

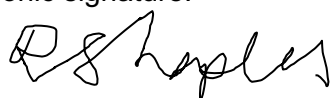
**Nagoya University of Arts (NUA) Exchange Programme Application Form
2019-20**

PERSONAL INFORMATION	
First Name: Ramona	Last name: Sharples
Gender: Female	Date of birth: 26.01.1998
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Home Address: The Old Mill, Login, Whitland, Carmarthenshire, SA34 0TL	
Emergency contact details (name, address and phone number): Rachel Sharples, The Old Mill, Login, Whitland, Carmarthenshire, SA34 0TL, 07795276616	
Disability and special needs - please record any additional needs or support required in the space provided: None	
Current course: BA Fine Art Printmaking	
Name of academic referee from your course: Jane Fox	
Flickr (or similar) link address: https://www.flickr.com/gp/185530509@N08/08MXM2	
STATEMENT OF INTENT	
<p>This should be between 500 and 1000 words and include a clear and concise description of the concept and rationale for your exchange programme, your ambitions, proposed research and practice development, and the course(s) you would be interested in studying at NUA.</p> <p>I am applying for the Nagoya exchange program because I feel a need for a personal and creative refresh and because the chance to be taught woodblock printing in a Japanese university would mean a lot to me. I grew up around woodcuts as my dad is a woodcut artist and sculptor who is heavily influenced by modern Japanese printmakers like Shikō Munakata. I transferred onto the printmaking course at Brighton after studying Politics for two years in London before realising that I wanted to commit myself to my passion for art and improving my technical abilities. I always draw and paint, but feel like the processes and challenges of the various printmaking methods make it a more immersive and rewarding discipline. The rationale behind my interest in the Nagoya exchange centres largely around the excitement I feel at the opportunity to study woodblock printing in a place where the traditions and history of the medium are so important. I would also welcome a change of scenery from the UK's educational and political-economic system. Because my immediate environment is often the starting point for my creative practice, and my political views as a Marxist are so central, I feel limited to an extent by my surroundings which have largely remained the same my whole life. I would welcome the challenge that the Nagoya exchange program would pose to the familiarity I feel towards my surroundings and the relative stagnation of my political beliefs I think this causes, and how this would impact my practice. I believe that all art is political, but the UK has such a strong tradition of political art and satire and such an old and deceptively undemocratic political system that the prospect of leaving it behind for a term and removing myself from this environment is incredibly exciting both personally and creatively.</p>	

The Western-centric approach of UK education and art history is something I have always found frustrating, omitting as it does so much important knowledge. I think I would find a different educational system very reinvigorating and refreshing. For example, the students who participated in the exchange last year recalled that the teaching in Nagoya had seemed comparatively much more outcome based than Brighton. Even this change in which part of the creative process is emphasised seems to me like it could radically change your practice through the need to become more confident with ideas. It also seems possible that the lessening of pressure on explaining your process could create more artistic breathing room. However, I am also excited about the challenges that the exchange program would throw up, most of which cannot be foreseen. I would be committed to trying to learn as much Japanese as possible, both beforehand and while there as language would be key to meeting new people both in and outside the university which would definitely be one of my ambitions for the program. My other ambitions are more related to my rationale for the exchange. I would seek to reinvigorate my practise as well as my attitude to politics. Documenting the journey of leaving the country I was born in and have rarely left, arriving as a stranger in Japan and acclimatising and experiencing a new culture, political system and university would be another of my aims. I intend to acquire as many new skills, especially in woodblock printing, including carving, inking and printing, as possible. However, I would also try to remain very open to possibility and trust and follow where my curiosity takes me in response to all the new stimuli I would inevitably encounter.

Regarding the development of my research and practise, I would propose that my research begins with observational sketches of people and the surrounding environment and collecting found objects, as it has this academic year. I have tried to reflect in my selection of images the importance of collecting, drawing, painting and collaging as problem-solving within my creative process, including sketches and development work as well as some more resolved pieces. I would really like to start thinking through printing, however, and since my practise is multimedia, this would mean using all printing techniques in a more playful and spontaneous way. I would hope to be placed on the 'Prints & Graphics' course in Nagoya, and in my mind, would like to work towards my woodblock prints as final outcomes. Having said this, although I would relish the focus and discipline of concentrating on mainly one printing method, I would want my time spent there to be used documenting my experience, the similarities and differences I notice between the UK and Japan in whichever way feels most appropriate. Remaining open to my practice changing in response to events, encounters and my own thoughts and feelings would be important to me. I currently feel very heavy with my own opinions and predispositions about this country and our society. To a large extent I think they cloud and distort my creative practise. Exploring what would happen if I was made to leave these behind and start building a picture of a different culture, place, political system, is an incredibly exciting possibility. I feel the Nagoya exchange could be really beneficial to myself personally and creatively for these reasons, both whilst on exchange and upon returning to the UK, hopefully with some refreshed attitudes and new skills.

Electronic signature:



Date: 11.11.19

HOW TO APPLY

- Please complete the application form (ideally in Word, please do not send in Pages as we are unable to open the files)
- Make a Flickr (or similar) presentation and illustrate it with 12-15 images/samples of your work/work from sketchbooks/work in progress. Please check links are working correctly
- Email your application to the School of Art Admin Office
ArtAdmin@brighton.ac.uk by midday on Tuesday 12th November.

- A small panel of academic staff members will assess each application
- We will try to notify successful applicants within two weeks
- Successful applicants will be required to complete online Japanese language learning
- **Successful applicants will also be required to complete a Nagoya University of Arts application and the exchange will only be confirmed once approved by NUA.**