

BA: Fine Art

UCAS code: W150/E150

Awarding Institution:
Teaching Institution:
Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s):
Faculty of Arts and Humanities
For students entering Part 1 in 2002
Programme Director: Professor S Buckley
Programme Adviser: Professor S Buckley
Board of Studies: Fine Art
Accreditation: The University of Reading

The University of Reading
The University of Reading
Art and Design
Programme length: 4 years
Date of specification: April 2003

Summary of programme aims

The programme aims to provide a framework, both practical and intellectual, for the development of a personal practice in Art.

Transferable skills

The University's Strategy for Teaching and Learning has identified a number of generic transferable skills which all students are expected to have developed by the end of their degree programme. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to enhance their skills relating to career management, communication (both written and oral), information handling, numeracy, problem-solving, team working and use of information technology.

Within the Fine Art programme students will develop visual awareness and dexterity. They will extend their abilities in visual, oral and written communication including the use of presentational aids. Students will learn to set their own goals, identify and independently pursue their aims. Students will develop research skills including the ability to locate and assemble visual and written material, they will engage in evaluative analysis of visual and critical sources. They will acquire basic knowledge of a range of materials, tools, machinery and technological skills. Students will extend their experience of working to a brief, meeting deadlines, planning, team working, problem solving and career management.

Programme content

The profile which follows states which modules must be taken (the compulsory part), (together with optional Fine Art modules for Part 1). Part 1 students must choose which additional modules they wish to take from within the department and the faculty to make 120 credits in Part 1. The number of credits for each module is shown after its title.

Part 1 introduces the range of contemporary art practice and a guided introduction to the development of a personal practice across media. Part 2 provides students with the opportunity to identify and investigate particular (individual) interests and concerns through practical engagement in their own studio spaces and to relate their studio work to relevant contemporary issues through the Study Visit abroad, seminars and lecture programmes. Of the 120 credits in Part 2, five are taken up by Career Management Skills. Part 3I provides the opportunity to build on the intellectual and technical skills of the second year through increasingly independent development of work in the studio and through an exploration of the discourse surrounding contemporary art and culture. Part 3F encourages the focused development of an individual body of work in the studio and the location of studio practice in relation to contemporary art and culture.

Part 1 (three terms)	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
<i>Compulsory modules</i>		
Mod Code <i>Module Title</i>		
FA1MP <i>Multimedia and Painting</i>	40	C
<i>Optional modules:</i>		
Mod Code <i>Module Title</i>		
FA1CS <i>Contextual Studies</i>	20	C
FA1SP <i>Skills & Processes</i>	20	C
Part 2 (three terms)	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
<i>Compulsory modules</i>		
Mod Code <i>Module Title</i>		
FA2S1 <i>Studio including Career Managements Skills</i>	80	I
	<i>Of the 80 credits in Part 2 Studio, five are taken up by Career management skills</i>	
FA2CS <i>Contextual Studies</i>	20	I
FA2RS <i>Research Seminar</i>	20	I
Part 3I (Intermediate, three terms)	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
<i>Compulsory modules</i>		
Mod Code <i>Module Title</i>		
FA3IS1 <i>Studio</i>	80	I
FA3ICS <i>Contextual Studies</i>	20	I
FA3IRS <i>Research Seminar</i>	20	H
Part 3F (Finals, three terms)	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
Mod Code <i>Module Title</i>		
FA3FS1 <i>Studio</i>	100	H
FA3FCPS <i>Contextualised Personal Study</i>	20	H

Progression requirements

Part 1

Students must obtain a minimum of 40% in each Fine Art module taken and must achieve an average mark of 40% in the 120 credits for this Examination, with not less than 30% in any module save that a mark of less than 30% in 20 credits may be condoned provided that the candidate has attended with reasonable diligence and has not been absent from the examination without reasonable explanation.

FA1MP	Students must obtain a mark of at least 40%
FA1CS	Students must obtain a mark of at least 40%
FA1SP	Students must obtain a mark of at least 40%

Part 2

FA2S1	Students must obtain a mark of at least 40%
FA2CS	Though marked, the assessment of coursework in this module is diagnostic and does not count toward the final degree classification.

FA2RS Though marked, the assessment of coursework in this module is diagnostic and does not count toward the final degree classification.

Part 3I

FA3IS1 Students must obtain a mark of at least 40%

FA3ICS Though marked, the assessment of coursework in this module is diagnostic and does not count toward the final degree classification.

FA3IRS Students must achieve not less than 30% in this module. A mark of less than 30% may be condoned provided that the candidate has passed the course with reasonable diligence and has not been absent from the examination without reasonable cause. Students will need to achieve an overall average of 40% in 120 credits taken in the examination.

