

# **University of Plymouth**

Faculty of Arts Humanities and Business

School of Art Design and Architecture

## **Programme Specification**

### **MA Fine Art**

Change of Award Title Approved: 10.12.20

Updated by Minor Changes: 21.04.21

**1. Final Award Title: MA Fine Art**

**Level 7 intermediate award titles:**

Postgraduate Diploma  
Postgraduate Certificate

**UCAS code:** N/A

**HECOS code:** 100059 / fine art

- 2. Awarding Institution:** University of Plymouth  
**Teaching institution(s):** University of Plymouth

- 3. Accrediting body(ies)**  
N/A

**4. Distinctive Features of the Programme and the Student Experience**

The MA Fine Art offers a number of distinctive features, which are variously evident throughout the course:

- MA Fine Art provides a multi-disciplinary programme for arts practitioners to develop their skills, knowledge and understanding across the wide and discursive range of methods, techniques, media, and approaches that contribute to contemporary arts and its changing and growing contexts and audiences.
- It enables students to explore, reflect upon, propose, negotiate and establish their own artistic identity through critical engagement with ideas, concepts and traditions through group, collaborative and individual learning. Crucially, the student is at the centre of her/his learning, but brings a wealth of experiences - professional and personal - to contribute to the dynamic and supportive learning environment of the group, whilst also drawing upon the diverse range of staff expertise and research interests.
- The programme emphasises negotiation as a key strategy, and this gives the students a high level of self-direction as reflective practitioners. The process of self-evaluation of their negotiated aims and objectives places students in an active role in terms of learning and assessment. For CPD students negotiation can take the form of aims and intentions specific to their professional context needs.
- The MA Fine Art programme is distinctive in that it offers a two year Extended Full-time (EFT) mode of study (2 x 30 weeks) in line with European models for Masters provision (Bologna 2<sup>nd</sup> Cycle). Students can also study part-time (PT) over 3 years (3 x 30 weeks) which enables Continuing Professional Development (CPD). EFT students study for a minimum of 3 days per week and PT students study for a minimum of 2 days per week.

- The programme places emphasis on the students' own research interests and themes, and through the supervisory process these are aligned with the research interests and foci of staff, drawn from the Fine Art subject team.
- Students are able to negotiate the incorporation of professionally commissioned projects and residencies as well as work-based learning/placements into their MA Project, and to work with external agencies to realise their projects.
- The programme maintains international links through field trips, staff research, and staff membership of pan-European educational bodies. There are also opportunities for Erasmus exchange in the International Exchange module.

## 5. Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Group(s)

QAA and SEEC Masters Level Descriptors

## 6. Programme Structure

Programme structure and modules with credit and award requirements for MA Fine Art are as follows:

### Year One EFT

<i>Mandatory (core) modules</i>	<i>Level 7 credits</i>	<i>Option modules</i>
MAC 707 Contemporary Art Practice 1	60	
MAC 708 Contemporary Art Practice 2	60	

### Year Two EFT

MAC 709 MA Project	60	
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### Year One PT

<i>Mandatory (core) modules</i>	<i>Level 7 credits</i>	<i>Option modules</i>
MAC 707 Contemporary Art Practice 1	60	

### Year Two PT

MAC 708 Contemporary Art Practice 2	60	
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### Year Three PT

MAC 709 MA Project	60	
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**Award requirements:** students require 180 level 7 MA CAP credits.

**Award:** Masters

**Award Title:** MA Fine Art

**Award requirements:** students require 120 level 7 credits.

**Award:** Postgraduate Diploma

**Award requirements:** students require 60 level 7 credits.

**Award:** Postgraduate Certificate

## **7. Programme Aims**

1. Maintain and continue to develop a learning environment appropriate to postgraduate study in the field of contemporary art
2. Provide high-quality teaching, underpinned by innovative staff research, scholarship, professional practice and artistic research
3. To encourage students' engagement, learning and professional development within broader cultural and social contexts through negotiated art projects
4. Enable students to achieve a high level of performance in their art practice through self-directed learning and engaging in research opportunities appropriate to the award of a masters degree
5. Enhance the quality of students' art practice through the development of critical enquiry, speculative and innovative thinking and making, and realised through appropriate experimentation, processes, approaches, methods, ideas, artworks and texts
6. Introduce students to the methods, approaches and strategies of artistic research.
7. Enable students to develop and test an effective conceptual, contextual, and critical framework for their art practice informed by disciplinary perspectives and cultural, social, ethical and political contexts
8. Widen participation to include all those who can benefit from the programme

