

ONLINE PGDA DIPLOMA COURSE →

THE PROFESSIONAL GRAPHIC DESIGNERS ASSOCIATION



A professional route for serious designers

The Professional Graphic Design Diploma (PGDA) is a **12-month online diploma** created for those who want to strengthen their graphic design skills while also working towards professional recognition.

This course is not just about learning design. It is for people who want to take their work more seriously, build confidence in their abilities, develop a stronger portfolio, and become part of a professional association for graphic designers and related creative professionals.

The PGDA is ideal for those who want to move forward in the design industry with a more professional standing and clearer direction.

Who is this course for

The PGDA Diploma Course is suitable for:

- graphic designers
- aspiring graphic designers
- creative directors
- studio managers
- graphic design assistants
- junior designers
- freelance designers
- in-house creatives
- those looking to move into the design profession
- those who want professional recognition within the design industry



It is especially suited to people who want to be connected to a professional body that values standards, creativity, development and credibility across the graphic design profession.

What is the course designed to do

This diploma is designed to help students build a strong level of understanding across key areas of graphic design practice, while also helping them work towards a more professional position in the industry.

By the end of the course, students should feel more confident in their creative decision-making, more aware of professional design standards, and better prepared to present themselves within the wider design sector.

Course duration: 12 months

Course fee: £3650

This can be paid in full or by monthly instalments. Full payment details are available on request. Terms and Conditions apply

Start dates: There are two available intakes for this diploma:

1. October 2026
2. April 2027

Students starting in October 2026 will study through to September 2027.

Students starting in April 2027 will study through to March 2028.

Both of these options include flexible learning, holidays and time-off for personal and job commitments.

Study format

This course is a fully online diploma.

This means there is no requirement to attend classes in person. All study is completed remotely, making the course suitable for students based in different locations and for those who need flexibility around work and personal commitments.

Online or class-based

This course is online, not class-based.

Students study through online learning, guided coursework, assignments, project work and portfolio development.

Location

Because the diploma is delivered online, students can study from any location as long as they have internet access and the required design software and equipment.

Can this diploma be completed part-time?

Yes. The PGDA can be completed on a part-time basis and is well-suited to those who work full-time.

The flexibility of the course allows students to organise their study around work, family life and other commitments. This makes it a strong option for those who want to gain a professional design qualification without attending a college or fixed class-based programme.

Breaks and course schedule

The diploma runs over a full 12-month period from the chosen intake date. As the course is delivered online in a flexible format, it does not follow a traditional classroom timetable. This means there are no standard term dates in the usual sense. Any planned breaks, holiday periods, or tutor availability dates can be agreed upon between the student and tutor as part of the course schedule.

Enrolment process and procedure

Applying for the PGDA is straightforward.

How to apply

1. Complete the PGDA course application form in full.
2. Return the completed form for review.
3. Wait for confirmation that your application has been accepted.
4. Once accepted, you will be sent the next steps for payment and enrolment.
5. After enrolment is completed, you will receive your course access details and start information.
6. You can then begin the diploma from your chosen intake date.

Course overview

This comprehensive diploma is designed to equip participants with the skills and knowledge needed to progress in the field of graphic design.

It is suitable for beginners looking to begin a career in graphic design, as well as experienced designers who want to strengthen and extend their skills.

The course covers a wide range of subject areas to help students build both creative ability and professional confidence.



Course objectives

Students will work towards:

- developing a strong understanding of graphic design principles, techniques and software tools
- creating visually effective work for a variety of media
- building a professional portfolio
- learning how to work effectively with clients and teams
- keeping up to date with industry trends and professional practice

Subject areas covered

The Course includes the following subject areas:

- Visual Communication
- Typography
- Colour Theory and Application
- Layout and Composition
- Image Editing and Manipulation
- Vector Graphics and Illustration
- Web Design
- Print Design and Production
- Branding and Corporate Identity
- Portfolio Development
- Client Collaboration and Freelancing
- Design Ethics and Trends
- Final Projects and Critiques
- Using AI in Graphic Design

Course materials

Students will receive:

- online course textbook access
- access to online design resources and tutorials

