

NCD Digital Design & Commercial Photography

What you need to
complete for your
portfolio submission.



Overall Summary

For your portfolio you should **explore either landscape or portrait photography.**

Your portfolio will consist of 3 parts:

1. **Research:** *this might include visual moodboards, mind maps of ideas, artist research and analysis.*
2. **Develop:** *this will require you to take inspiration from your research to come up with ideas for your own practical responses in the form of drawings, designs, photographs etc.*
3. **Make:** *you will then be asked to create a set of practical work in response to your ideas. This might be a photoshoot, a series of drawings, or hand made designs.*

Use Google Slides or Powerpoint to present your work.

More detail about the tasks and guidance is available on the next 4 slides.

Your portfolio should be emailed as photos or a PDF to vatech@ncdoncaster.ac.uk before the 5th of June.



The Task

For your portfolio project you will design a magazine front cover for either a fashion magazine or a travel magazine.



Research

Produce a **mood board of at least 10 photographs and magazine covers** that will inspire your own photos and magazine cover. **Write a short paragraph** explaining how they have inspired your work and what ideas they have given you.

Analyse a magazine cover for Wanderlust magazine or GQ magazine.

Describe the image and text, **identify** the focal point and **give your opinion** of the cover. What do you think is successful and why? How has the magazine appealed to its target audience?

Develop

Create a **mind map of ideas** and a series of at least **4 sketches** for the layout of your own magazine cover. **The cover should feature either a landscape or portrait photoshoot.**

Include: What you will shoot (model, location etc)? **What** colours and text will you use on the cover? Be specific.

Take inspiration for poses, composition, angles, backgrounds, colours, text etc from your moodboard.

Highlight which ideas you want to try on your magazine cover.



Make

Take at least 12 shots inspired by your moodboard and mind map. This could be with a camera or phone.

Present these on your slides, no more than 6 shots per slide.

Choose the shot you would use on your cover, put it on a slide and explain why you think this shot is your most successful.

Challenge:

Edit your best shot using the free app Snapseed or other photo editing apps or websites. Design your cover using any software you are comfortable using. Show this final design on your slides.



SUBMIT

Save your document as a pdf.

In Google slides you can do this by choosing File > Download > PDF document (.pdf).

In Powerpoint you can do this by choosing File > Export > PDF

Email your pdf to vatech@ncdoncaster.ac.uk

Make sure you include your **full name and the course you are applying for** in your email.

Portfolios will be reviewed by subject staff and you will then receive an email saying whether it has been accepted.

For applicants who have been interviewed between our first interview evening (4th November 2025) and our third interview evening (10th March 2026) the deadline for portfolio submission is **Friday 22nd May 2026**.

For applicants who have been interviewed on our fourth or fifth interview evenings (28th April and 2nd June 2026) the deadline for portfolio submission is **Friday 3rd July 2026**.

- Any portfolio submissions after this date will not be accepted. Any late applicants to visual arts courses should bring their completed portfolio to their enrolment day interview, where a member of the visual arts staff will review it for course suitability.

