

STUDIO POTTERY LONDON

COURSE INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

LONG COURSE - 10 weeks

This course is designed to supplement the basic skills of centring and throwing learned on the short course, to build up a toolbox of additional skills and encourage personal creativity. The skills learned on this course will help you develop your own pottery preferences and guide you towards your own personal practice.

Membership of SPL would be the natural and recommended progression for students who have completed this course and wish to continue developing their practice and love of pottery.

Students on this course will have access to use the numerous glazes developed by the studio.

Students will be given a notebook and are encouraged to document their progress - weighing and measuring the clay, drawing and writing potting plans, making notes of particular ideas, issues or successes. Documenting the ideas of others, with their permission, may also be helpful. Please share and encourage each other - we value and try to nurture the building of community within the class. Tutors will demonstrate techniques, show examples and give one-to-one guidance. Students are asked to supplement with their own research.

The Ten Week Programme below is an outline not a concrete curriculum.

Some students may need to adopt a slower pace according to abilities and preferences. We want everyone to feel comfortable, so the experience is enriching, therapeutic and fun!

1. INTRODUCTIONS & REFRESHER:

Remembering and reinforcing centring skills, throwing simple vessels. Working towards increasing the size of vessels and finessing the walls. Assessment of individual skill level and discussions on progress plan.

1. **JUGS & MUGS:** Learn about different techniques for making lips and handles - pulling, cutting with wire, extruding. Learn about the balance of handle to vessel.
2. **FACETTING:** Learn to make vessels with thick walls, partially dried with a heat gun before faceting with a potter's knife, spoke shave or paint scraper. Show examples (e.g. R Batterham)
3. **GO TALL:** Learn to make taller vessels, "collaring in" and "bellying out", to make vases and bottles.
4. **GO SMALL/GO BIG:**
 - Learn to throw "off the hump" to make small pots such as egg cups, candle sticks or tea light holders.
 - Learn to centre larger pieces of clay with potential to make larger vessels such as salad or fruit bowls, or a water jug.
5. **CATCH-UP WEEK:** A chance to recap and consolidate on the new techniques developed thus far.
6. **REPEAT THROWING:** Learn to use callipers, rulers and chopsticks to measure the height and width for throwing vessels of the same size.
7. **REVISION WEEK** for students to make what they want under supervision.

Or to try **ALTERED FORMS** - throwing vessels without a base and assembling and altering on a slab base. This is a good technique for oven dishes using oval or squared-off shapes.
8. **GLAZING:** Learn about different methods of glaze application: dipping, pouring, painting. Introduction of creative glazing techniques e.g., Use of wax resist, double-dipping, splattering, rim dipping (eg bronze).
9. **GLAZING PART TWO:** Last chance to enhance - more of the same as in week 9, plus prayers to kiln gods!

Please note again that this structure is outlined as a guide and in reality, the sections may merge with each other somewhat. Also, at the beginning of each class some turning of vessels made the previous week will be necessary.