Summary of teaching and assessment

At Part 1 teaching is by workshops, tutorials, seminars, lectures and visits to museums and galleries. At Parts 2, 3I and 3F teaching is by tutorials, seminars and lectures. Technical assistance and instruction occurs appropriately at the students request. A study trip abroad takes place in Part 2 and directed visits to museums and galleries take place throughout the programme. The Contextualised Personal Study is supervised through tutorials with students' personal tutors and the research seminar co-ordinator.

In Part 1 Compulsory module FA1MP, formative assessment takes place at presentations of work when students receive written/verbal feedback. The Part 1 assessment takes place at the end of the module and is by examination in the form of a display of coursework. Part 1 optional modules are assessed by coursework. In Parts 2 and 3I studio modules there are two types of assessment, an Interim and a Part assessment. Interim Assessments are formative and take place mid-module where a diagnostic mark is achieved. The Part Assessment occurs at the end of the module, the results contributing to the Final Degree classification. At Part 3F assessment is by examination in the form of an exhibition. In all studio modules assessment is by coursework selected and presented by the student. Research Seminar, Contextual Studies and Contextualised Personal Study are assessed by coursework. Full details are given in module descriptions.

The conventions for classification are included in the Programme Handbook but you should note that weighting for Part 2, Part 3I and Part 3F for classification purposes is:-
Part 2 10% (Studio), Part 3I 20% (10% Studio, 10% Research Seminar), Part 3F 70% (60% Studio Exhibition, 10% Contextualised Personal Study).

Admission requirements

Applications from mature and international students are welcome. We recommend you contact our Admissions Tutor or departmental secretary to discuss your individual circumstances and/or arrange a visit to the department. All home students are interviewed with their portfolio of practical work.

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained:

Grade C or better in English in GCSE; and achieved

UCAS Tariff: Points score of between 80-300pts

International Baccalaureat: 24-30pts

Irish Leaving Certificate: BBBB to CCCC

Two AS grades are accepted in place of one A-Level

Admissions Tutor: Terry Edmond

Support for students and their learning

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support includes IT Services, which has several hundred computers and the University Library, which across its three sites holds over a million volumes, subscribes to around 4,000 current periodicals, has a range of electronic sources of information and houses the Student Access to Independent Learning (S@IL) computer-based teaching and learning facilities. There are language laboratory facilities both for those students studying on a language degree and for those taking modules offered by the Institution-wide Language Programme. Student guidance and welfare support is provided by Personal Tutors, the Careers Advisory Service, the University's Special Needs Advisor, Study Advisors, Hall Wardens and the Students' Union.

In Part 1 a studio space is shared. In Parts 2, 3I and 3F individual studio space is provided for every student. In addition, several bookable spaces are available for installation and time based work. There are sculpture, wood and print workshops, two darkrooms with equipment for black and white processing and there are in-house computer resources. The department is equipped for digital, video and Super 8 film and editing. There are directed visits to museums and galleries and a study trip abroad that takes place in Part 2.

Support for students in their studies is provided through the University's Personal Academic Record (PAR) Scheme, in which students meet their personal tutors regularly to review their progress.

Each student is issued with a Programme Handbook.

Career prospects

In addition to working as artists, graduates in Fine Art have found employment in theatre, television, community services, art therapy, art writing, journalism, publishing, post production, curating, gallery and museum administration, and even popular music. A number of students proceed to postgraduate study or teacher training.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements

There is a study visit abroad in Part 2. There are opportunities to study in North America under the student exchange scheme at Rutgers University and Ottawa University and an Erasmus exchange with L'Ecole des Beaux Arts, Dijon. Individual student interest in work experience and public exhibition of work is supported through staff advice and contacts.

Educational aims of the programme

The programme aims to:

- provide the practical and intellectual framework for each student to develop a personal visual practice.
- encourage the development of creative and practical skills.
- promote a questioning attitude to their own work
- develop students' confidence in their ability to learn effectively both independently and in co-operation with others
- provide the opportunity to identify and examine relevant critical debates
- make connections between students' own work and critical discourses
- facilitate the acquisition of knowledge, experience and attitudes necessary for students' professional development as artists, lifelong learning and the diversity of employment opportunities

Programme Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities and other attributes in the following areas:

Knowledge and Understanding

<p>A. Knowledge and understanding of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. relevant practical processes2. the technical language of the subject.3. the necessary negotiation between intention and realisation of works of art4. key issues and artists, movements and current urgencies relevant to their own practice

