



UNIVERSITY FOR THE CREATIVE ARTS

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION FOR:

BA (Hons) Hand Embroidery

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION [ACADEMIC YEAR 2020/21]

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	Royal School of Needlework		
Final Award Title and Type	BA (Hons)		
Course Title	Hand Embroidery		
Course Location and Length	Campus: Royal School of Needlework	Length: 3 years	
Mode of Study	Full-time	√	Part-time
Period of Validation	2019/20 to 2023/24		
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>Along with your portfolio, the standard entry requirements* for this course are:</p> <p>One of the following:</p> <p>112 new UCAS tariff points, see accepted qualifications;</p> <p>Pass at Foundation Diploma in Art & Design (Level 3 or 4);</p> <p>Distinction, Merit, Merit at BTEC Extended Diploma;</p> <p>Merit at UAL Extended Diploma;</p> <p>112 new UCAS tariff points from an accredited Access to Higher Education Diploma in appropriate subject;</p> <p>27-30 total points in the International Baccalaureate Diploma with at least 15 IB points at Higher level, see more information about IB entry requirements.</p> <p>And four GCSE passes at grade A*-C and/or grade 4-9 including English (or Functional Skills English/Key Skills Communication Level 2).</p> <p>Other relevant and equivalent Level 3 UK and international qualifications are considered on an individual basis, and we encourage students from diverse educational backgrounds to apply.</p>			

¹ Regulated by the Higher Education Funding Council for England

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

*We occasionally make offers which are lower than the standard entry criteria, to students who have faced difficulties that have affected their performance and who were expected to achieve higher results. We consider the strength of our applicants' portfolios, as well as their grades - in these cases, a strong portfolio is especially important.

If you do not have UK qualifications, we will consider equivalent qualifications from your home country for entry onto our Foundation, Bachelor's and Master's courses. Each application we receive is considered individually.

Overall methods of assessment ³	Written exams:	Practical exams:	Coursework:
Stage 1	0%	0%	100%
Stage 2	0%	0%	100%
Stage 3	0%	0%	100%
Overall Learning & Teaching hours ⁴	Scheduled:	Independent:	Placement:
Stage 1	62.5%	37.5%	0%
	750 hours	450 hours	0 hours
Stage 2	62.5%	37.5%	0%
	750 hours	450 hours	0 hours
Stage 3	45.8%	54.2%	0%
	550 hours	650 hours	0 hours
General level of staff delivering the course ⁵	The RSN's 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 encouraged to be professionally active or engaged in research in their discipline. 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: Art & Design			
Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)			
Art & Design			

The course structure

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

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

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?
Year/Stage 1				
FHEM4001 Research and Experimentation One	4	30	Core	Core
FHEM4002 RSN Technical Hand Embroidery	4	30	Core	Core
FHEM4003 Hand Embroidery in Context	4	30	Core	Core
FHEM4004 Hand Embroidery Practice	4	30	Core	Core
Year/Stage 2				
FHEM5001 Research and Experimentation Two	5	30	Core	Core
FHEM5002 RSN Advanced Technical Hand Embroidery	5	30	Core	Core
FHEM5003 Textiles in Context	5	30	Core	Core
FHEM5004 Live Project	5	30	Core	Core
Year/Stage 3				
FHEM6002 Research and Experimentation for Major Project	6	30	Core	Core
FHEM6003 Major Project	6	60	Core	Core
FHEM6001 Contextualising Practice	6	30	Core	Core

Section B - Course Overview

Royal School of Needlework The early history of the Royal School of Needlework (RSN) is linked with the social, cultural and political history of Victorian and Edwardian Britain. The Royal School of Needlework began as the School of Art Needlework in 1872 founded by Lady Victoria Welby. The first President was Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, Queen Victoria's third daughter, known to the Royal School of Needlework as Princess Helena. The RSN, as the international centre of excellence in the art of hand embroidery has a reputation and public acknowledgement of the standard of work produced by those who graduate from it. It is this which contributes to this unique undergraduate experience.

This is a specialist full time degree programme in hand embroidery of renowned high standing worldwide. The course is only delivered by the Royal School of Needlework in their dedicated studios at Hampton Court Palace.

Study

The course is aligned to the *Conservatoire* academic model of academic delivery which requires a higher level of taught hours and student attendance, to mirror those of a professional embroidery

studio. The course has a strong academic, vocational / industry led focus whilst still allowing for the exploration of individual contexts for practice

Study on this specialist course is in small year groups with an intake which averages only 20 students per year. This enables a high level of student: tutor contact time.

Attendance is full time for a minimum of four days per week and all students will need to engage with weekend and late evening work throughout their academic year.

The RSN has outstanding industry contacts and is highly respected within couture, costume for film and theatre, art textiles and with bespoke interior design companies for the skill set and level of design knowledge of our students and graduates. Students will have the opportunity to engage with live projects and collaborations with key industry projects throughout their course.

All students have their own desk and studio space with shared access to our IT suite and specialist art and design library, RSN handling collection and archive.

Course structure and philosophy

Teaching combines experimental approaches to drawing and visual research which underpin and inform all hand embroidery practice. We teach by project and workshop, lecture and seminar with the opportunity to enter works into competitions with industry and gallery visits throughout the year.

We teach the traditional skill set of hand embroidery for one day per week in first and second year. We expect all students to engage with open experimentation to move their practice beyond technique and into creative expression. All students are expected to take risks with their creative work and move beyond the known. All students are expected to challenge their ideas and outcomes through our supportive tutorial feedback process. Our specialist technical team will guide you through new materials, processes and equipment to build your skills knowledge throughout the course.

