



Accredited Africa Training Institute for Capacity Development

Unit FO409, Hatfield Plaza · 1122 Burnett St, Hatfield 0028 · Pretoria, Gauteng · South Africa

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COURSE BROCHURE

Life Drawing from Observation

Communication Studies and Language / Media Studies

Unit Standard 242652 · NQF Level 5 · 15 Credits · 12 Days

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course equips learners with the foundational skills to draw from direct observation, developing hand-eye coordination and visual perception. It focuses on accurately representing form, proportion, and spatial relationships through structured exercises in line, tone, and composition.

Category	Communication Studies and Language
Subfield	Media Studies
Unit Standard	242652
Accreditation	SAQA Accredited · NQF Level 5 · 15 Credits
Duration	12 days
Training Method	Online, On-Campus, In-House
Certificate	Issued via AATICD LMS – verifiable online

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Apply observational techniques to accurately capture proportions and spatial relationships of still-life and figure subjects.
- Demonstrate use of line, contour, and gesture to convey form and movement in life drawing.
- Analyze tonal values and light sources to render three-dimensional form through shading.
- Evaluate compositional balance and focal points in observational drawings.
- Implement a structured drawing process from initial blocking-in to refined rendering.
- Apply perspective and foreshortening principles to create depth and realism.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- Aspiring artists, designers, illustrators, and any professionals seeking to improve their observational drawing skills.
- No prior drawing experience is required.

COURSE OUTLINE

Day 1: Introduction to Observational Drawing

- Overview of life drawing as a discipline
- Essential drawing materials: pencils, charcoal, erasers, paper
- Basic mark-making techniques
- Contour drawing: blind and modified
- Gesture drawing: capturing movement and energy
- Setting up a drawing space and lighting

Day 2: Proportions and Basic Shapes

- Understanding human proportions: head as unit
- Sighting and measuring techniques
- Blocking in the figure with simple shapes
- Comparative measurement: aligning body parts
- Practice with short poses (5-10 minutes)
- Common proportion mistakes and corrections

Day 3: Anatomy Basics: Skeletal Structure

- Overview of skeletal anatomy: skull, spine, ribcage, pelvis, limbs
- Palpable bony landmarks (e.g., clavicle, iliac crest)
- Drawing the skeleton as an armature
- Skeletal influence on body proportions
- Short poses focusing on skeletal landmarks

Day 4: Anatomy Basics: Muscular Structure

- Major muscles: pectorals, abdominals, deltoids, biceps, quadriceps, etc.
- Muscle origins and insertions (simplified)
- Drawing muscles as volumes
- Tension and relaxation: muscle shapes in different poses
- Intermediate poses (10-15 minutes) with anatomy focus

Day 5: Gesture and Dynamic Poses

- The line of action: finding flow
- Gesture drawing techniques: scribble, continuous line
- Rhythm and balance in the figure
- Quick poses: 30 seconds to 5 minutes
- Practicing with varied poses (standing, sitting, reclining)
- Critique and improvement strategies

Day 6: Light and Shadow: Value Drawing

- Light sources and their effects
- Value scale: from light to dark
- Shading techniques: hatching, cross-hatching, blending
- Rendering form: spheres, cylinders, and the figure
- Longer poses (20-30 minutes) for value studies
- Observing and simplifying tonal masses

Day 7: Foreshortening and Perspective

- Basics of linear perspective as applied to the figure
- Foreshortening: overlapping forms and size changes
- Drawing from unusual angles (above, below)
- Constructing the figure in perspective
- Poses with extended limbs toward viewer
- Correcting common errors in foreshortening

Day 8: Composition and Negative Space

- Composition rules: rule of thirds, framing, balance
- Positive and negative space interaction
- Cropping and viewpoint choices
- Drawing the space around the figure
- Composing with multiple figures (if applicable)
- Critique of compositions

Day 9: Drapery and Clothing

- Types of folds: compression, tension, gravity
- Drawing fabric over simple forms
- Drapery studies from life (cloth on mannequin or model)
- Combining figure and drapery in one drawing
- Long pose (30-40 minutes) with draped model

Day 10: Expressive and Stylized Drawing

- Expressive line and mark-making
- Distortion and exaggeration for effect
- Minimalist drawing: economy of line
- Mixed media approaches (ink, wash, pastel)
- Interpreting the model subjectively
- Portfolio development ideas

Day 11: Extended Pose: Detailed Study

- Preparing for a long pose (2-3 hours)
- Step-by-step process: block-in, anatomy, shading, details
- Working from general to specific
- Techniques for maintaining freshness
- Final rendering and finishing touches
- Individual feedback session

Day 12: Portfolio Review and Final Assessment

- Portfolio assembly and presentation
- Peer critique session
- Instructor-led evaluation against unit standards
- Goal setting for future drawing practice
- Course wrap-up and certificate information

ASSESSMENT & CERTIFICATION

Delegates are assessed through exercises and a final test. A mark of **50% or above** earns an **AATICD Certificate of Completion**, issued digitally with a unique verification code. This course carries **15 NQF credits** at **NQF Level 5**.

PRICING (PER DELEGATE, EX-VAT)

Delegates	Training Method	Price per Delegate	Total
1	Online	R 43,000.00	R 43,000.00
1	In-House	R 56,000.00	R 56,000.00
1	On-Campus (Pretoria)	R 64,600.00	R 64,600.00

UPCOMING SESSIONS

Start	End	Method	Venue
03 Aug 2026	18 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Pretoria, South Africa
03 Aug 2026	18 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Lagos, Nigeria
04 Aug 2026	19 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Johannesburg, South Africa
05 Aug 2026	20 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Mauritius
06 Aug 2026	21 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Cape Town, South Africa
07 Aug 2026	24 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Dubai, UAE
10 Aug 2026	25 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Abu Dhabi, UAE
11 Aug 2026	26 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Mauritius

Contact us if no suitable date is listed – on-demand sessions can be arranged for groups.

HOW TO GET A QUOTE OR APPLY

1. **Get an instant quotation online:** visit www.aaticd.co.za, open the page for this course (Unit Standard 242652) and click **Get A Quote / Apply**. Select your training method and number of delegates – your quotation is generated immediately and emailed to you with the course brochure attached.
2. **Apply by email:** send the course title, your preferred training method (Online, In-House or On-Campus Pretoria), the number of delegates and your preferred dates to apply@aaticd.co.za – our team will reply with a formal quotation.
3. **Apply by phone or WhatsApp:** call **+27 12 004 8389** or WhatsApp **+27 65 077 6310** and we will prepare your quotation and reserve your seats.
4. **Confirm your booking:** accept the quotation and settle the invoice. As soon as payment is confirmed your delegates are enrolled and receive their AATICD LMS login details by email, along with joining instructions for their chosen training method.

Group discounts apply automatically – the more delegates you enrol, the lower the price per delegate. No payment is required to request a quotation.

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