

CSVPA

Cambridge School of Visual & Performing Arts

Comprehensive Provider Report

Programmes • Fees & Scholarships • English Requirements • Admission

INTAKE

September 2026

STATUS

Application Open

LOCATION

United Kingdom

PREPARED BY

TAP — The Authorized Partner

Official Education Counselling & Application Services

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01 Executive Summary

This report provides a comprehensive overview of **Cambridge School of Visual & Performing Arts (CSVPA)** — a specialist UK institution recognised for its focused undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in art, design, fashion, and visual communication. The document consolidates all key information that a prospective international student requires to evaluate CSVPA as a study destination for the **September 2026 intake**.

CSVPA is currently **accepting applications** for September 2026. Students may access scholarships of up to **70%** on tuition fees, depending on profile strength and portfolio quality. The provider offers a flexible academic policy — minimum GPA of **2.2 / 50%** — and **accepts long study gaps**, making it a strong option for both fresh school-leavers and mature applicants returning to formal education.

Why this report?

It brings together programme listings, indicative fees, scholarship outcomes, English language entry thresholds across IELTS, PTE, TOEFL iBT and ELLT, and the full admission workflow — so an applicant can move from interest to application with a single reference document.

02 About CSVPA

Cambridge School of Visual & Performing Arts is a specialist creative-arts provider based in the United Kingdom. The school delivers career-focused undergraduate degrees, graduate diplomas, and master's programmes across a tightly curated portfolio of art, design, fashion, and visual communication disciplines. Its small-cohort, studio-based teaching model is designed to develop both technical craft and a professional portfolio that prepares graduates for the creative industries.

The school places strong emphasis on portfolio development, industry-aligned briefs, and exposure to the wider UK creative ecosystem — making it well suited to international applicants seeking a specialist, design-led qualification rather than a generalist university route.

Why students choose CSVPA

- **Specialist focus** — exclusively creative disciplines, with deep faculty expertise in each pathway.
- **Studio-based learning** — small classes, individual tutorials, and access to dedicated studio space.
- **Portfolio-driven outcomes** — every programme culminates in a professional body of work.
- **UK creative ecosystem** — proximity to galleries, agencies, fashion houses, and design studios.
- **Scholarship support** — generous merit-based funding for international applicants.
- **Inclusive admissions** — long study gaps and varied academic backgrounds welcomed.

03 Quick Facts at a Glance

Provider	CSVPA — Cambridge School of Visual & Performing Arts
Country	United Kingdom
Intake	September 2026
Application Status	Open
Programme Levels	Undergraduate (UG) • Postgraduate (PG)
Minimum GPA	2.2 / 50% (or recognised equivalent)
Study Gap Policy	Long study gaps accepted
UG Tuition (indicative)	From approx. £6,486 / year (post-scholarship)
PG Tuition (indicative)	From approx. £8,385 / year (post-scholarship)
Maximum Scholarship	Up to 70% on tuition fees (subject to T&Cs;)
Mode of Study	Full-time, on-campus, studio-led
Application Route	TAP — The Authorized Partner

04 Courses on Offer

CSVPA delivers a focused range of programmes at undergraduate and postgraduate level. All courses are studio-led and conclude with a portfolio-ready body of work.

Undergraduate (UG)	Postgraduate (PG)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fashion Design ● Fashion Branding & Creative Communication ● Graphics & Illustration ● Visual Communication: Graphic Design ● Visual Communication: Illustration & Animation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Art & Design (<i>Pathways: Fine Art, Photography, Spatial Design, Product Design, Moving Image</i>) ● Fashion: Design ● Fashion Branding & Creative Communication ● Visual Communication: Graphic Design ● Visual Communication: Illustration & Animation

Portfolio Requirement

All creative programmes — both UG and PG — require a portfolio submission as part of the admission process. Specific guidance on theme, format, and number of pieces is shared at the application stage and varies by pathway.

05 Tuition Fees

The figures below indicate the **approximate annual tuition fees** for international students at CSVPA. All amounts are in **GBP (£)** and are based on provider-published information for the September 2026 intake. Final payable fees are confirmed at offer stage and may vary slightly by programme and pathway.

Programme Level	Standard Annual Fee	After 60% Scholarship	After 70% Scholarship
Undergraduate (UG)	~ £6,486	~ £8,648	~ £6,486
Postgraduate (PG)	~ £8,385	~ £11,180	~ £8,385

**All figures are indicative and subject to scholarship eligibility, terms & conditions, and final confirmation by the provider.
 Currency: GBP (£).*

What's included in tuition?

