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| **Title** | Natural History Illustration: Birds in Flight |
| **Tutor** | Sarah Bowe |

**Delivered online as blended learning using our Virtual Learning platform and face-to-face teaching.**

Dear student,

Your course will be delivered using a self-paced learning format even if it is blended or online learning. Blended learning has some online content to prepare you for meeting face to face with the tutor. This content is really useful and will guarantee that the tie you have with your tutor is used to the best advantage. The on-location dates will be listed within the learning content and also added below in this letter.

**Just a quick heads-up regarding our enrolment protocol which is in two parts.**

You will have received a confirmation of booking email when you paid for your course; the next process will be a letter from the office sent by email.

**Part one:** The office will send you a student number and a link to a web site to access, so that you can register and set a unique password that protects you from cyber-attacks and online fraud.

This requires you to remember your username (usually three letters and a few number) and for you to think about a long password in readiness for the access procedure. Ideally, it should be 10 characters with no word in any language. This can be a challenge, so have a few goes before starting the process. Some people use the first letter of a song title and add some letters or symbols.

This password will need to be changed yearly because our security is set up to keep your home computers safe. This username and password also allow access to a whole host of online journals, a secure free email, library books and a site called Box of Broadcasts which is a searchable secure web site of Radio and TV programmes; this adds another dimension and a greater depth to your learning. It is important to remember your password and keep it secure. I also recommend that you watch the set-up process video on your phone next to your computer.

<https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/media/departmental/lll/Power-point-for-video-to-activate-student-account.pdf>

**Part Two**: Wait half a day for your username and details to be logged into the University system. In order to access your email and registration as a temporary University student, we use the University’s Virtual Learning Platform called Blackboard. This can be accessed using the same username and your new password.

Once you are enrolled you will need to log on to Blackboard, this is where your learning materials are stored. Again, this is a secure platform. It is always best to access Blackboard using the search engines of either Chrome or Firefox. Safari or Explorer does not allow full access. We also recommend that you access your learning from a laptop or desktop computer so that you can make notes and watch the recorded demonstrations on a larger screen. All learning content is delivered in bite size units. You will need a computer with a camera or web cam so that you can contribute to Tutorial meetings with your tutor as well as a mobile phone to take photos in order to send your work regularly to your tutor for feedback.

There will be a Tutorial using free secure software which is part of your university site called Teams; it links to your university email. You will also be able to send a draft of your designs and artwork for feedback after each unit. Further instructions will be given under the **Student Support** section of Blackboard. There will also be opportunities to ask your tutor questions and have a personal learning experience and share your findings with your fellow students.

Please watch the Blackboard navigation video and how to find it. We suggest that you save the Blackboard site as a favourite internet search. This video link is for a general course and not your specific course, but the navigation is the same. This will all make sense when you have received and set up your university username with password.

<https://youtu.be/Lf0b79Q7d3Q> - how to set up your username and password

NB: It may be worth watching this video on a phone next to your computer.

**Please note: If you are a university student or member of staff**

You are enrolled on this course for free as an AU student/AU Staff member. We would like to remind you that you agreed to the following when completing the enrolment form: **I hereby agree that by enrolling and participating on this Lifelong Learning module without payment, I agree to submit all course assessments required for this module within the agreed deadlines.**

If you need any help accessing the course, please let the tutor or is@aber.ac.uk

**Course information:** In this module we will be looking at the beauty of birds in flight, you will be creating your own visual diary showing your research and observations from the field. This 5-credit module is suitable for more experienced artists in watercolour and drawing techniques, within the study of Natural History Illustration and for students who wish to hone their observational drawing and painting skills and create accurate paintings with fine detail and colours. The module will cover drawing with pencil, ink, and watercolour painting techniques. There will also be colour mixing and form drawing techniques with ideas for drawing in the field and creating an informed and accurate visual diary. There will be guides on observation and interesting discussions on habitat and Ecology.

**Course Code** **CL308**

**Tutor**  Sarah Bowe

**Venues/dates/times** The online part of the course will be available from (29/05/24) to prepare for the face-to-face portion.

The face-to-face portion of the course will be taught at Bwlch Nant Yr Arian, Ponterwyd, Aberystwyth SY23 3AB and is compulsory attendance.

1st and 2nd July on location from 12am – 4pm

Feeding time for the Kites is 3pm

Further information on the site can be found here - <https://naturalresources.wales/days-out/places-to-visit/mid-wales/bwlch-nant-yr-arian-visitor-centre/?lang=en>

 All tasks and work need to be sent ready for assessment by (18/07/24)

**This course is a blended learning course and so the two day in-person portion of the course is compulsory attendance to complete the course.**

**Equipment you will need.**

You will need to provide all your own art equipment for the two days we are at the venue and for the duration of the course, you will need.

* Hardbacked sketchbook A5 or A4 with multimedia paper or paper suitable for using with watercolour. Hardback sketchbook – paper in a heavier weight will give you more versatility in the mediums you can use e.g., Daler Rowney or Windsor & Newton
* Graphite pencils – 2H, H, HB & 2B, Faber Castell or Derwent are excellent quality brands.
* Pencil Sharpener
* Erasers – Putty erasers are better for fine sketching, but you can use plastic.
* Watercolour paints – Winsor & Newton, FaberCastell or Daler Rowney are excellent quality paints. Recommended colours are Prussian Blue, Cadmium Red, Viridian, Alizarin Crimson, Burnt Umber, Cadmium Yellow and Chinese White.
* Watercolour paper pad – Seawhite Travel Journal A5/A4 (I use this as my preference as it does not need stretching but you can use whichever good quality watercolour paper you prefer e.g., Bockingford).
* Fine liner pens – For example Faber Castell Pitt Artist Pen Fine liners 0.3, 0.4 and 0.5.
* Paintbrushes – a broad selection of sizes 0.5, 1,2, 3 & 5, if they have a good point to them. Also, a larger brush for paint mixing.
* Palette
* Tracing paper
* A jar or container suitable for water to mix your paints.
* A smartphone, tablet, or good quality digital camera for taking video footage and photographic references.

**We estimate that the cost of materials for this course will be:** £75

**Parking and refreshments**

* **Café open from 10am-5pm but you are welcome to bring your own refreshments**
* **Parking for Blue Badge holders**
* **Wheelchair access to the visitor centre and café**
* **Accessible toilets**
* **Facilities for the hearing impaired in café**
* **Courtesy wheelchair**
* **Parking is £5 for all day**

Pay the car park attendant on arrival by cash or card. If the car park is unstaffed, please pay in the visitor centre after parking your vehicle.

There are café facilities, but I would recommend bringing your own lunch and drinks for the day, remember to keep hydrated and bring sturdy shoes and sun cream as we will be outdoors.

If you are bringing your own seating, make sure it is safe to use and comfortable.

**Additional information:** My email is sab129@aber.ac.uk and I look forward to working with you.

Sarah Bowe