

Programme Specification

BA Art and History of Art

For students entering Part 1 in September 2027

UCAS Code: VW31

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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	4 years
Accreditation	N/A
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	Fine Art and Design; History of Art, Architecture and Design

Programme information and content

This unique four-year programme affords, time, focus and resources to develop meaningful expertise across two subjects. Your BA Art & History of Art programme brings together creative practical skills in Art with the academic study of the History of Art, helping you to become a skilful and informed creator and thinker.

The programme aims to provide you with tools to make, present and analyse art, its histories, and its sites of encounter. It fosters investigative, critically reflective and independent learning through the study, discussion and practice of art from a range of periods and contexts. You will be equipped with the tools to express your creativity and develop your understanding of wider social, political, cultural, and ecological contexts and practices.

The programme plays a vital role in connecting how people understand and shape the world, and so sustainability, accessibility and social engagement are thoroughly embedded into your studies. You will have access to the University's broad range of archives, collections and museums and your learning will be informed by these collections. You will explore how creative practitioners respond to and shape our rapidly changing world and develop your ability to make historically engaged and creatively ambitious work.

The historical and theoretical syllabus aims to provide a framework for examining visual culture and the changing categories of art, in different places and times with a focus on the contemporary. It fosters a critical understanding of the relationship between diverse conceptions of art, visual artefacts and global cultures, and those held elsewhere in other periods, promoting a conception of history of art as a dynamic discipline encompassing divergent approaches and views.

As critically informed art practitioners and scholars of art history you will gain the employability and entrepreneurial skills needed to start your career in the creative industries or pursue postgraduate studies.

Part 1:	In Art you are introduced you to a range of art making approaches and current discourses through a series of practical projects in different media. History of Art introduces you to a range of current and historical art practices, within the context of their surrounding discourses, through a framework of lectures, projects, and museum and gallery visits.
Part 2:	Part 2 In Art you are provided with the opportunity to develop your own art project in the studio guided by a series of individual skills training. History of Art provides you with the opportunity to identify and investigate particular concerns and develop writing and research skills, informed by relevant historical and contemporary precedents. Part 2i In Art you have the resources and opportunities to build on the intellectual and technical skills through increasingly independent art practice, building links with your studies of art history and theory. History of Art provides you with the opportunity to build on the intellectual and technical skills through increasingly independent research. There are opportunities for study abroad and work-based learning (subject to availability).
Part 3:	Art facilitates your mastery of a sustained and focused studio practice with an emphasis on independent research, critical reflection and presentation of your own position. History of Art gives you the opportunity to engage in a sustained and focused independent research project culminating in a dissertation.

Programme Learning Outcomes - BA Art and History of 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 histories, their study and their contemporary relevance.
3	Acknowledge the interaction between intention, process, outcome, context and the methods of dissemination.
4	Understand and engage with the concepts, values and debates informing and shaping the study and analysis of art and artefacts, with awareness of their limitations, including historical, contextual or geopolitical perspectives.

5	Initiate self-directed processes and investigations, sustained by imagination and experimentation.
6	Use materials, media and techniques in informed, effective and skilful ways, committing to sustainability, responsibility and safety.
7	Select and apply different approaches to account for, describe and communicate the formation and encounter of art practices and artefacts, mindful of context and readership.
8	Implement different methods of information gathering and research, including analysis, reflection, evaluation as well as the communication of interpretations.
9	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.
10	Integrate and share skills and knowledge flexibly and imaginatively in a variety of contexts, both as an individual and collaboratively as part of a team.
11	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	
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
FA1ART	Art Studio	40	4
FA1DR1	Drawing	20	4
FA1HA1	History of Art 1	20	4
FA1HA2	History of Art 2	20	4
MC1PTP	Presenting the Past: an Introduction to Museum Studies	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
FA2ART	Art Studio 2	40	5
FA2HA3	History of Art 3	20	5
FA2HA4	History of Art 4	20	5

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

Part 2 (continued) modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
FA2IART	Art Studio 2b	60	5

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Reading School of Art or from an approved list.

Students taking a semester abroad in Semester 1 will take FA2IARS instead of FA2IART. They will also take the FA2SAA 20-credit Study Abroad module in Semester 1.

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
FA3ARTB	Art Studio 3b	80	6
FA3HAD	Art and History of Art Dissertation	40	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 of the two subjects you will study and the overall objectives of the joint 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.

History of Art is taught through lectures, seminars, including fieldworks and study trips. Visiting lectures provide a context extending your knowledge and understanding of contemporary art and professional practice.

In Part 1, your learning will be guided through set practical projects, group and one-to-one feedback and weekly seminars. You will have the opportunity be inducted in workshop facilities, technical and Health & Safety training. Your studies of History of Art includes introductory art history lectures and seminars, and collection and museums -based learning, as well as optional study visits to museums and galleries. Further academic guidance is given through oral and written feedback as part of a series of scheduled meetings with your Academic Tutor.

In Part 2 and 2i 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 international study visits to museums and galleries. At this part you have increased optionality to support your own individual study path including both art history and art studio modules. This includes options for professional placements and study abroad.

In Part 3 you will be supported to extend your independent learning in Art towards mastering your skills and knowledge in a final exhibition. Alongside this you will develop a larger piece of self-directed research as art history dissertation.

For the BA Art & History of Art Programme there are dedicated resources available online via our virtual learning environment, Blackboard, including online Psychology discussion boards and video channels of recorded artist lectures.

Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

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 and History of 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 is 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; and
- (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 considering transferring to another programme should seek guidance from their designated Support Centre in the first instance.

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 2i, 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.

Part 2i

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

- (i) Obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2i; and
- (ii) Obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits taken in Part 2i; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits,

except that a mark below 30% may be condoned in no more than 20 credits of modules owned by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

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

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:

Four year programmes

Part 2: one-sixth

Part 2i: one-sixth

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 2026.

Students may consider purchasing a laptop to help support their learning. Information on recommended device specifications can be found on the [DTS Student Hub](#).

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 Art and History of Art for students entering Part 1 in session 2027/28
1 September 2026
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