

UNIVERSITY FOR THE CREATIVE ARTS

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION FOR:

MA FINE ART

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION [ACADEMIC YEAR 2021/22]

This Programme Specification is designed for prospective students, current students, academic staff and potential employers. It provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the intended learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the teaching, learning and assessment methods, learning outcomes and content of each unit can be found in the Unit Descriptors.

Section A – Material Course Information

Validating Body	University for the Creative Arts ¹		
Teaching Body	University for the Creative Arts		
Final Award Title and Type	Master of Arts		
Course Title	Fine Art		
Course Location and Length	Campus: Farnham	Length: Full-time: 1 year Part-time: 2 years	
Mode of Study	Full-time	✓	Part-time ✓
Period of Validation	2017/18 to 2021/22		
Name of Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body	Not Applicable		
Type of Accreditation	Not Applicable		
Accreditation due for renewal	Not Applicable		
<p>Entry criteria and requirements²</p> <p>A good Honours degree or equivalent qualification in the subject or a related discipline and/or relevant work experience, demonstrating an ability to study at postgraduate level.</p> <p>Consideration will also be given to applicants who can make a strong case for admission in relation to a particular project and can demonstrate their potential to satisfactorily complete the course.</p> <p><u>Minimum English language requirements:</u></p> <p>If your first language is not English a certificate is required as evidence that you have an average IELTS score of 6.5 (with each component 5.5 or above) or equivalent. If you are applying as an international student from a country outside the EU and require a visa to study in the UK, you will also need a minimum of 5.5 in each individual component.</p> <p>You may be offered a place on a course on the condition that you improve your English language and study skills. We offer pre-sessional English language courses which can improve your IELTS score by a maximum of 1.0 and 0.5, or equivalent.</p>			
Overall methods of assessment ³	Written exams:	Practical exams:	Coursework:
Course	0%	0%	100%

¹ Regulated by the Office for Students

² This should be the standard University Criteria unless otherwise approved by the Academic Board and include UCAS entry profile for undergraduate courses.

³ As generated by the most popular unit descriptors and calculated for the overall course stage data.

Overall Learning & Teaching hours ⁴	Scheduled:	Independent:	Placement:
	13.9%	86.1%	0%
	250 hours	1550 hours	0 hours
General level of staff delivering the course ⁵	The University's current recruitment policy for Lecturers and Senior Lecturers states that they must have either an MA or equivalent professional practice in a relevant discipline or field. All lecturing staff are encouraged to work towards a teaching qualification or professional Recognition by the Higher Education Academy and this is a requirement for Senior Lecturers. Senior Lecturers are required to be professionally active or engaged in research in their discipline. All Lecturers and Senior Lecturers undertake scholarship in their disciplines. There are also Sessional Staff to link courses with professional practice and Technicians to provide technical support.		
Language of Study	English		
Subject/Qualification Benchmark Statement: QAA Master's Degree Characteristics			
Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)			

The course structure

The structure of all of the University's awards complies with the University's [Common Credit Framework](#). The Common Credit Framework includes information about the:

- Rules for progression between the stages of a course;
- Consequences of failure for reassessment, compensation and exit awards;
- Calculation and classification of awards;

Unit codes and titles	Level	Credit value	Elective/ Core	Most popular student choice of optional elective units or elective options in core units?
Course				
FFPH7013 Critical Perspectives	7	30	Core	
FFAR7012 Research and Practice	7	30	Core	
FFAR7014 Professional Practice and Negotiated Study	7	60	Core	
FFAR7015 Final Major Project	7	60	Core	

⁴ As generated by the most popular unit descriptors and calculated for the overall course stage data.

⁵ Include general information about the experience or status of the staff involved in delivering the course, for example Professor, Course Leader, Senior Lecturer

Section B - Course Overview

MA Fine Art at Farnham provides a critically focused postgraduate course that aims to respond to current approaches and diverse forms of fine art practice. Supported by key contemporary theoretical debates and critical methodologies, students establish a conceptual framework to test conventional and contingent forms of dissemination through practice.

The course provides opportunities for interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary practices developed in context of the extensive resources available across the campus. The robust nature of these resources allows students to pursue medium specific investigation or devise more speculative methodologies for practice. For example, the bronze foundry, photographic studios, print-media workshops and computer aided cutting facilities, provide key opportunities for the potential of utilizing industrial, analogue and digital methods of production within a Fine Art context.

Throughout the course, students actively externalize their practice beyond the familiarity of the studios and institution. Our students are encouraged to develop strategic professional networks and seek external opportunities and contexts to develop and realise a series of ambitious art projects, exhibitions, residencies and events.