- Studio access and core teaching across the academic year
- Tutorials, critiques, and supervision by faculty
- Use of standard studio facilities and learning resources
- Library access and digital learning platforms

Additional costs to budget for

- Living expenses (accommodation, food, transport, utilities)
- Art materials, printing, and consumables for studio work
- UK student visa application and Immigration Health Surcharge
- Travel to and from the UK
- Optional study trips, exhibitions, or industry events

06 Scholarships & Funding

CSVPA offers **merit-based scholarships of up to 70%** on tuition fees for international applicants. Scholarship outcomes are determined by a combination of academic profile, portfolio strength, and personal statement. Awards are confirmed at the time of offer and are subject to the provider's standard terms and conditions.

Award Tier	Coverage	Indicative Eligibility
Standard Scholarship	Up to 60% on tuition	Strong academic record and a competent portfolio.
Merit Scholarship	Up to 70% on tuition	Strong academic record plus an exceptional portfolio and statement

**T&C; apply. Scholarship eligibility is confirmed at the offer stage and is not guaranteed at the point of application.*

07 English Language Entry Requirements

Applicants must demonstrate English language proficiency through one of the recognised tests below. Each score indicates the **minimum overall result** and the **minimum score required in each individual element** (Reading, Listening, Speaking, Writing). Applicants who narrowly miss the threshold may be considered for pre-sessional English support, subject to provider approval.

Test Name	BA (Hons)	Graduate Diploma	MA
Course	Fashion / Graphics & Illustration / Branding & Communications	in Art & Design	all pathways
IELTS (UKVI/NON UKVI) Academic or General	5.5 (5.5 min per element)	5.5 (5.5 min per element)	6.5 (5.5 min per element)
Pearson PTE Academic (UKVI/NON UKVI)	59 (59 min)	59 (59 min)	61 (59 min)
TOEFL iBT	Overall: 72 (R=18, L=17, S=19, W=17) 1–6 scale: Overall 4 (R=4, L=4, S=4, W=4)	Overall: 72 (R=18, L=17, S=19, W=17) 1–6 scale: Overall 4 (R=4, L=4, S=4, W=4)	Overall: 88 (R=20, L=20, S=21, W=21) 1–6 scale: Overall 4.5 (R=4, L=4, S=4, W=4)
Oxford International Digital Institute ELLT*	5 (5 min per element)	5 (5 min per element)	7 (5 min per element)

* Oxford International Digital Institute English Language Level Test (ELLT) is accepted alongside other recognised qualifications. Score requirements indicate the minimum overall result and the minimum result required in each individual element (Reading, Listening, Speaking, Writing).

Don't meet the threshold yet?

Applicants whose English score falls slightly below the published minimum may still be eligible for a **pre-sessional English programme** or may retake the test ahead of the intake. TAP counsellors can advise on the most efficient path based on the current score and target course.

08 Academic & Admission Requirements

CSVPA assesses applicants on a balanced view of academic record, creative ability, and personal motivation. The minimum thresholds are intentionally inclusive — allowing applicants with non-traditional pathways or study gaps to be considered fairly.

Minimum academic threshold

- **Minimum GPA: 2.2 / 50%** (or recognised equivalent in the applicant's home system)
- Recognised secondary or higher-education qualifications from accredited institutions
- Verified transcripts and certificates from all previously attended institutions

Study gap policy

CSVPA **accepts long study gaps**. Applicants returning to formal education after several years are welcomed, provided they can demonstrate readiness through their portfolio, statement of purpose, and (where relevant) professional or freelance experience in a creative field.

Personal & professional profile

- Clear statement of purpose explaining career direction and choice of pathway
- Demonstrated creative interest through portfolio, projects, or relevant work
- Professional CV (essential for PG; recommended for mature UG applicants)
- Two letters of recommendation (academic or professional)

09 Portfolio & Supporting Documents

A creative portfolio is the **single most important** element of a CSVPA application. It is the basis on which the admissions team assesses creative ability, technical control, and intent. Portfolio guidance varies by pathway, but the general principles below apply across programmes.

