



DESIGN & VISUAL COMMUNICATION

3TECD

What is this course about?

In Design & Visual Communication (Graphics), design and design thinking is explored and expressed through visual communication and is informed by design whakapapa. Visual communication is one of the most universal forms of design. It is at the heart of how our world works; guiding, informing, persuading, and inspiring us every day.

Students are supported to extend their critical thinking and problem solving skills using industry knowledge appropriate to creative design - freehand sketching, rendering, 2D and 3D modelling, CAD (computer aided design) and technical drawing. There are no prerequisites for this course but it is important to have a creative streak and the ability to think outside the box. All other skills can be taught and students are encouraged to use visual communication that resonates with them - ie hand drawing, digital drawing, CAD or a mixture of all three

In this course students work on one full year portfolio to design, develop and resolve a design idea and choose to specialise in either Product Design or Spatial (Architectural) Design. Students are guided to select a real world brief with a future focus based around one of the Global Sustainable Development Goals.

The aim of the course is to provide students a platform to develop a creative personal design portfolio which can be used for tertiary applications and scholarships.

What sorts of things will I do?

At Level 3 you move into a self directed pathway within Design & Visual Communication and select an area of study in either **Product Design or Spatial Design**. You are guided to extend their design thinking and visual communication skills to generate novel design ideas.

You will be encouraged to select your own design context to delve into something you are passionate about. Previous contexts have included: Future floating homes, sustainable modular residential units, animal rehabilitation centres, ecolodges that support coral growth, assistive mobility devices for teenagers and community centres that promote wellbeing.

You will be supported to develop the ability to conceptualise design solutions through a variety of modes and media including freehand sketching, rendering, CAD, 2D and 3D modelling. Emphasis is placed on creativity, innovation, technical competency and presentation.

What standards can I enter?

NCEA Level	Standard Number	Name of standard	Version number	Credits	Assessment	Approximate assessment date
3	AS91629	Resolve a spatial design through graphics practice OR	V3	6	Folio (Internal)	Term 4
3	AS91630	Resolve a product design through graphics practice	V3	6	Folio (Internal)	Term 4

3	AS91627	Initiate design ideas through exploration	V3	4	Folio (External)	Term 4
3	AS91628	Develop a visual presentation that exhibits a design outcome to an audience	V3	6	Folio (Internal)	Early Term 4

Frequently asked questions

[Does it matter if I have not taken Design & Visual Communications \(DVC\) before?](#)

No it doesn't. If you are new to the subject there are plenty of tutorials and hands-on activities within the class lessons to help you gain the skills needed. The teacher will work with each student to help them achieve success.

[What if I'm not very creative?](#)

No such thing! Everyone has the capacity to be creative in their own way. We will be going through different ways to come up with inspiration and ideas using fun activities that real world designers use when they feel uncreative

[Is it only hand sketching and drawing?](#)

No. The first portfolio is a mix of both hand drawing/sketching and CAD (computer aided design) and then in the second portfolio you can choose which mode you would like to use or do a combination.

[Are there any external exams?](#)

No there is not in DVC. For the external achievement standard your portfolio is selected to be sent away to be externally marked.

[Do I have to do all the course assessments?](#)

No, there is this flexibility with the assessments as the aim is for at least 14cr in the subject for UE (University Entrance). This will need to be part of a negotiation with your Tutor teacher, whanau and specialist subject teacher.

[University or employment wise where does this course lead to?](#)

The University courses and subsequent jobs that could lead from undertaking this subject include, but are not limited to: Architecture, spatial design, product design, industrial design, drafting, landscape design, teaching, illustration, media design and interior design. Design & Visual Communication is a University Entrance subject for these fields

Subject requirements for assessment authenticity

Students have to sign the external submission sheet/envelope authenticity statement.