Stage 1 comprises of two units Critical Perspectives and Research and Practice. Critical Perspectives provides an intensive critical framework for examining a range of theoretical positions. It gives students the opportunity to investigate and clarify key motivations within their art practice and its wider critical context. Research and Practice concerns the interaction of research and its relationship to making and dissemination. This unit enables students to test, review, document and subsequently present speculative approaches to practice, framed by a critically defined set of conceptual and theoretical concerns.

In Stage 2, students plan an Independent Project as part for the Unit Professional Practice and Negotiated Study and identify appropriate external spaces to situate their own practice within the art world. Students will test and critically evaluate the potential reach for their work and consider the role of their audience by initiating and realising relevant forms of output. Central to this approach is the acknowledgement that all practice must operate from a critical motivation identified by the students themselves. To enable this to be conceptually articulated, the course assists students to gain confidence in establishing individual strategies for practice and to seek out and test relevant modes of externality. This provides the framework for research and practice and promotes the notion that all forms of work require a public forum. Engaging with and sharing critical discourse alongside practice is a key component of this unit, and students present their research at a mini-symposium.

At Stage 3, the Final Major Project unit, enables students to synthesise theory and practice and its eventual public presentation. Students establish potential external networks and identify sources of funding, exhibition and writing opportunities for the eventual dissemination work beyond UCA. They will also meet with an external specialist to assist in positioning their work in a real-time context of critique and review. Midway through the unit, students create resolved work for a group show at an external venue and establish a professional online presence ahead of the MA show at the end of the unit.

The MA Fine Art course at UCA Farnham aims to ensure that graduating students are equipped with a professional practice that is able to withstand the challenges of the current socio economic climate.

Section C - Course Aims

1. To ensure students are professionally equipped to sustain a practice that is able to withstand the challenges of a demanding socio-economic context.
2. To develop students' critical faculty to be conversant with current debates within Fine Art at postgraduate level.
3. To develop specialist technical and applied skills that are informed by selected critical methodologies for Fine Art practice.
4. To establish dialectical frameworks for conceptual thinking, which enable students to extend critical discourse within contemporary Fine Art practice.
5. To establish student defined networks across a range of platforms for realising external dissemination opportunities.
6. To locate opportunities for trans-disciplinary methodologies, which challenge the definitions of singular and inter-disciplinary Fine Art practice.

Section D - Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course students are able to:

Knowledge

- LO1 Articulate the impact of current debates within the context of Fine Art and demonstrate how selected critical ideas, concepts and processes have informed approaches to practice.
- LO2 Identify and embed relevant critical and theoretical ideas within own parameters for a research project and implement this through research, writing and practice.

Understanding

- LO1 Demonstrate a rigorous understanding of the relationship between theory, practice and dissemination in the formation of a robust professional practice.
- LO2 Demonstrate a synthesis of conceptual and practical aims and provide analysis and critical reflection of situating own practice in appropriate critical contexts relevant to Fine Art.

Application

- LO1 Employ a speculative approach to the development and realisation of ambitious

practical responses that utilise appropriate technical and material concerns in context of a critical framework for Fine Art practice.

LO2 Demonstrate the ability to identify and engage with a range of relevant external sites that provide opportunities for professional practice, dissemination and communication with a range of audiences.

Section E - Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Learning and Teaching Strategy

Several different learning and teaching methods are used at the University, and may be used on your course. These are defined as follows:

Tutorials

Throughout each unit there will be points where progress is monitored throughout. These take the form of tutorials. You will receive a meeting with one or two staff, reviewing work from that unit to date.

The discussion will focus upon achievement of criteria to ensure you are focused upon the aims and outcomes of the unit. The outcome of this discussion will be a series of action points your tutor will agree with you and importantly at that point you will have achievement mapped across the criteria matrix. You will not be given a grade at that point but you will clearly see areas where you are performing well and those areas that require development. You will see a cross or tick indicating the point at which both you and your tutor will agree achievement currently.

You will need to record your progress in the form of a reflective journal. It is yours and the tutor's responsibility to record the content and discussion resulting from tutorials.

Lectures

Lectures are the principal teaching method used for the presentation and discussion of theoretical issues. They are used to focus on issues central to a unit and are often used in conjunction with seminars to extend and examine the issues raised. Your lecture notes are a valuable adjunct to other information sources and may prove useful to you long after completion of your course.

Seminars

Seminars provide an opportunity for dialogue and interaction between staff and students. Seminars may be used to support lectures, or may be central to practical delivery.

