

Stage Three, Unit 3.2: External Projects

External Projects Plan

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What are you planning to do for your External Project(s)?

Check that these fit within your assessment outcomes in the unit introduction.

Describe the project's aims and outcomes.

I am continuing my children's picture book work into this unit, by extending my critical review to 4500-5000 words. I will be researching printers, publishers, binding terms, paper stocks, costs and timescales.

I will mainly be working on my existing work from unit 3.1 into 3.2, to gain more knowledge and further my work to become more of a rounded piece of work. I will mainly be doing written work in this unit, as the majority of the art work was completed in 3.1 and will extend into unit 3.3. If I have time I will work on some art work to carry forward into 3.3.

Whilst completing project two which was to research paper stocks and binding terms, I also added some other points to the project plan that I wanted to complete in this unit. I wanted to up-date my portfolio website and also post more to social media, I thought this would be good to do in this unit as it works with the external projects title and also gets my work out there more. I have completed the first section of my website up-date and have complete the skills audit my tutor requested. I have added some digital brush information and also kept on top of my Harvard reference document. I am currently still on track with the projects planned and have found out some interesting information on paper stocks and binding types.

Project 3 was mainly research for printers and publishers, I found a good few printers that gave different variations to the norm in book printing, and would give a book uniqueness. I was surprised by the different add ons you could choose, although it would effect the budget more. There was a lot of things you could consider, but it was interesting to see what was out there, if you were to print your own book.

The publishers was more interesting as some were good to think about and keep the details for in the future. I was interested in all the three I researched but each for different reasons, it would depend on what way you wanted to take the project or future work, but lots to consider.

I added more work to my portfolio website, and am thinking about links for the next project, as well as my social media presence and where to take that.

I added in some research on The AOI website, which was actually a lot of help, and a very odd thing happened that day - I had a message on LinkedIn from a Illustration agency asking me to submit my portfolio for viewing for representation. So the information has come in really useful, and it is something I am working on with them, I also thought this could also be some extra work I add into this unit, as it will be working with external partners Overall I enjoyed this project and have a lot of food for thought, ready for the next project and looking at more external partners, even though it might not come to anything, it can help my work on my degree.

Project 4 was working on my portfolio website ready to submit my work to the agent of Illo agency, so a lot of work behind the scenes on my website, adding working, taking work off, re-arranging, looking at other portfolios and ultimately deciding which journey to take, as I had researched other agencies too!

The research into children's book agency's was really helpful and helped me to pick the right work to add to my website so I felt confident in what I was submitting. I worked on the portfolio most of the weekend and submitted it late on Monday night.

For project 5 you have to submit your first draft of your critical review, so I looked at how I could increase the word count of my existing review, and add work that worked with the previous written piece, as well as support the question of my review.

I added my ideas to this project so I knew what I needed to work on for the next project.

I feel I am up-to date with the project plans so far, I am including the work that James suggested, as well as working on the external partners part of this unit, and continuing some of the work from 3.1 into this unit too. I need to think about a few pieces of work to complete for my portfolio to build up the work, expand on my critical review, and look at timescales for my book ready for the next unit 3.3.

Are you doing a second Critical Review or completing a Dissertation?

Check that these fit within your assessment outcomes in the unit introduction.

I am extending my current critical review into a 4500-5000 word document.

What does your research explore, and what is your research question?

Does having more environmental books at an early age help to teach children more about the environment, and does it have an impact or not?

Why have you chosen these External Project(s)?

Think about the connections between your practice and research

The external connections to my project will help me to work on illustrating books in the future, knowing about publishers, and printing books. It will help my knowledge to become more rounded and fuller in terms of the partners I will encounter going forward.

How will you schedule your project within the unit structure?

Set out the start and end dates of your projects. Identify whether you are doing more than one practical project. Add suggested submission dates. For example:

Project 1 - Eg. Submit plan, (28/01/25), start work on research into paper stocks and binding terms.
 Project 2 - Submit plan, (07/02/25), start work on research into publishers and printers.
 Project 3 - Submit plan, (13/02/25), start work on first draft of critical review.
 Project 4 - Submit plan, (21/02/25), start work on mid point review, timescales for books.
 Project 5 - Submit plan, (07/03/25), start work on networks and audiences.
 Project 6 - Submit plan, (14/03/25), start work on final draft of critical review.
 Project 7 - Submit final draft of Critical review, (21/03/25), start work on Reflection and revision.
 Project 8 - Submit plan, (28/03/25), start work on finalising work.
 Project 9 - Submit plan, (04/04/25), start to finish the unit up.
 Project 10 - Finish Project (11/04/25).

Who else will be involved in your project?

List any collaborators, audiences, clients, or others you will be working with?
 If you are working with others, how can the project be accessible to others?

There are no collaborators at present, but hopefully through the unit there might be some publishers or printers I could or will work with going forward. Some fellow illustrators for feedback.

Is the project safe and ethical?

Please see the appropriate OCA policies: www.oca.ac.uk/about-us/our-policies/

Are there any health and safety risks to you or others? How will you mitigate against these issues? N/N

Are there any ethical issues you need to take into consideration? How will you mitigate against these issues. N/N

I have carried out appropriate Health and Safety checks and have a copy of the relevant documentation. (please tick) N/A

I have the necessary insurance to carry out my project. (please tick) N/A

I have familiarised myself with the OCA safeguarding policy, and checked my project meets the criteria. (please tick) Yes

Resources and budget

What do you need to make the project a success?

At present around £50.