Individual creative practice is fundamental to this course of study and is always led by primary research and drawing to inform experimental research into the diverse application of hand embroidery. Students are introduced to a wide range of associated skills to enable them to articulate their ambitions through to their final portfolio collection.

Hand Embroidery and Textile theory units in level 4 and 5 are taught by specialist academics and enable the study of hand embroidery and textiles in context. In level 6, theoretical study is taught by established practitioner tutors and academics to enable each individual to develop a critically reflective position on their emerging practice.

We have designed an inclusive curriculum which can adapt to the needs of external clients and live projects; when these can be incorporated into the schedule we do so. Live projects and competitions form a mainstay of the curriculum and are incorporated at key stages of the course. We may also offer enhancement projects throughout the year which take place outside of the main curriculum but enable individual students to build their professional network and CV.

Professional practice is taught throughout all levels of the course and we will expect students to build their own network of professional contacts through our extensive team of visiting lecturers,

live projects and collaborations. In level 6, we offer bespoke professional practice teaching to support students in their graduate career.

International recognition

The RSN has outstanding industry contacts and is highly respected within couture, costume for film and theatre, art textiles and with bespoke interior design companies for their skill set and level of design knowledge. Students will have the opportunity to engage with live projects and collaborations with key industry projects throughout their course.

The degree course has established an international profile as a leader in hand embroidery within higher education. Building from the heritage and tradition of the teaching of the Royal School of Needlework; the course has firmly established hand embroidery as contemporary creative practice; with its excellent links to industry and graduate employability.

The course is highly responsive to sector needs; working closely with our industry partners through external competitions and project collaboration. Our students and graduates are recognised as being 'highly skilled' creative practitioners who enter their chosen profession as confident and respected artisans who are adaptive and able to work autonomously, or as part of a team.

Key industry contacts include: Alexander McQueen, Hussein Chalayan, Ralph & Russo, Zandra Rhodes, Giles Deacon, Mary Katrantzou, Maddux Creative, Anne Kyrro Quinn, The New Craftsmen, Michele Carragher and Game of Thrones, Patrick Grant and E.Tautz

Guest speakers and part time Tutors: Sarah Mower MBE, Lisa Salama, Aimee Betts MA RCA, Geraldine Larkin, Patrick Grant, Dr. Nabil El-Nayal, Stephen Wright, Daniel Lismore, Crafts Council, Cockpit Arts, Jamie Chalmers – Mr X-Stitch, Professor Alice Kettle.

Section C - Course Aims

- A1 - Draw, design and make contemporary hand embroidered work within a defined context and to the professional standard of the Royal School of Needlework that explore, establish and articulate your creative philosophy and ideas
- A2 - Explore traditional and contemporary approaches to hand embroidery for a defined context. Apply visual research, design processes and innovative and original approaches to materials and contexts
- A3 - Demonstrate an understanding of the cultural, historical, industrial and commercial contexts of hand embroidery within a defined context and in relation to your own creative practice
- A4 - Develop analytical and critical skills through original research, practical and theoretical investigation, self-reflection, self and peer evaluations and independent learning
- A5 - Develop key subject specific and transferable skills, including: drawing and design skills, digital skills, specialist professional practice, verbal and visual presentation skills and engagement with live projects and competitions in preparation for graduate employment, postgraduate study and life-long learning

Section D - Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course students are able to:

Knowledge

LO1 - Draw, design and make original hand embroidered works for a defined context and to the professional standard of the Royal School of Needlework.

LO2 - Apply your advanced knowledge of the specialist discipline of hand embroidery towards your chosen professional career and/or further study

Understanding

LO3 - Understand the importance of experimentation and realisation; utilising individual approaches to visual research, drawing, design development and conceptual awareness in the creation of original and ambitious hand embroidered works to the professional standard of the Royal School of Needlework.

LO4 - Locate your creative practice of hand embroidery in a defined context using recognised academic, theoretical and professional reference points

Application

LO5 - Apply highly focused and original approaches to the development of personal research methodologies which inform your advanced practical, professional and theoretical skills

LO6 - Initiate, manage and evaluate your defined research methodologies to create original, ambitious and resolved outcomes which are at the forefront of your field and which reference the wider contexts of creative practice.

Section E - Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Learning and Teaching Strategy

As a specialist course, the BA (Hons) Degree programme teaches students in small groups which ensures the quality of their educational experience. The emphasis is on learning through making.

Study of all practical units is delivered through taught project and practice based workshops. The tutorial is a key element of learning where a student engages with reflective practice to record and present an agreed action plan through discussion with their tutor. The course is structured around art and design practice which informs the design outcomes for the technical hand embroidery and experimental hand embroidery practice.

Sustainable design is embedded within the curriculum through the teaching of the traditional craft skills of hand embroidery which has a low environmental impact through the materials and process of the discipline. Students participate in competitions and design projects which reinforce sustainability through their criteria. Sustainable approaches to design are explored through theoretical units. RSN students have engaged with the UCA Centre for Sustainable Design as part of their undergraduate research.

Research and experimentation is placed at the forefront of each stage of the course. Learning moves from instructional through the teaching of diagnostic art and design workshops, traditional hand embroidery skills and study skills through to more advanced and ambitious research which embraces innovation, and highly focused original making to a professionally recognised standard of the RSN.

The course utilises MyUCA as an online learning tool for all units.

Assessment Strategy

Assessment follows UCA Assessment and Feedback policy and offers inclusivity as all students are required to present and display works for practice based assessment. Formative assessment is timetabled and supports the students learning through verbal and written feedback. We uphold a rigorous tutorial process which supports the student through formal weekly tutorials which allow for action planning and reflective practice. This builds study skills in presentation, evaluation, time management and critical writing about their own practice.

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 Representatives