Portfolio guidance

- Typically 12–20 pieces of finished and in-progress work
- Mix of media demonstrating range, observation, and conceptual thinking
- Sketchbook pages and process work alongside resolved pieces
- Submitted digitally as a PDF or via a recognised portfolio platform
- Brief annotations for each piece explaining context, brief, and intent

Complete document checklist

✓	Valid passport (bio-data page)
✓	Academic transcripts and certificates (all institutions attended)
✓	English language test result (IELTS / PTE / TOEFL iBT / ELLT)
✓	Creative portfolio (digital, per pathway-specific guidance)
✓	Statement of purpose / personal statement
✓	Two letters of recommendation
✓	Updated CV / résumé (essential for PG applicants)

✓	Proof of any relevant work, freelance, or exhibition experience
✓	Financial documentation (later, at CAS / visa stage)

10 CSVPA Portfolio Guide — What We Look For

The following section draws directly on CSVPA’s official portfolio guidance — “*What We Look For in a Portfolio*” (2025). Your portfolio is the most important single element of your CSVPA application. It is where the admissions team evaluates not just what you can already do, but how you think, observe, and develop ideas as a creative practitioner.

CSVPA is looking for evidence of **originality, commitment, and motivation**. You need to show that you are genuinely interested in the subject area you are applying for. If you are passionate about something, the portfolio is where that passion needs to be visible.

The three qualities CSVPA looks for

<p>ORIGINALITY</p> <p>A personal voice and ideas that come from you — not copies of other people’s work or generic exercises.</p>	<p>COMMITMENT</p> <p>Evidence of sustained effort: process work, sketchbook pages, iterations, experiments, and finished outcomes.</p>	<p>MOTIVATION</p> <p>Clear interest in the chosen subject area, visible through the kind of work, references, and questions you pursue.</p>
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What to include in your portfolio

Your portfolio should be a curated selection of your strongest and most relevant work. CSVPA does not expect a professionally produced portfolio — they prefer to see something you have put together and annotated yourself. Good presentation helps communicate your work clearly, but the content matters far more than the packaging.

- **Personal work** — projects you have made outside of school assignments that show what genuinely interests you.
- **School / academic work** — finished pieces from art, design, or related coursework.
- **Sketchbook pages** — process work that shows how your ideas develop from first thought to final outcome.
- **Research and references** — visual research, mood boards, artist studies, exhibitions visited, books read.
- **Experimentation** — work that shows you trying things, taking risks, and learning from what doesn’t work.
- **A range of media** — drawing, painting, photography, digital work, 3D, print, collage, video, where relevant.
- **Annotations** — short, honest notes next to each piece explaining the brief, your intent, and what you learned.

Tailoring the portfolio to your chosen pathway

While the underlying qualities CSVPA looks for are consistent across programmes, the **balance** of work should reflect the pathway you are applying for. The table below gives an indicative orientation.

Pathway	Portfolio should emphasise
Fashion Design	Figure drawing, garment construction sketches, fabric studies, mood and trend research, design development, and (where possible) photographs of finished or sample garments.
Fashion Branding & Creative Communication	Visual identity work, layout and typography, campaign concepts, styling references, and evidence of how you respond to a brief or audience.
Graphics & Illustration	Drawing from observation, narrative or editorial illustration, typography, character or image development, sketchbook pages, and personal projects.
Visual Communication: Graphic Design	Layout, typography, identity, editorial, packaging, and digital work; show idea development from brief to finished design.
Visual Communication: Illustration & Animation	Drawing, storyboards, character design, sequential work, short animation tests, and evidence of narrative thinking.
Fine Art, Photography, Spatial / Product Design, Moving Image (PG pathways)	Conceptually driven personal work, research depth, material and process exploration, and a clear written rationale tying the body of work together.

Additional notes for postgraduate applicants

For applications to **CSVPA Graduate School** (MA pathways), the portfolio is expected to demonstrate not only technical skill and aesthetic sensibility, but also your **capacity for creative thinking, curiosity, experimentation, and personal direction**. Postgraduate portfolios should read as a coherent body of work with a clear conceptual thread, and should be accompanied by a written statement explaining your research interests and what you hope to develop at MA level.

Format & submission

- **Digital PDF** is the standard submission format; portfolios may also be shared via a recognised online platform such as a personal website, Behance, or Issuu.
- Aim for **12–20 pieces** in total, including both finished work and process / sketchbook pages.
- Use a clear, simple layout — one or two pieces per page, with brief annotations.
- Title each piece with the **brief, medium, year**, and a short note on intent or what you were exploring.
- Order the work so that your strongest pieces appear early and the portfolio tells a clear story.
- Keep file size reasonable (typically under 25 MB) so the file is easy to open and review.