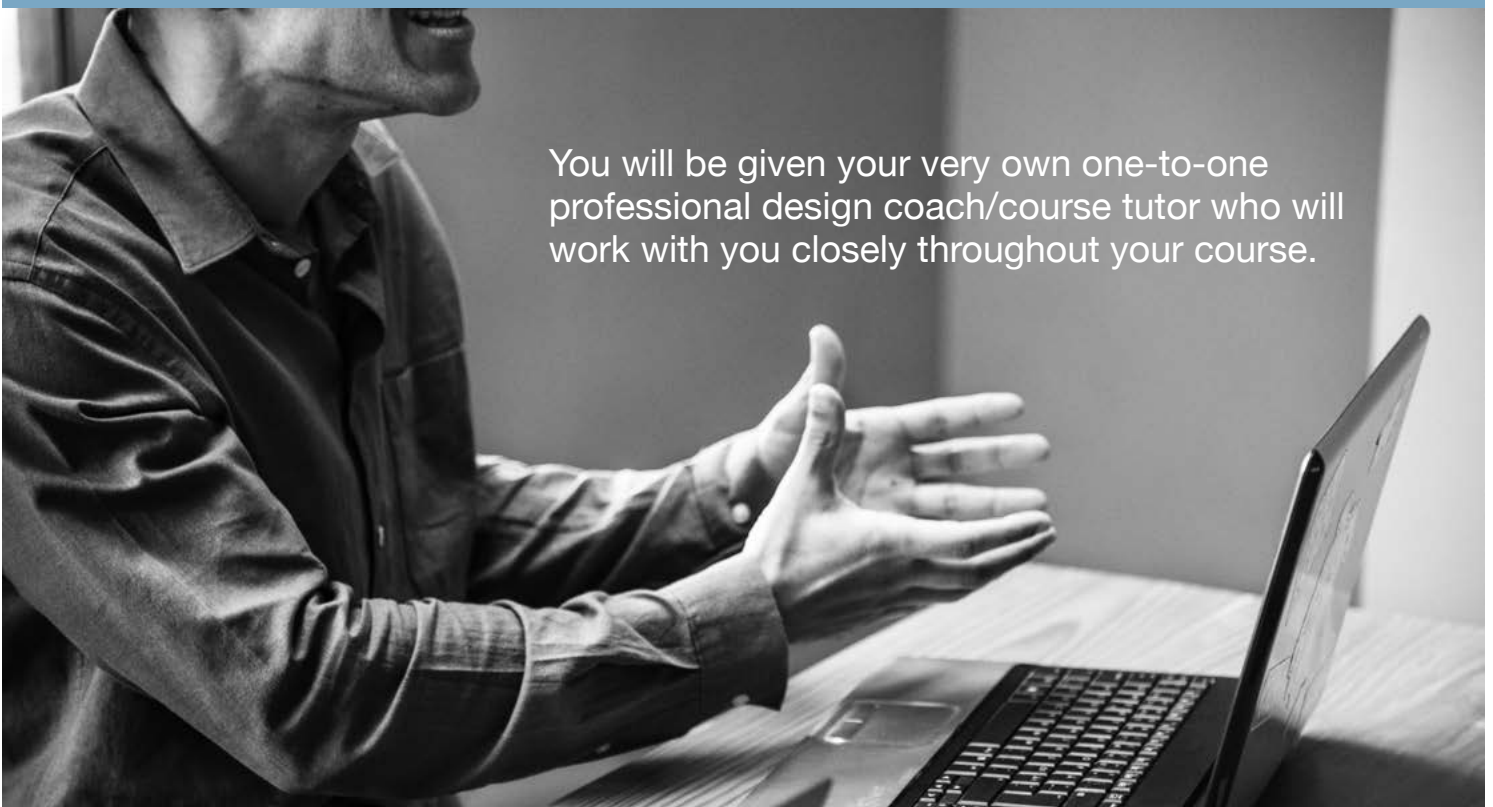
Assessment

Assessment may include:

- weekly assignments and quizzes
- mid-term and final design projects
- portfolio assessment and presentation
- participation and engagement throughout the course



You will be given your very own one-to-one professional design coach/course tutor who will work with you closely throughout your course.



Certification

Upon successful completion of the diploma, students will receive a Professional Graphic Design Diploma certificate, plus a 1-year PGDA Full Membership

This certificate reflects their development in graphic design principles, software use and practical design skills.

Entry requirements

To study this diploma, students should have:

- Software knowledge using either Affinity Suite or Adobe Creative Cloud (*Other software may be considered*)
- Basic knowledge, but no less than junior-level to middle-weight knowledge, in graphic design
- Understand basic English
- Access to the internet
- Use Microsoft Teams with video and sound for your online course lectures
- Available once per week for online course lectures (*lectures can run for 30-45 minutes, but no longer than 60 mins*)

Professional recognition

One of the key strengths of the PGDA is its professional focus. This diploma is intended for those who want more than just creative development. It is for people who want to be taken seriously within the design field and to become part of a professional community connected to the wider graphic design industry.

For designers, assistants, studio-based creatives, managers and those building their careers, this course offers a more purposeful step towards professional recognition.

How to find out more

For further information about the course, payment options or the enrolment process, please email:

ask@thepgda.com



**Get ready to launch
your design career
to the next level**

