

Design-Nation: Future Thinking for Design & Craft



Darren Appiagyei, image courtesy of the artist

GRADUATE MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Design-Nation is a membership network and portfolio that comprises a rich and diverse pool of highly skilled designers and makers including some of the most acclaimed and innovative designers and craftspeople in the UK.

With a national and international profile, activity programme and bespoke package of support and opportunities, Design-Nation is committed to developing creative talent at every stage of career - be it graduate, emerging or established practice.

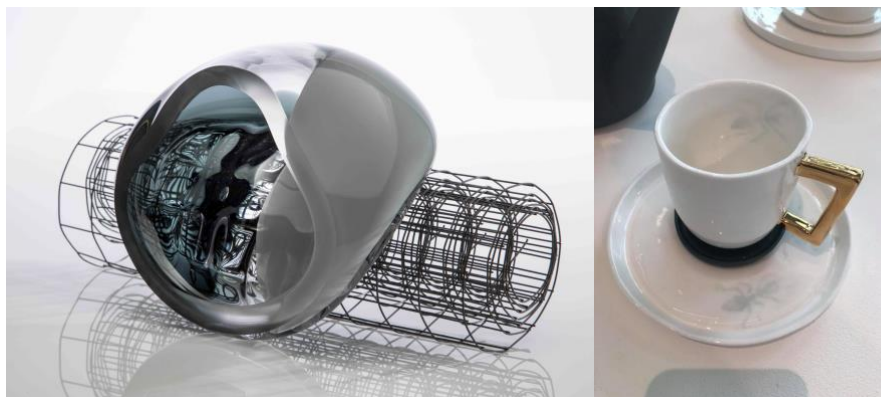
Graduate Membership provides the first step towards establishing your career as a designer-maker.

In the early days after completing a creative BA or MA, graduates can find it daunting to be faced with choices and opportunities and miss the guidance provided by their tutors. Many graduates also miss the camaraderie of their fellow students and the

opportunity to discuss the development of their work and career plans with like-minded people. At Design-Nation we can help with all of these things and more! We have a thriving network of designer makers and we have established regional cluster hubs throughout the UK. Our members are friendly, helpful and very supportive of each other.

We will provide support and opportunities that will help you to build a body of work to exhibit and sell; offer guidance on product development and the direction of your work, and encourage you to be an active member of our network.

We will also work with you to prepare your application for full Design-Nation membership, offering review sessions and application clinics. Full membership is by selection and our independent panel of craft and design industry experts meet quarterly each year to assess applications. Graduate Membership is limited to two years and we will encourage and support you to apply for full membership within this timescale.



L-R Morgan Stockton, Holly Mai Burton, images courtesy of the artists

GRADUATE MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Building on 20 years of experience, we deliver bespoke projects and activities that are tailored to support the needs of our creative business members at every stage of career.

As a Graduate member you will benefit from a range of creative and business support, including:

- Diagnostic and review sessions, including advice on product development, direction of work and guidance in preparing your application for full DN membership
- Cluster hubs – connect with other Design-Nation members in your area and collaborate on creative development projects, exhibitions and events. (Note that this activity is adaptable to video-conferencing and/or face-to-face, circumstances permitting.)
Access to regional membership cluster hubs across the UK
- Access to free and subsidised CPD programme, including training workshops, artist talks, peer mentoring and Study Days
- Selected exhibition and showcase opportunities eg Graduate Showcase at London Craft Week and NEW online Graduate Showcase (coming soon!)
- Fortnightly member bulletins including news and opportunities
- Buddy Scheme for members
- Access to the private DN Members Facebook groups, including discussion forum
- Exposure and promotion through our newsletter and social media to promote Graduate Members, including case study profiles
- Invitations to networking and membership events

- Up to date information on UK craft and design opportunities and news
- Access to advice from DN's Membership Manager

GRADUATE MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

Design-Nation welcomes applications from UK-based graduates that have completed their BA or MA within the past 3 years. Graduates will have based all or the majority of their studies in one or more of these qualifying categories:

Qualifying craft, design and product categories are:

- Architectural product (3D)
- Ceramics
- Furniture
- Glass
- Jewellery
- Lighting
- Metal
- Mixed Media
- Paper
- Surface Design & Print
- Textiles: fashion
- Textiles: interiors
- Wood

MEMBERSHIP COSTS

Design-Nation Graduate Membership costs £40 + vat per year, payable on receipt of an invoice once membership has been confirmed. Payment should be made by bank transfer. Information on the application form.

Please note that additional costs may apply for some talent development, exhibition and project opportunities.

HOW TO APPLY

Please complete the Application Form and return this, along with three images and your completed Equality Form, to info@designnation.co.uk

Please follow all instructions and guidance on the application form.

There are 4 intakes of Graduate members per year; the deadlines are 1st February, 1st May, 1st August and 1st November.