Self-managed independent study

Self-managed independent study forms an essential part of your course. It is important that you develop an organised and effective approach to independent study to enable you to complete and extend projects and take full advantage of learning resources at the University and elsewhere. Independent study may take place at your home, at the University (for example, in the Library) or externally (for example, at museums or exhibitions). It is suggested that you keep a record of private study undertaken for

discussion with staff.

Symposium

A form of seminar presentation utilising an audience of interested participants. Presentations are usually made by a panel of experts in the relevant/specific field. Information is disseminated and analysed collaboratively in the context of the symposium usually culminating in some form of publication or public form of dissemination in some form.

Projects

Projects combine formal teaching and independent study on a focused task with a defined outcome. They may be initiated by staff, or jointly between staff and students. The outcomes of projects vary according to courses; for example, it may be a slide presentation, a written report or a product. Each project culminates in some form of review or critique.

Practical Work projects will be set in a practical workshop situation, using materials, processes and techniques to generate research and an understanding of theoretical principles. Depending on the equipment and processes used, this may involve an introduction to safe working practices through technical demonstrations that you must attend before commencing personal practical work.

Group work

Group work is recognised as an important educational experience in its own right and is valued by many employers. Assessment aims to balance the merits of group achievement and individual performance.

Project Proposals

Project Proposals are used on many courses. Project Proposals make it possible to focus your course in a way that reflects your own interests and aspirations, within the scope of the course. Project Proposals are one way of helping you to negotiate and plan your studies with staff, agreeing the aims of your work. Your Project Proposals and study plan will form part of the Unit Handbook for relevant units.

Student presentations

Student presentations comprise one student or a group of students giving an illustrated talk on an agreed subject to a group of their fellow students. This enables students to share their experiences and learning, and develop the knowledge and understanding of the group as a whole. A primary function of presentations is to develop your skills and ability in verbal communication.

Study Visits

Study Visits may involve visits to designated exhibitions, projects, art fairs, conferences, cultural centres, symposia, talks and presentations.

Online learning environments

As a University we have MyUCA an online portal where you can find details of Units, Lectures, support for your study and a live notice board for course information. There are many ways in which staff and students can utilise MyUCA. To enhance and develop learning and on-course support. You will be introduced to MyUCA as a general course online portal and as a Unit specific space. This may also include the use of blogs and websites.

Communications

We communicate with you via a number of sources but primarily email, MyUCA and Course notice boards. We will also text message when necessary.

Employability & employer engagement

Throughout the course you will be exposed to professional artists, curators and writers. All the staff are practicing artists in their own right and through their expertise visiting staff are brought in to the course to contribute to Unit delivery and to provide artist talks.

How can I manage my independent study time?

During each unit, staff will explain to you the work you are expected to cover in self-managed study time. It is essential that you organise your time so that you can carry out the required amount of independent study. Failure to do this is likely to result in you being unable to complete the work required in the time available. If you feel you need further information or help with managing your studies, please alert your tutor who will be able to help.

Unit Handbook

A Unit Handbook will be given to you at the introduction of each unit. It will include a brief, timetable, assessment deadline, study plan (where relevant) and any further information such as technical notes, additional research and reference material that you may need in order to complete the unit.

The Course Handbook

At the start of the course, all students will be given a Course Handbook. This outlines all they need to know about the course structure and sequence and provides an outline content of each Unit.

Unit Assessment

This is the basic component of assessment. The credit value of each unit is proportional to its study time, provides weighting for the unit and allowing each unit mark to contribute proportionally to the end of year Stage mark. Assessment results are posted on line and written and verbal feedback is provided in accordance with University benchmarks. Each unit handbook publishes a timetable for assessment, a clear statement of assessment requirements, and the assessment methods appropriate to its outcomes and length of study. Assessment requirements will vary depending on the nature of the unit. They may be a specified list of percentage-weighted items or by a portfolio of evidence that might include [e.g.] coursework, oral presentations, or written submissions.

Final Qualification & Award

For the award of a Postgraduate Study students must have achieved a minimum of 180 credits. All units have a credit weighting.

Section F - Enhancing the Quality of Learning and Teaching

The course is subject to the University's rigorous quality assurance procedures which involve subject specialist and internal peer review of the course at periodic intervals,

normally of 5 years. This process ensures that the course engages with the applicable national Subject Benchmarks and references the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications.

All courses are monitored on an annual basis where consideration is given to:

- External Examiner's Reports
- Key statistics including data on retention and achievement
- Results of the Student Satisfaction Surveys
- Feedback from Student Course Representative