## **8. Programme Intended Learning Outcomes**

### **8.1. Knowledge and understanding**

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

- 1) a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of new insights much of which is informed by the fields of critical theory, and at the forefront of contemporary art practice
- 2) a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to their own research or advanced art practice
- 3) continue to advance their knowledge and understanding and to develop new skills to a high level
- 4) originality in the application of knowledge, together with an ethical and practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge within artistic research

### **8.2. Cognitive and intellectual skills**

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

- 1) the ability to deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgments and communicate their conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences
- 2) the ability to evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline of contemporary arts practice
- 3) the ability to evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, to propose and test new methods and forms of artistic research
- 4) an appropriate conceptual and critical framework for their art practice

### **8.3. Key and transferable skills**

On successful completion graduates should have developed the ability to:

- 1) self-directed learning and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level
- 2) the ability to critically evaluate their art practice against self-determined criteria
- 3) a high level of communication skills in appropriate visual/spatial/material/sonic and verbal/written modes

### **8.4. Employment related skills**

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

- 1) the exercise of initiative and personal reliability
- 2) decision-making skills in complex and unpredictable situations
- 3) the independent learning skills required for continuing professional and careers development

### **8.5. Practical skills**

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

- 1) the ability to make creative use of the relationship between practice and theory and generated innovative responses to problems and issues
- 2) flexibility and effectiveness in the application of technical knowledge and expertise in the field of contemporary arts practice
- 3) exploratory and experimental approaches to ideas, methods, processes and material investigation

## **9. Admissions Criteria, including APCL, APEL and Disability Service arrangements**

Qualifications: Applicants will be expected to have either of the following-

BA or BSc in a related subject or equivalent

Applicants are normally interviewed by two members of staff, with portfolio (physical or digital), containing developmental and finished work; sketchbooks; critically annotated workbooks outlining the processes of research, ideas; samples of critical writing, and a written proposal for MA study. In the case of CPD applicants the interview team would expect to discuss the applicant's intentions in relation to their professional context and their expectations for development through a mode of study.

Disability Service arrangements are as per standard University practice. Applicants can access information at:

<https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/student-life/services/student-services/disability-anddyslexia/applicants>

Overseas students, if unavailable for interview, can be selected through the production of an electronic portfolio and a skype interview, and are required to have achieved a IELTS English score of 6.5.

Applicants with Accredited Prior Learning or Accredited Prior Experiential Learning are considered on an individual basis according to the University regulations framework. We welcome applicants with APL or APEL because of the diverse experiences and contributions they can bring to the course whilst recognising that their needs may differ from standard entry students.

## **10. Progression routes/criteria for progression to Final and Intermediate**

### **Awards**

N/A

## **11. Non Standard Regulations**

All modules are assessed on a pass/fail basis, and awards are unclassified. All 60 credit modules are non compensatable.

Student assessment marks will remain provisional until they have been considered and ratified at the relevant Subject Assessment Panel. Progression decisions remain provisional until they have been considered and agreed at the relevant PGT Board.

