NPA JEWELLERY MAKING

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This NPA introduces candidates to the workings of the Silversmithing & Jewellery workshop, a range of tools and equipment likely to be encountered.

A number of projects are undertaken to cover general techniques before moving on to gain expertise in the skills of design transfer, marking out and piercing.

The National Progression Awards (NPAs) in Jewellery are intended for those wishing to follow a vocational education in a range of fields associated with Silversmithing, Metalsmithing and Jewellery.

The skills developed in manufacturing, design, fine motor skills and communication also complement many other progression pathways

AREAS OF STUDY/COURSE STRUCTURE

The course will mostly be in the workshop environment but can include a few periods in the computer suite to allow you to research and design your customised pieces.
The main types of learning are outlined below:

Practical Skills
Demonstrations, tutorials and application of practical skills

Log Book
Planning and Recording tasks, exploring new skills & materials, photographing your progress and understanding tools & processes.

Design & Research
Researching materials, techniques and themes ahead of a project, designing a custom piece and developing your own aesthetic.

Design Tasks Include:
- Pendant
- Brooch
- Festive Triangle (Set Design)
- Ring
- Chain
- Pressed Earrings with Ear hooks

The first unit you would cover gives you a basic introduction into the techniques you need to manufacture Silversmithing and Jewellery components. These include:-
- Read jewellery manufacture or silversmithing drawings
- Mark out and measure components
- Identify the basic properties of metals
- Cut and pierce components
- Produce formed jewellery or silverware components
- Carry out permanent joining of components
- Polishing and finishing components

RECOMMENDED ENTRY

N5 Design & Manufacture or N5 Art & Design or N5 Practical Woodwork

ASSESSMENT

This course is a Level 5 course which is the same SCQF level as a National 5 course. The main difference between a Level 5 and National 5 is that this course is built up of unit work and has no final exam. Assessment is through a series of theoretical and practical assessments or tasks.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The National Progression Awards will support candidates in progression towards the following potential job roles:

- Self-employed jeweller/designer working directly for clients
- Employed jeweller/ designer working within in the retail sector
- Bench jeweller based in a manufacturing environment
- Bench jeweller based in a repairing/servicing environment
- Specialist jeweller in areas such as CAD, casting, setting, etc