Facilities at the Ruskin School of Art

The Ruskin School is located at two sites: 74 High Street, OX1 4BG and 128 Bullingdon Road, OX4 1QP.

74 High Street

This building is close to the centre of the city and has four levels from basement studios to a top floor mezzanine.

It stands next door to the Exam Schools, on the corner of Merton Street.

There are two entrances to this building: the main entrance with double doors in the centre of the building, and an entrance between Exam Schools and the Ruskin that offers a ramp for wheelchair access. A lift, for use by the Exam Schools and the Ruskin, reaches the basement and ground floor.

There is no parking at this site but loading and unloading is permitted between 9.30am – 4pm. For more information on parking and directions to the school, please refer to the Ruskin’s website: http://www.rsa.ox.ac.uk/about/travel-directions

Ground Floor:

Library

The School has its own library focusing on fine art, art history and theory, art techniques and human anatomy. There is a particular emphasis on 20th- and 21st-century materials and the Ruskin’s collection complements the research collections at the Bodleian and Sackler Libraries.

There are more than 5,000 volumes between the lending and reference collections, 15,000 images available on the digital archive and an extensive film collection. With 20 art journals and more than 2,000 art-related pamphlets, the library offers a valuable resource to students and researchers. It is fully integrated into the University’s electronic circulation system with access to other electronic resources including The Grove Dictionary of Art, ARTbibliographies, the ARTstor Digital Library, The Bibliography of the History of Art, The Design and Applied Arts Index, Art Abstracts, and e-Journals (including JStor), among numerous others.

The library is open term time only and all Ruskin students are able to borrow books. Non-members of the department are required to register their interest in the library with the School’s Librarian, Ros Buck and make an appointment in advance of a research visit.

Ros works part-time at the school and can be contacted via email at rosalind.buck@rsa.ox.ac.uk
Theory Studio

This room houses the reference library, and provides a workspace for postgraduate research. It is a quiet space with desks, lamps and electrical sockets for charging laptops etc.

Ruskin students do not need to book to use this space, as it is freely available between Monday – Friday from 9am – 9pm, and on Saturdays from 9.15 – 12.30pm

Ruskin Offices

The Head of School, Head of Administration and the administrative team are based in offices at this location.

Foyer

The foyer at the High Street is used as an exhibition space by students, for individual and group displays.

It is also used for the annual large-scale anatomy exhibition at Easter.

Biannual drawing sales (public fundraising events) take place in the foyer.

First Floor:

Old Masters’ Studio

This room is used for presentations and talks and can accommodate up to 50 people.
It is a versatile space that can also be used for group crits, to photograph and document student work and for informal gatherings and committee meetings.

Within the corner of this room, there is also a relaxed reading area with sofas and low tables, where tutors and students can meet for tutorials or informal discussions.

There is a projector, speakers for audio and film projections and a drop-down screen. Tables are also available, along with stackable seating. The office can provide a laptop for talks, or dongles to link guest laptops to the projector.
The Drawing Studio
This area is used for the teaching of the anatomy course and is also where BFA students can select studio space.

In term time, the evening life drawing classes are based in one half of this studio and outside of term the studio is used for short courses and access workshops, and postgraduate final exhibitions, (as this image, opposite, shows).

There are drawing boards, easels and donkeys available for student use. In addition, for life drawing and anatomy teaching, there are two skeletons, a mattress and screen, a platform and large mirror.

Second Floor:

Mezzanine

The mezzanine is a small gallery area that is used by students for temporary installations and exhibitions, and for group crits. It is a bookable space for independent projects and is managed by an undergraduate student, on a rotational basis.

Studios

There is a top floor studio for undergraduates and a further studio area for postgraduates.
Basement:

**Studios**

There are three studio areas for undergraduates and a small room for cutting wood and preparing canvases.

Students across all years of their studies can select their own studio space, in collaboration with tutors.

**Materials Storage**

Materials such as wood, canvas, paint, electrical equipment and other tools are all stored in areas within the basement.

The Facilities Assistant at the High Street, Steven Talkington, manages these supplies and can be contacted for more information: steven.talkington@rsa.ox.ac.uk

**Toilets & General Facilities**

There are three lavatories in the basement, one with disabled access.

There is also a water filter located in the basement and recycling containers and first aid kits are available throughout the building.
128 Bullingdon Road

This site was launched in October 2015 and is a purpose-built industrial building. It sits near the north end of Bullingdon Road, close to the Cowley Road.

It has two levels with full disabled access throughout the building and an internal lift.

There is no general parking at this site but there is space for disabled parking. There is also a lockable bike shed immediately outside the main entrance.

Bullingdon Road is a one-way street, with access running from the Iffley Road to the Cowley Road. There are regular buses that run along the Cowley Road, to and from the High Street.

Walking between both Ruskin sites can take approximately 20 minutes.

