

# Academic Strategy 2025-2028

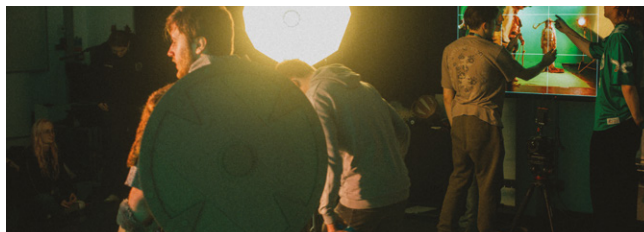
## Why this strategy is important

The Northern School of Art is proud of its track record: Ofsted Outstanding for three consecutive inspections and TEF Gold in the last two reviews. Achieving Degree Awarding Powers marks a major milestone in our history and gives us the opportunity to validate and shape our own degree programmes at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

This strategy ensures we build on that success. It puts teaching and learning at the centre of our mission, informed by research, scholarly activity, and strong industry engagement.

By combining our traditional art school ethos with future-focused curriculum innovation, we will prepare students for careers in rapidly evolving creative industries.

## Our Key Objectives



**A future-focused curriculum** that integrates creativity, innovation, and technology, while staying rooted in our art school heritage.



**An excellent student experience** – supportive, inclusive, and inspiring, helping students reach their full potential.



**Creating opportunities** through alumni engagement, industry partnerships, and employability support.



**Sector-leading teaching and learning** that embraces creative pedagogy, research-informed practice, and innovative approaches.

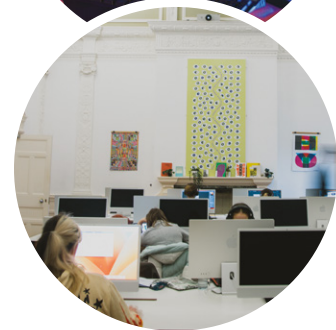
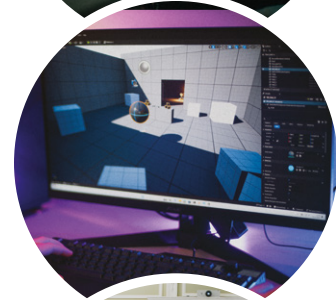


**Sustainable student growth** by aligning our offer to industry needs and ensuring clear pathways to employment and progression.



**Sustainable resources** – ensuring our curriculum, staffing, and infrastructure are planned responsibly to maintain excellence.

## Focus on Further & Higher Education



**Transformative curriculum design** from FE through to postgraduate study, with clear progression routes.

**Collaboration across disciplines**, encouraging students to work together and broaden their creative outlook.

**Integration of technology alongside traditional skills**, equipping students with the digital expertise needed for future industries.

**Research-informed teaching** that keeps our curriculum fresh, relevant, and connected to industry developments.

**Industry-led opportunities** including placements, live projects, and partnerships with leading creative organisations.

## Research & Scholarly Activity (RSA)

- Build a thriving research culture, with staff recognised as leaders in creative pedagogy and subject specialisms.
- Establish research groups in areas such as creative pedagogy, innovation & technology, and culture & community.
- Promote practice-led research and ensure outputs are visible, accessible, and impactful.
- Strengthen our external profile through conferences, partnerships, and collaboration with industry and other institutions.

## What this means for us all

Every colleague contributes to the success of this strategy. Whether through teaching, research, student support, or industry engagement, we are all part of shaping an academic community rooted in creativity, excellence, and innovation.

This strategy is ambitious but achievable.

### Together, we will:

- Deliver a curriculum that is distinctive, future-focused, and industry-informed.
- Provide students with an exceptional learning experience that equips them for creative careers.
- Build a reputation as a specialist in creative pedagogy, research and innovation.



The Northern Creative Network (TNCN), Teacher CPD Conference in partnership with the National Society for Education in Art & Design (NSEAD). June 2023