## **12. Transitional Arrangements for existing students looking to progress onto the programme**

N/A

## **Appendices**

## Programme Specification Mapping (PGT)

<b>Programme Intended Learning Outcomes Map</b>	<b>MA Fine Art</b>		
<b>Core Programme Intended Learning Outcomes</b>	<b>Module Aims (MA) and Programme Aims (PA)</b>	<b>SEEC</b>	<b>Related Core Modules where taught &amp; assessed</b>
<b>Knowledge and Understanding</b> On successful completion postgraduates should have developed:			
- a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of new insights much of which is informed by the fields of critical theory, and at the forefront of contemporary art practice	enable students to develop and test an effective conceptual, contextual, and critical framework for their art practice informed by disciplinary perspectives and cultural, social, ethical and political contexts (PA7)	A,B,C,E,L O,P,Q	MAC 707 MAC 708 MAC 709
- a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to their own research or advanced art practice	to enable students to further explore and realise [...] ideas through practice in an individual or collaborative project utilising appropriate processes, methods and approaches (MA)	A,C,G,O H,J,L	MAC 707 MAC 708
- continue to advance their knowledge and understanding and to develop new skills to a high level	to develop an understanding of the motives, intentions and ideologies which frame and inform art practice and develop tools of analysis and critical questioning in order to challenge such frames (MA)	A,C,E,K	MAC 707 MAC 708
- originality in the application of knowledge, together with an ethical and practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge within artistic research	to enable students to apply knowledge through undertaking artistic research, and for sustained analysis, critical reflection and evaluation (MA)	A,C,E,F	MAC 709
<b>Cognitive and intellectual skills</b> On successful completion postgraduates should have			



developed:			
- the ability to deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgments and communicate their conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences	to enable students to present outcomes through critically considered and professional strategies for dissemination including critically reflective writing (MA)	D,E,F, G,M	MAC 709
- the ability to evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline of contemporary arts practice	to provide a critical forum for examining and presenting ideas, interrogating and contextualising practice, and for shared critical analysis and reflection (MA)	D,E,F,H	MAC 707
- the ability to evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, to propose and test new methods and forms of artistic research	Introduce students to the methods, approaches and strategies of artistic research (PA6)	A,C,G, K,L	MAC 708 MAC 709
<b>Key Transferable Skills</b> (Generic). On successful completion postgraduates should have developed:			
- self-directed learning and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level	enable students to achieve a high level of performance in their art practice through self-directed learning and engaging in research opportunities appropriate to the award of a masters degree (PA4)	G,J,L,N	MAC 707 MAC 708 MAC 709
- the ability to critically evaluate their art practice against self-determined criteria	to enable students to evaluate their artistic research against self-determined aims and objectives (MA)	F,J,M	MAC 709
<b>Employment related skills</b> On successful completion postgraduates should have developed:			
- the exercise of initiative and personal reliability	to enable students to identify ideas and themes appropriate to Masters level enquiry through self-directed practice and writing	E,G,I J,L,O	MAC 707
- decision-making skills in complex and unpredictable situations	to enable students to realise ideas and intentions through a coherently conceived MA project effectively deploying	G,L,M,O P,Q	MAC 709

	appropriate research methods, speculative approaches, processes and media (MA)		
- the independent learning skills required for continuing professional and careers development	to encourage students' engagement, learning and professional development within broader cultural and social contexts through negotiated art projects (PA3)	A,G,L,M	MAC 707 MAC 708 MAC 709
<b>Practical Skills</b> (Subject Specific) On successful completion postgraduates should have developed:			
- the ability to make creative use of the relationship between practice and theory and generated innovative responses to problems and issues	to enable students to realise ideas and intentions through a coherently conceived MA project effectively deploying appropriate research methods, speculative approaches, processes and media (MA)	A,C,D,E, G,I, M,N O,P,Q	MAC 709
- flexibility and effectiveness in the application of technical knowledge and expertise in the field of contemporary arts practice	to enable students to research and develop [...] ideas through self-directed practice using and testing material processes, methods and approaches (MA)	C,I,O,P Q	MAC 707 MAC 708
- exploratory and experimental approaches to ideas, methods, processes and material investigation	enhance the quality of student's art practice through the development of critical enquiry, speculative and innovative thinking and making, and realised through appropriate experimentation, processes, approaches, methods, ideas, artworks and texts (PA5)	A,B,C,D, E,F,G,I,J, K,L,M,N O,P,Q	MAC 707 MAC 708 MAC 709