils planning on leaving school at Christmas.



North East Scotland College
Aberdeen City Campus, Gallowgate, Aberdeen AB25 1BN
Tel: **0300 330 5550** • Email: schools@nescol.ac.uk • Web: www.nescol.ac.uk

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