

Programme Specification

BA Fine Art

For students entering Part 1 in September 2026

UCAS Code: W101

UFFINART

UFFINARTPE

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This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	3 years
Length of Programme with placement/year abroad	BA Fine Art with Placement Experience - 4 years (internal transfer only) BA Fine Art with Year Abroad - 4 years (internal transfer only)
Accreditation	N/A
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	Fine Art and Design

Programme information and content

Your BA Fine Art brings together creative practical skills with knowledge of art history and wider cultural contexts. This three-year accelerated programme builds on your prior learning, experience and competency of art. It enables you to test, take risks and develop meaningful expertise.

Your programme equips you with tools to further develop your individual creative enquiry informed by an understanding of art history, theory and contemporary practice. It aims to foster your investigative, critically reflective and independent learning through the study and discussion of contemporary art and its global histories. Making and critical reflection come together to enable you to develop, articulate and sustain your own creative practice.

You will be guided in these aims by the diversity of staff expertise in intellectual and technical production to develop your own forms and expressions, helping you to become a skilled and confident creative practitioner.

Your learning on this programme is supported by structured study and by experimentation and creative enquiry within year-long studio modules. Your learning environment facilitates the technical, intellectual, ethical and sustainable production of art and allows you to explore the diversity of creative inquiry.

Your BA Fine Art plays a vital role in connecting how people understand and shape the world globally, and so sustainability, accessibility and social engagement are thoroughly embedded into your studies. You will explore how creative practitioners respond to and

shape our rapidly changing world and develop your ability to make creatively ambitious and responsible work.

The programme prepares you for the workplace in a diversity of modes; our graduates are equipped to sustain practices as artists, curators and writers. In addition, recent graduates have found employment in museum and gallery education, art therapy, journalism and publishing, post-production, theatre and television. The programme is excellent preparation for further study at postgraduate level. Graduates have found that the specific and transferable skills developed by the programme enable them to enter professions across the cultural field.

Part 1:	Your initial year will expand your experience and competency of art and your learning at university. You will explore the processes and practicalities of an art studio through experimentation in practical group projects, lectures, and your chosen specialist skills training. You will further develop your knowledge of the field of art history and its study, as well as wider contexts in which contemporary art practices operate.
Part 2:	You will have the opportunity to identify and investigate your own particular concerns through consolidating your independent studio practice. This is informed by relevant historical and contemporary precedents explored in seminars, lectures, extensive specialist skills training and optional study visits. Part 2 expands your knowledge of global art discourses and critiques in which contemporary art is situated. With guidance you will develop, refine and establish your intellectual and technical skills within increasingly independent studio work and situate your practice and intention in relation to art history, theory, and relevant related contexts. Here there is the opportunity for work-based placements and for you to study abroad (subject to availability).
Part 3:	Your final year provides the opportunity for you to engage and master sustained and focused studio work with a emphasis on production and presentation skills coming together in a comprehensive exhibition. You will be supported in consolidating your particular interests as independent research and inquiry culminating in a dissertation.

Programme Learning Outcomes - BA Fine Art

During the course of the Programme, you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and attributes (known as learning outcomes) For this programme, these are:

	Learning outcomes
1	Share knowledge of the diversity of art practices, and their materials, media, techniques and processes.
2	Critically reflect the relationship of art practices to their global histories, their study and their contemporary relevance.

3	Initiate self-directed processes and investigations, sustained by imagination and experimentation.
4	Acknowledge the interaction between intention, process, outcome, context and the methods of dissemination.
5	Use materials, media and techniques in informed, effective and skilful ways committing to sustainability, responsibility and safety.
6	Demonstrate informed decision-making and reflective development, with a clear position and sense of ownership in relation to the produced artwork, its context and intentions.
7	Select and present art practices and/or their outcomes with appropriate and effective methods, mindful of dissemination, global context and audiences.
8	Apply concise written and oral communication skills, including argumentation and discussion of viewpoints, and the use of appropriate IT, to write, present and visualise information within academic conventions.
9	Integrate and share skills and knowledge flexibly and imaginatively in a variety of contexts, both as individual and collaboratively as part of a team.
10	Advocate resourceful and ethical learning in different contexts and situations, both within and beyond the field of art.