Common mistakes to avoid

- Submitting **only finished work** with no process, sketchbook, or research evidence.
- Including work that **imitates other artists** without any personal interpretation.
- Over-designing the portfolio layout to the point that it distracts from the work itself.
- Including too many pieces — quality and curation matter more than quantity.
- Leaving work **unannotated**, so the reviewer cannot understand the brief or your intent.
- Submitting work unrelated to the pathway you are applying for, without explaining the connection.

CSVPA portfolio quick checklist

✓	12–20 pieces of work, curated to your chosen pathway
✓	Mix of finished pieces, in-progress work, and sketchbook pages
✓	Evidence of research, references, and visual influences
✓	Range of media demonstrating breadth and observation
✓	Brief annotations explaining brief, medium, and intent
✓	Personal work that shows what genuinely interests you
✓	A clear conceptual thread (especially for PG applicants)
✓	Submitted as a single PDF or via a recognised portfolio platform

Source

This section is based on CSVPA's official portfolio guidance — *“What We Look For in a Portfolio” (2025)*. The full guide is available on the CSVPA website and should be consulted for the most current and pathway-specific instructions before submission.

11 Application Process & Timeline

The full journey from initial enquiry to enrolment generally takes **3 to 6 months**, depending on document readiness and test scheduling. The seven-step roadmap below outlines a typical pathway for an international applicant working through TAP.

01	<p>Counselling & Course Selection</p> <p>Initial profile assessment with a TAP counsellor, shortlist of suitable CSVPA pathways, and review of fee and scholarship expectations.</p>
02	<p>Portfolio Development</p> <p>Begin or refine the creative portfolio based on pathway-specific requirements. TAP can connect applicants with portfolio mentors where needed.</p>
03	<p>English Test Preparation</p> <p>Book and complete the required English test (IELTS / PTE / TOEFL iBT / ELLT). Aim to achieve at least the minimum threshold for the chosen programme.</p>
04	<p>Document Compilation</p> <p>Gather transcripts, certificates, passport copy, statement of purpose, CV, and recommendation letters.</p>
05	<p>Application Submission</p> <p>Submit the complete application via TAP — The Authorized Partner. Application is reviewed by CSVPA admissions.</p>
06	<p>Offer & Acceptance</p> <p>Receive a conditional or unconditional offer. Accept the offer, confirm scholarship terms, and pay the required tuition deposit.</p>
07	<p>CAS & UK Student Visa</p> <p>Receive the CAS (Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies), complete the visa application, biometrics, and Immigration Health Surcharge. Prepare for travel and enrolment.</p>

Plan ahead

For a smooth September 2026 enrolment, applicants are advised to begin the process **at least 4–6 months in advance**, ideally between February and May 2026. Earlier applications also benefit from priority scholarship consideration.

12 Key Highlights

<p>★ Open Intake Applications open for September 2026</p>	<p>★ UG Fees From approx. £6,486 / year post-scholarship</p>
<p>★ PG Fees From approx. £8,385 / year post-scholarship</p>	<p>★ Scholarships Up to 70% on tuition fees</p>
<p>★ Flexible Entry Min GPA 2.2 / 50%, long gaps accepted</p>	<p>★ Specialist UK Provider Focused exclusively on creative disciplines</p>

13 Next Steps & Contact

Recommended action plan

- Shortlist your preferred CSVPA programme (UG or PG) and pathway
- Prepare and finalise your creative portfolio per pathway guidance
- Book and complete the required English language test
- Compile your academic transcripts and supporting documents
- Submit your application through TAP — The Authorized Partner
- Await your conditional / unconditional offer and confirm scholarship
- Proceed to CAS issuance and UK student visa application

READY TO APPLY?

Speak to a TAP counsellor to begin your CSVPA application for the **September 2026 intake**.

TAP — The Authorized Partner

Official Education Counselling & Application Services

Disclaimer: All information in this report is compiled from provider-published materials and is indicative as of the publication date. Tuition fees, scholarship terms, entry requirements, and admission policies are subject to change at the discretion of CSVPA. Applicants are advised to confirm final details at the offer stage. Currency values are quoted in GBP (£).