<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</p> <p>I and 2 -In Part 1 all students engage in both painting and sculpture / media. There are optional introductory modules in skills and processes and contextual studies which introduce students to processes and vocabulary of the subject. Work is directed through tutorials and group tutorials. Specialist knowledge and deeper understanding is fostered in Part 2, 3I, and 3F where studio teaching and oral feedback is through tutorials, studio seminars, presentations and technical demonstration and exemplified in research seminars contextual studies and talks by visiting artists. 3.- is exemplified in talks by visiting artists and through lectures. It is developed in students own practice through tutorials and studio seminars. 4.- is of particular focus in research seminars fostered through guided selection of subject for research and independent study including the Contextualised Personal Study in Part 3F.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>At Part 1 knowledge is examined through a display of studio-work with an accompanying statement /notebook in the students absence and in contextual studies through coursework. In parts 2 and 3I knowledge is tested through individual displays of studio work together with a written statement and dialogue with tutors. Research seminars and contextual studies are assessed through coursework.</p>

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills – able to:

1. analyse the visual world
2. engage in creative and speculative propositions
3. initiate, evaluate and progress intentions
4. convey ideas through visual and written means and resources
5. plan, organise and present an independent enquiry

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

1. - Is exemplified through lectures, seminars, tutorials and studio seminars throughout the programme and the Part 2 compulsory study visit abroad. 2. - Lectures and seminars explore examples of creative and speculative thought, this is also an intrinsic part of all tutorials and studio seminars. 3.- Tutorials in Parts 1 and 2 focus on the initiation and progression of work, in Parts 3I and 3F the emphasis is upon the evaluation and progression of intentions. Lectures by visiting artists exemplify differing approaches. 4.- Tutorials and studio seminars explore the clarity of ideas in students' work throughout the programme. Documentary presentations of work in Part 3F extend abilities in oral presentation and the use of presentational aids. Written skills are developed through studio statements, contextualised personal study, research seminars and contextual studies, including use of the internet and the library. 5.- Is emphasised throughout the programme in tutorials and particularly in Part 3F through the final exhibition and contextualised personal study.

Assessment

1, 2, 3 and 4 are constantly assessed in all parts of the programme through coursework, 5.- is particularly emphasised in Part 3F through the Final exhibition and the contextualised personal study.

C. Practical skills – able to:

1. Learn and work within practical processes with due regard to health and safety implications
2. Judge appropriate media and materials for the task and develop skills through practice and research
3. .Have basic knowledge relating to a range of tools, materials, processes and common IT skills.
4. Identify and locate relevant resources e.g. galleries, texts, internet sites.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

1.- Is introduced through technical demonstration and tutorials in Part 1 then developed through increasingly independent work in the rest of the programme. 2.- Through technical demonstration, tutorials, studio seminars, lectures by visiting artists and first hand study of works of art and the Part 2 study visit abroad. 3.- Through induction to workshops in Part 1 and technical demonstration throughout the programme. IT skills developed through technical demonstration, the research seminars and contextual studies and in the Part 3F documentary presentation and contextualised personal study. 4.- Through tutorials, Part 2 study visit abroad, research seminar and contextual studies.

Assessment

Basic knowledge relating to a range of tools, materials and processes is explicitly assessed in Part 1 'Skills and Processes', 1-3 are assessed constantly throughout the programme through presentation of studio work. IT skills are not explicitly assessed but are necessary for the successful completion of the course particularly in research seminar, contextual studies and contextualised personal study and career management.

D. Transferable skills – able to:

1. Work with visual awareness and dexterity.
2. Engage in creative and speculative propositions.
3. Initiate, evaluate and progress work independently.
4. Give oral and visual presentations.
5. Use a range of tools and machinery.
6. Use IT (word processing and the internet).
7. Work as a part of a team.
8. Manage time effectively and meet deadlines
9. Plan their career.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

1 and 5 are embedded throughout the programme, introduced through both compulsory and optional modules in Part 1 then extended through tutorials, studio seminars and technical demonstration in Parts 2, 3I, and 3F. 2. and 3.- Embedded throughout the course through tutorials, studio seminars, research seminars and contextual study and in the documentary presentation and contextualised personal study in Part 3F as students take increasing responsibility for their own learning. 4. - Embedded throughout the programme, of particular focus in Part 2 and Part 3I presentations, in Part 3F documentary presentations and Final exhibition, exemplified through contextual studies and visiting lecturers. 6. - Use of word processing and the internet is embedded in research seminars and contextual studies. 7. - Plays a key role in Part 2 on the compulsory study visit abroad and in Part 3F in planning and preparation for final exhibitions. 8.- Time management is essential for the effective completion of the programme. 9. - Career planning is introduced in Part 2, emphasised in Part 3I and of particular focus in Part 3F.

Assessment

1-3 are assessed throughout in coursework. 4.- Visual presentations are assessed throughout the programme, oral presentations are assessed in Parts 2 and 3I, documentary presentations in Part 3F are not explicitly assessed. 5.- Assessed in Part 1 optional module 'Skills and Processes', in Parts 2, 3I, and 3F this is not assessed directly but effective use of appropriate equipment will enhance performance. 6, 7 and 8 are not assessed directly but their effective use will enhance performance. 9.- Is assessed in Part 2.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably expect to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in module and programme handbooks.