You will be expected to engage in learning activities to achieve these Programme learning outcomes. Assessment of your modules will reflect these learning outcomes and test how far you have met the requirements for your degree.

To pass the Programme, you will be required to meet the progression or accreditation and award criteria set out below.

In addition to the learning outcomes stated above if you are on a placement or study abroad programme you will have the opportunity to develop the following learning outcome:

Additional Learning outcomes	
Study Abroad	
By the end of the Study Abroad Programme, students will have adapted to international study contexts in order to achieve the required academic outcomes determined by the host institution.	
Placement	
N/A	

Module information			
Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.			
Part 1 Modules:			
Module	Name	Credits	Level
FA1AP1	Art Practice 1	20	4

FA1ART	Art Studio	40	4
FA1DR1	Drawing	20	4
FA1HA1	History of Art 1	20	4
FA1HA2	History of Art 2	20	4

Students with English as a second language who enter the programme with IELTS (or equivalent) below 7.0 will be required to take an additional non-credit-bearing language course provided via the Academic English Programme.

Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
FA2IART	Art Studio 2b	60	5
FA2ISAP	Situated Art Practice	20	5

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the School of Art.

Modules during a placement year or study year (if applicable):

Students on one of the 4 year programmes will take one 120 credit module in either Work Experience or Study Abroad.

Students may be permitted to undertake a placement year or a study abroad year between Part 2 and Part 3 of the programme. In such cases students will transfer to a 4-year programme. The placement or study abroad year should not normally be shorter than nine months full-time.

If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

Part 3 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
FA3ART	Art Studio 3	100	6
FA3DIS	Art dissertation	20	6

Placement opportunities

Placements:

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a credit-bearing placement as part of your Programme. This will form all or part of an optional module. You will be required to find and secure a placement opportunity, with the support of the University

Study Abroad:

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a Study Abroad placement during your Programme. This is subject to you meeting academic conditions detailed in the Programme Handbook, including obtaining the relevant permissions from your School, and

the availability of a suitable Study Abroad placement. If you undertake a Study Abroad placement, further arrangements will be discussed and agreed with you.

Optional modules:

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your programme can be found online in the Course Catalogue. Details of optional modules for each part, including any additional costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Teaching and learning delivery:

You will experience a range of approaches to teaching which are tailored to the learning outcomes and the overall objectives of the programme.

Student-centered learning in Art is situated within the art studio, your shared learning space, where you study with and amongst fellow art students; this core learning environment is informed by group work, collaboration and peer exchange, fostering inclusive and diverse debate.

In Part 1 your learning will be expanded through set practical projects, supported by group and one-to-one feedback and weekly seminars. You will have the opportunity to be inducted in workshop facilities, with technical and Health & Safety training. In addition, there are directed study visits to museums and galleries. You will be introduced to academic guidance given through verbal and written feedback as part of a series of scheduled meetings with your Academic Tutor.

In Part 2 your learning will be increasingly self-directed, supported by further training in skills and the deepening of your expertise through exhibiting your artwork, the visiting artist lectures and optional study visits. At this Part you have choices of complimentary modules alongside your core studio module to support your own individual study path, your interests and strengths.

In Part 3 you consolidate your learning, mastering your skills and knowledge through developing a comprehensive exhibition and written dissertation.

Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

For the BA Fine Art there are dedicated resources available online via our virtual learning environment, Blackboard, including video channels of recorded artist lectures.

The scheduled teaching and learning activity hours and amount of technology enhanced learning activity for your programme will depend upon your module combination. In addition, you will undertake some self-scheduled teaching and learning activities, designed

by and/or involving staff, which give some flexibility for you to choose when to complete them. You will also be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module study hours including contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details

N/A

Assessment

In Art assessments are authentic to support learning through diverse and inclusive strategies, to provide real world professional practice and to prepare you for the workplace.

Summative assessment points are all 100% coursework as a combination of a range of different assessment methods.

Practical modules support accumulative learning documented through portfolios of practice, combined with written reflective elements, and in larger credit modules, an end-of year group exhibition of your artwork. Our practice-based assessment methods provide inclusive and diverse combinations that enable students to demonstrate their skills and knowledge relevant to their individual creative practice and strengths and are supported through detailed assessment handbooks.

Academic research, writing and presentation skills are captured alongside knowledge acquisition through journals, essays, and reflective reports, culminating in written dissertations.