Ground Floor:

Project Space

Measuring approximately 20m², the Project Space can be used for student exhibitions, performances and film screenings. The main window uses smart glass panels to provide privacy when required, or act as a large back screen projection screen, allowing the front of the building to serve as a large screen.

Whilst students can book the area for their independent and/or collaborative projects, it is also used for group crits, the weekly series of talks in term by visiting speakers and for photography and film workshops.

Print Room

The printmaking studio provides facilities for students to explore and develop their fine art practice through both traditional and contemporary printmaking techniques.

The studio has provision for intaglio, relief, and screen printing.

Housing a 66cm x 121cm [26" x 48"] Rochat etching press, we offer autographic intaglio using traditional hard & soft grounds, drypoint, aquatint & chine colle. Zinc is etched in nitric.

In screen printing the studio is equipped with 2 new 30" x 40" Natgraph Hand Tables, 2 drying racks, a
back lit washout booth, Natgraph UV exposure unit, screen drying room, and a 1.5m lightbox for working on artwork and film positives. The studio uses the TW Graphics water based screen printing ink system.

The recent addition of a Beevers hydraulic Press with a 22" x 16" platen, facilitates the production of lithographs, etching, relief, collograph, embossings, and die cut work.

Throughout the academic year students have the opportunity to learn techniques and processes which are taught and facilitated by practising artists and printmakers through a course of regular technical workshops taught by studio staff, printmaking-related events, and invited practitioners and speakers.

**Media Lab**

The Ruskin media lab is designed to be an open exploratory space: users can work with image, video and physical production using the inventory of equipment, much of which is sourced from the MIT FAB Lab inventory.

The main media lab area has two large format printers, a laser cutter, vinyl cutter, milling machine, and 3d printer. There is an electronics / soldering area where students undertake physical computing projects using arduino, raspberry pi, and other sensors and electronics.

The media lab studio is mainly Mac-based with a number of iMacs connected to video grade central storage. Each student has their own home account, which is available at whatever workstation they are using.

Software includes Adobe Suite, max-map, Final-Cut Pro, Ableton Live, and Logic Pro. Other software may be acquired and used when necessary to a project.

A range of equipment can be borrowed, including Canon 5D cameras, a Black Magic Cinema Camera, various microphones and audio hard disk recorders, as well as portable projectors.

Digital files can be produced in the media lab and sent to the workshop wood CNC machine and Metal plasma CNC machine.

The media lab also includes three edit suites.

One is contained within the media lab room and acts as a general edit suite as well as an ingest station for material shot with the black magic camera.

One is an acoustically treated sound room with a 7.1 Genelec surround sound system, audio recording facility, midi keyboards and large screen.

One is a control room for the project space below, where audio and video can be controlled, as well as the main large screen projector and the two side projectors. The side projectors are mapped to the Project Space front ‘smart screen window’ which can act a giant back screen projector providing a video / image interface with the outside front of the building. The project space also has a 7.1 surround sound speaker system so work produced in the audio edit suite can be easily presented in the Project Space.
Casting Room

The casting room is a bespoke wet and dry facility for mould-making and casting a variety of materials. These include rigid mould-making in plaster and fibreglass as well as flexible mould-making in silicones and vinyl mould. In addition, we also do life-casting here. We can offer a range of casting mediums such as polyurethane and polyester resins, glass-reinforced plastics (GRP), silicone and polyurethane rubber and foams, cement fondue, Jesmonite and plaster. We also have a vacuum forming machine available, as well as filtering down draught tables for both dust and resins.

Metal and Wood Workshops

The metal shop is setup for fabricating and manipulating metal. We can offer arc-welding, MIG and TIG welding in mild, stainless steel in addition to aluminium. The welding area is equipped with both overhead extraction and a filtered down draught table. We can cut metal in a number of ways: cold cut saw, angle grinder, guillotine, band saw, hand-held plasma cutter or our state-of-the-art CNC plasma-cutting table. Shaping the metal can be done with the fly press, slip roller, finger break and an induction forge.

The wood workshop is equipped with table saw, sliding miter chop saw, pillar drill, bandsaw, disk and belt sanders and a 3.5 meter wall.

Reference Shelves.

A selection of manuals and technical guides are provided for students for their practical and studio work. In particular, these titles are for the practice of printmaking, digital art, photography and sculpture.

Bullingdon Road - First Floor:

Studios
The MFA + DPhil student cohorts are based in the first floor studios.

Seminar Room
This space is used for student meetings, presentations and staff meetings. There is a full complement of AV equipment for use in presentations and talks.
Toilets and General Facilities
There are toilets on both levels at Bullingdon Road and a shower on the ground floor. All these spaces allow for disabled access.

There is a kitchen for the use of both staff and students.

Recycling containers and first aid kits are available throughout the building.

Equipment for Loan
There is a booking system within the school so Fine Art students can take out on loan cameras, sound and film equipment for their projects.