The gateway
TO A
GLITTERING career

FOUNDATION PROGRAMME
Professional Training for 16 to 19 year olds

The GOLDSMITHS’ Centre
CREATIVITY | CRAFTSMANSHIP | COMMUNITY
WHAT IS THE GOLDSMITHS’ CENTRE?

The Goldsmiths’ Centre in the heart of Clerkenwell in London is the leading charity for the professional training of goldsmiths. Since 2012 we offer support, training and a network for jewellers, silversmiths, and those working in the allied trades to develop successful and rewarding careers. Led by highly experienced Master craftspeople and tutors, we offer a range of programmes and courses at our purpose built facility to create a skilled workforce.

goldsmiths-centre.org
WHAT IS THE FOUNDATION PROGRAMME?

If you’re aged 16 to 19 and set on a career in jewellery or goldsmithing you’ll need the right training and support.

Our full-time Foundation Programme is free to attend and provides young people with the core skills to begin a career in jewellery, silversmithing or the allied trades. You will be taught traditional techniques, such as fine jewellery making, silversmithing and stone setting; alongside contemporary processes such as Computer Aided Design (CAD).
WHAT SKILLS WILL YOU LEARN?

Our tutors are highly experienced Master craftspeople with years of working in the industry and many having received multiple awards. You will be taught traditional and cutting edge techniques in workshop based classes of 10 students. Topics covered include:

- **FINE JEWELLERY**
  The process of making jewellery in precious metals from a working drawing

- **DESIGN AND DRAWING SKILLS**
  The design process from sketching through to presentation drawings

- **SETTING**
  Securing gem stones into metal

- **ENAMELLING**
  Fusing glass coating through heat to the surface of a metal to create a coloured design
• **ENGRAVING**
  Cutting linear designs into the surface of metals.

• **SILVERSMITHING**
  The process of shaping and forming silver using varied techniques including hammering and heating.

• **CHASING**
  Creating surface decorations in sheet metal with hammers and punches.

• **POLISHING AND FINISHING TECHNIQUES**
  Understanding the process of professionally finishing an object.

• **COMPUTER AIDED DESIGN (CAD)**
  Producing 2D and 3D precision drawings or technical drawings and understanding the importance of structure within objects.

All our workshops are fitted with high quality industry standard benches and facilities. Equipment for all the skills you learn will be provided as will the materials required to make pieces.
WHAT ELSE WILL I LEARN?

The course consists of a series of practical assessments and written assignments. Together they combine the theory gained during group and individual study with the communication skills necessary for good working practices in the jewellery, silversmithing and allied trades. You will learn in a variety of ways:

- **GROUP AND INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS**
- **WORK BASED AND WRITTEN ASSESSMENT**
- **WORK EXPERIENCE WITHIN YOUR CHOSEN INDUSTRY**
- **VERBAL REVIEW OF PRACTICAL ASSESSMENTS**
- **ONLINE AND TRADITIONAL RESEARCH**
- **STUDY VISITS**
WHAT ARE MY CAREER PROSPECTS?

The Goldsmiths’ Centre Foundation Programme aims to help you develop high standards of technical competence in traditional and contemporary silversmithing and jewellery skills. This will provide you with a solid foundation to follow a career that is both creative and practical.

You will graduate with the skills to become an apprentice – perhaps through the Goldsmiths’ Company Apprenticeship Programme – or to go on to a job, or further or higher education courses.

You will build your skill level through three terms and, if successful, you will leave with an industry recognised City & Guilds Level 2 Diploma in Jewellery Manufacturing plus additional units in Employability and Creative Skills, and the City & Guilds Level 3 in Craft Skills.

Many of our Foundation Programme alumni have gone on to an Apprenticeship - the majority as a Diamond Mounter, Engraver, Gem Setter, Polisher or Silversmith.
“I feel incredibly privileged to have been able to study at the Goldsmiths’ Centre. Going straight into an apprenticeship would not have allowed me to learn such a broad range of skills while also being able to sample less well-known areas of the industry.”

Sian Hughes, Foundation Programme alumnus
WHAT ARE THE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS?

- You must be between 16 and 19 years old when you start the Foundation Programme.
- You will be required to attend at the Goldsmiths’ Centre between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday during term time.
- Ideally you will have Grades 4-9 /A-C in Mathematics, English and ICT.
- Applications from individuals with non-standard qualifications are invited provided that you can demonstrate your abilities in other ways through sketch books or a 2D/3D portfolio of work.
- We also recommend that you have completed work experience in a workshop.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE COURSE?

- **COURSE DURATION**
  The course runs from **Mon 7 September 2020 until Fri 25 June 2021** and consists of 3 terms: Autumn, Spring and Summer. The autumn term contains a 6 week probationary period with a qualifying assessment and review. You must pass this to progress through to the rest of the course.

- **FEES AND FUNDING**
  Eligible candidates will be offered a place with no course fee. Hand tools are provided and most course materials are free of charge. Under certain circumstances, help may be offered travel bursaries. Please contact us at professionaltraining@goldsmiths-centre.org for eligibility criteria.
HOW DO I APPLY?

- Download an application form through the Goldsmiths’ Centre website www.goldsmiths-centre.org and please return your form via email to professionaltraining@goldsmiths-centre.org or post to:
  
The Foundation Programme Applications  
The Goldsmiths’ Centre  
42 Britton Street  
London EC1M 5AD

- The deadline for your application is Sunday 10 May 2020.

- We are happy to arrange a tour of the Goldsmiths’ Centre and answer your questions in person. To apply for a tour or attend one of our Open Days, please contact our team via email at professionaltraining@goldsmiths-centre.org or call 020 7566 7650.

- You will receive an email acknowledgment to confirm we have received your application.

- If shortlisted, you will be invited to an interview, which you will need to attend, on Thu 28 May and Fri 29 May 2020 from 10am until 4pm. Please let us know if you cannot make it.
WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

• During your interview you will have a chance to take a look at the facilities and meet the full team who will be supporting you throughout your time with us.

• You will be asked to complete a number of practical exercises. These help us to assess your aptitude, abilities and flair. You are not expected to complete all tasks, but to demonstrate your artistic talent, problem solving abilities, accuracy and willingness to learn.

• We will expect you to talk about yourself, your hobbies, your experiences and whatever you think it is important for us to know about you.

• You must bring along a portfolio containing any previous coursework or hobby time activity that you feel demonstrates your ability to draw, sculpt, model or make. We will consider work in any media.

• When you accept a place on the Foundation Programme course, you will be added to our quarterly e-newsletter updates about activities, events and exhibitions taking place at the Goldsmiths’ Centre.

• You will start the course on Monday 7 September 2020 and you when you enrol you will receive your timetable and details about your tutors.
The Goldsmiths’ Centre
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HOW TO GET HERE
By tube: The nearest tube station is Farringdon, which is a short 5 minute walk from the Goldsmiths’ Centre.
By train: Mainline rail services run from Brighton, Haywards Heath, Gatwick Airport, East Croydon, London Bridge, London Blackfriars, Sutton, Wimbledon, London St Pancras International, St Albans City, Luton and Bedford to Farringdon.
By bus: Buses 63, 55 and 243 pass near the Goldsmiths’ Centre.
By car: Please note that there is no parking at the Goldsmiths’ Centre. Paid parking is sited at 1 Bowling Green Lane, EC1R 0BD.

OPENING TIMES
Mon – Fri, 8am – 6pm
Free public admission

The Goldsmiths’ Centre is a charity founded by The Goldsmiths’ Company
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