Formative assessment as linked feedback and feedforward in large-credit practical modules consists of a series of exhibitions and a mid-module rehearsal of the summative assessment.

Formative assessments include a range of methods to build assessment literacy and competency, including assessment scheduling and briefings, self-assessment based on rubrics, peer-review, presentations, planning and drafting of written work, and revision of samples of previous good practice.

Both summative and formative assessment volume and timing are distributed evenly across semesters and shared from the beginning of the academic year.

Timely feedback and feedforward are both written and verbal:

In practical modules it is ongoing and continuous through one-to-one and small group tutorials; every learning activity includes an embedded feedforward element.

In 20 credit modules feedback is attached to formative assignments and feedforward tutorials support planning towards summative assessment.

Academic Tutorials scheduled across the year help you acknowledge, consolidate and act on formative and summative feedback.

Progression

Part 1

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 1, a student will normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain an overall weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1;
- (ii) Obtain a mark of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in modules amounting to 120 credits. (A Fail in a Pass/Fail module will be treated as not meeting the minimum threshold requirement for progression or classification. Pass/fail modules are excluded from weighted average calculations but must be passed to avoid failure of the Part or degree.)

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must achieve a threshold performance.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 1 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Students are able to transfer from a Joint or Major/Minor Honours programme to a Single Honours programme in one of their joint subject areas at the end of Part 1, subject to:

- Meeting the University Threshold Standard at the end of Part 1; and
- Achieving marks of at least 40% in at least 40 credits of modules (e.g., 2 x 20 credit modules) in the subject to which they wish to transfer; and
- Meeting any programme-specific progression rules for the Part 1 Single Honours Programme to which they wish to transfer.

NB Students taking a Major/Minor programme may only transfer to a Single Honours programme in the Major subject and must meet the above requirements.

Students should seek advice about the titles of programmes they may be eligible to transfer to.

Students who transfer from a Joint or Major/Minor Honours programme to a Single Honours programme may not have taken all of the Part 1 modules listed in the Single Honours Programme Specification. The modules which they have taken will be shown on their Diploma Supplement.

Part 2

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (ii) Obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits. (A Fail in a Pass/Fail module will be treated as not meeting the minimum threshold

requirement for progression or classification. Pass/fail modules are excluded from weighted average calculations but must be passed to avoid failure of the Part or degree.)

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student must achieve a threshold performance.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 2 qualifies a student for a Diploma of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Professional/placement year

Students are required to pass the professional placement year/study abroad year in order to progress on the programme which incorporates the professional placement year/study abroad year. Students who fail the professional placement year/study abroad year transfer to the non-placement year version of the programme.

Classification

Bachelors' degrees

The University's honours classification scheme is based on the following:

Mark Interpretation

70% - 100% First class

60% - 69% Upper Second class

50% - 59% Lower Second class

40% - 49% Third class

35% - 39% Below Honours Standard

0% - 34% Fail

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is:

Three year programmes:

Part 2: one-third

Part 3: two-thirds

Four year programmes, including study abroad / placement year

Part 2: one-third

Study abroad/Placement year: not included in the classification

Part 3: two-thirds

Details of the classification method is given in detail in the Assessment Handbook under:

- Section 17: Awards (Bachelor's), or
- Section 18: Awards (Integrated Master's programmes). Students who do not progress to Part 4 of the Integrated Master's will normally be subject to the method detailed under Section 17: Awards (Bachelor's)

Please note that there may be a specific version of the above for your year of entry.

Additional costs of the programme

The Department of Art houses its own art supplies shop that provides a range of materials at subsidised prices. Equipment and software for video and digital media practices are all available to hire at no cost through our student media resource. Due to the individual nature of studio practice, the cost of materials throughout your programme will vary depending on your choice of media. At Part 1 most materials are provided by the department except where students wish to use specialist or unusual materials of their choice. In subsequent years we would suggest an approximate budget of £200 per year to cover basics. For the final year exhibition, you may wish to invest more in materials. This is not a necessary requirement and advice should be sought from the module convenor. However, a reasonable budgetary expectation would be an additional £200. In addition, it is recommended that you budget approximately £100 per year for optional exhibition and museum trips.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. Estimates were calculated in 2025.

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

BA Fine Art for students entering Part 1 in session 2026/27

25 June 2025

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