**A black background with a black square

Description automatically generated**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Title** | Natural History Illustration: Insects – Course CL300 |
| **Tutor** | Claire Ward |

**Dear student,**

**This is an online course**, with a self-paced learning format so that you can work at the times that suit you around your work and family commitments. It is delivered using our virtual learning site called **Blackboard**, in 4 units, each with many video demonstrations. We recommend that you access your course each week, like a traditional class. You will need to be proficient in using email.

**The materials are listed below** with links to Jacksons.com added also so that you can view the materials that the tutor recommends easily.

**NHI Insects** will cover graphite drawing and watercolour painting techniques to depict a variety of fascinating forms of insects, with accuracy of colour and detail. We’ll look at flying insects like bees, beetles, butterflies, and moths. Dragonflies have their own module! If you have any found or bought (from reputable supplier) specimens, they will be very useful to work from so keep a lookout on windowsills and in the garden. We will also have some copyright free photographic references to work from, and you can take reference photos too.

**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.

**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.

[Guide to Blackboard Ultra - Students  : Information Services , Aberystwyth University](https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/is/it-services/elearning/blackboard/guidetoblackboardultra-students/)

**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](mailto:is@aber.ac.uk) know

**Information about your course:**

Make a note of your course name and code. Check your university emails regularly, this is how the tutor contacts you.

**Assessment deadline**Completion deadlines are set so that we can meet funding application deadlines. Please make a note of the final date to send your work to the tutor for feedback although you will be given regular feedback as long as you send the tutor information.

Best wishes,

the Lifelong Learning team.

# Materials List for Insects Module with Links to Jacksons.com to see the materials

* **Sketchbook for the Visual Diary** with acid free, smooth paper & hardcover **A4.** A basic one is **£8.50** [Seawhite : Case Bound Black Cloth Sketchbooks : 140gsm | Jackson's Art Supplies (jacksonsart.com)](https://www.jacksonsart.com/sketchbooks-black-cloth-case-bound-140-gsm)

-There are better quality books available for a bit more cost; Including the **Stilman and Birn ZETA series** which has watercolour paper in it so it’s suitable for wet media.

* **2H, HB & B (or/& 2B) graphite pencils** Faber Castell 9000 series are very good- £1.40 each (not jumbo) https://[www.jacksonsart.com/faber-castell-series-9000-pencils](http://www.jacksonsart.com/faber-castell-series-9000-pencils)
* **Eraser (plastic) from £1.30 or a putty eraser - £2.00** which is really good for some techniques. https://[www.jacksonsart.com/faber-castell-putty-rubber](http://www.jacksonsart.com/faber-castell-putty-rubber)
* **Size A4 140lb hot press watercolour Bockingford is £12.50** [Bockingford Watercolour Papers : White : Gummed Pads : Hot Pressed | Jackson's Art Supplies (jacksonsart.com)](https://www.jacksonsart.com/bockingford-watercolour-papers-pads-white)  
  **You could** also order watercolour sample packs to try out too = **£4.80**https://[www.jacksonsart.com/stonehenge-aqua-paper-13x18cm-sample-pack-1-per-order](http://www.jacksonsart.com/stonehenge-aqua-paper-13x18cm-sample-pack-1-per-order)
* **Watercolour paints** – Recommended colours – These are Winsor Newton artists quality.

# Transparent yellow, Winsor lemon, Winsor blue green shade, French Ultramarine, Scarlet lake or Winsor red, Permanent rose or Quinacridone magenta, Light red, neutral tint, Burnt umber, Perylene Green. Other recommended brands include Daler Rowney, W/N Cotmans (student range) and Schmincke. Artist quality paints will have more saturated and lightfast colours but they are twice the price, so it all depends on the budget.

* **Paint brushes** – Any good quality watercolour brush with a good point. You can order online from a good value company called Rosemary and Co. Series 33, **Size 0 = from £5.15, size 2 = £5.65** – Good for detailed work. Any large round brush is useful for larger wash work – size 4 and 6

**OR** you can order synthetic (Vegan friendly) rounds by Dalon DR series D77, **sizes 0, 2 & 4** – from £4.20 [Daler Rowney : Dalon Synthetic Watercolour Brushes : D77 / D88 / D99 | Jackson's Art Supplies (jacksonsart.com)](https://www.jacksonsart.com/daler-rowney-dalon-synthetic-watercolour-brushes-d77-d88-d99)

**A short flat, stiffer** synthetic, size 2 Daler Rowney or similar brush will also come in handy. Can be called an ‘eradicator’ - **from £3.30**

Cheaper brushes are useful for mixing paint so as not to ruin the more expensive, quality brushes.

Other recommended brushes are by **Raphael (series 8404** – Billy Showell brushes**)** & **Winsor Newton miniature series 7**, excellent quality but are more expensive.

* Magnifying glass and (x10) hand lens
* Transparent ruler or cheap maths set dividers
* Water-pot (old jam-jars are useful)
* Drawing board to paint on with bulldog clips, lightweight MDF or plywood is good
* Palette for paints, (small ceramic plates are useful)

# Approx. £65