What do you particularly enjoy about studying the UAL Extended Diploma?

I enjoy experimentation within my chosen specialism of 3D Design, as we’re able to access college facilities to further our ability and expand our skillset. I appreciate the creative freedom alongside guidance from tutors and set briefs from UAL. The diploma has allowed me to explore my style beyond GCSE through techniques, materials and a less formal outlook on the work I’m able to produce.

How much work is involved? (hours in lessons / outside of lessons)

As the diploma is coursework based, there’s roughly an equal amount of time spent working both in and outside lessons. Projects are shaped around your own exploration, so the work becomes enjoyable and easier to manage.

If you studied the subject at GCSE how different is studying it at Level 3?

Fine Art GCSE felt restrictive and less personal, with limited options for both mediums and references. As I didn’t have the option to explore graphics before Carmel, this was the biggest learning curve for me and has influenced the way I’m able to plan and explore practically. With more decision making I’m able to reflect on my choices, which actively influences my development.
How are you assessed and how regularly?
Assessment happens every few weeks and we keep in regular contact with specialist tutors through 1:1 tutorials. As our projects are developed individually, our feedback is tailored and really focusses on how we can better ourselves as artists and designers.

What support have you received and is support available if you don’t understand something?
The 1:1 tutorials have allowed me to communicate with tutors openly and honestly. Remote learning with a chronic illness has been challenging at times, but any difficulties have been met with understanding, compassion and support from Carmel staff.

Have you received careers support and what are your future plans?
Careers and Higher Education is something we consider as part of this course in Unit 11. By researching options, I was able to compare courses and the different opportunities they offer, like industry placements and styles of work. I plan to study Interior Architecture / Design at University and have been able to access opportunities that further my understanding of the built environment. I have been able to take part in UAL Webinars, PLACED Industry Insights and the CCW Insights Spring School remotely during my time on the diploma.

Visit our website for more information about our UAL Diploma in Creative Practice course.