University of Plymouth

Faculty of Art, Humanities and Business

School of Art, Design & Architecture

Programme Specification

MA Illustration

Definitive Document Approved: 30.11.18
Implementation Date: September 2019

Amended via Minor Changes: 25.11.20

1. MA Illustration

Final award title(s)
Master of Arts in Illustration

Level 7 Intermediate award title(s)
Postgraduate Certificate in Illustration
(Upon successful achievement of 60 M level credits)

Postgraduate Diploma in Illustration
(Upon successful achievement of 120 M level credits)

UCAS code: N/A

HECoS code: 100062 / illustration

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 programme is designed to act as a blend of incubation unit, academic study and enterprise. Exploring and developing applicants' current practice via various strategies including briefs which acknowledge prior learning, align with UN sustainability goals and promote entrepreneurial and professional ambitions.
- The programme aims to capitalise upon the first class resources, facilities and academic research within the University and the potential for links and collaboration across the various Faculties and with wider communities, locally, nationally and internationally. This will be strengthened by University initiatives such as the FoAH HEIF 18-19 Enterprise Hub with its remit to target businesses and organisations operating across the Creative and Cultural Industries, Heritage, Advanced Manufacturing, Health and Education Sectors.

- A scheduled series of professional practice lectures combined with in-module activities will instil professional practice acumen and behaviours.
- Emphasis is placed upon critical reflection, experimentation and collaboration within Illustration, combined with real world training.
- Theoretical, critical, historical and contextual elements of illustrative practice are delivered through a seminar series running throughout the first and second stages of the programme and encourages students to critically analyse and articulate their practice within historical and contemporary contexts.
- Staff research interests, outputs and professional practice at national and international levels inform and enrich the delivery of the curriculum.
- Regular visiting practitioners and speakers offer a diversity of viewpoints and opinion enabling students to enter further into current debates within Illustrative practice.
- The proposed admission is on a 2 year part-time route, but allowing students full time access to facilities.
- MILL701 may be taken as a CPD module (MILL701PD).
- Each student is established within the post-graduate culture at UoP and encouraged to self-identify as either an independent ‘brand’ or as a ‘collective’.
- Students are allocated studio provision from which to explore, develop and continue their professional practice whilst studying for the MA Illustration
- They will create a professional, creative studio environment within the RIBA award-winning, Roland Levinsky Building based in the centre of the ocean city of Plymouth.
- This space enables exploration and development of their professional careers and access to resources (subject to availability), such as – life drawing | printmaking | letterpress | ceramics | 3D printing | virtual reality | animation | photography | book binding | digital suites | textiles | laser cutting | wood and metal fabrication workshops. Introductions and on-going support is provided by a highly skilled team of technicians delivering specific practical workshops.

- They will contribute to the creative culture of Plymouth via opportunities offered which link with local events and competitions.
- Students are offered comprehensive support with academic study skills.
- The library is open 24/7, 365 days per year and offers a vast range of resources in the form of both online and printed publications such as books and journals, a moving image database and various discovery tools, databases both written and image-based.
- The Library also houses the Special Collections: the Rare Books | Artists Books | Rare Journals | Exeter College of Art and Design archive | Zine collections
- Digital resources such as Linda.com are available to each student to enhance their digital software learning.
- The opportunity to take part in field study trips locally, nationally and abroad are aspects of this programme. These are tied in with Illustration specific external events and exhibitions such as the Bologna Children's Book Fair, Italy | Pictoplasma Character Design and Animation Festival, Berlin | House of Illustration – various exhibitions, London.
- Students are invited to take part in a London Graduate Showcase such as D&AD, New Blood

5. Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Group(s)

QAA subject benchmarks do not exist for this specific subject at Masters degree level.

The following Subject Benchmarking Statement is generic and taken from the UK Quality Code for Higher Education, Level 7.

6. Programme Structure

The programme is made of four 30 M-Level credit modules and one 60 M-Level credit module for which there are two alternatives; MILL705A (practical) and MILL705B (dissertation), please see attachments for the Definitive Module Descriptors of all the programme modules (MILL701, MILL702, MILL703, MILL704, MILL705A, MILL705B).

Successfully completing the first two 30 m-level credit modules (MILL701, MILL702) achieves a post graduate certificate (**PGCert**) in Illustration.
Successfully completing the first four 30 m-level credit modules (MILL701, MILL702, MILL703, MILL704) achieves a post graduate diploma (**PGDip**) in Illustration.
Successfully completing 180 credits (as above plus either MILL705A or MILL705B) achieves a Masters degree (**MA**) in Illustration.

MILL701PD is a CPD module available to those who want to develop their skillset and also trial whether the whole MA would be appropriate for them. Successful completion would count towards A PGCert in Illustration

There are three stages within the programme;

1. PROCESS and **PRACTICE**

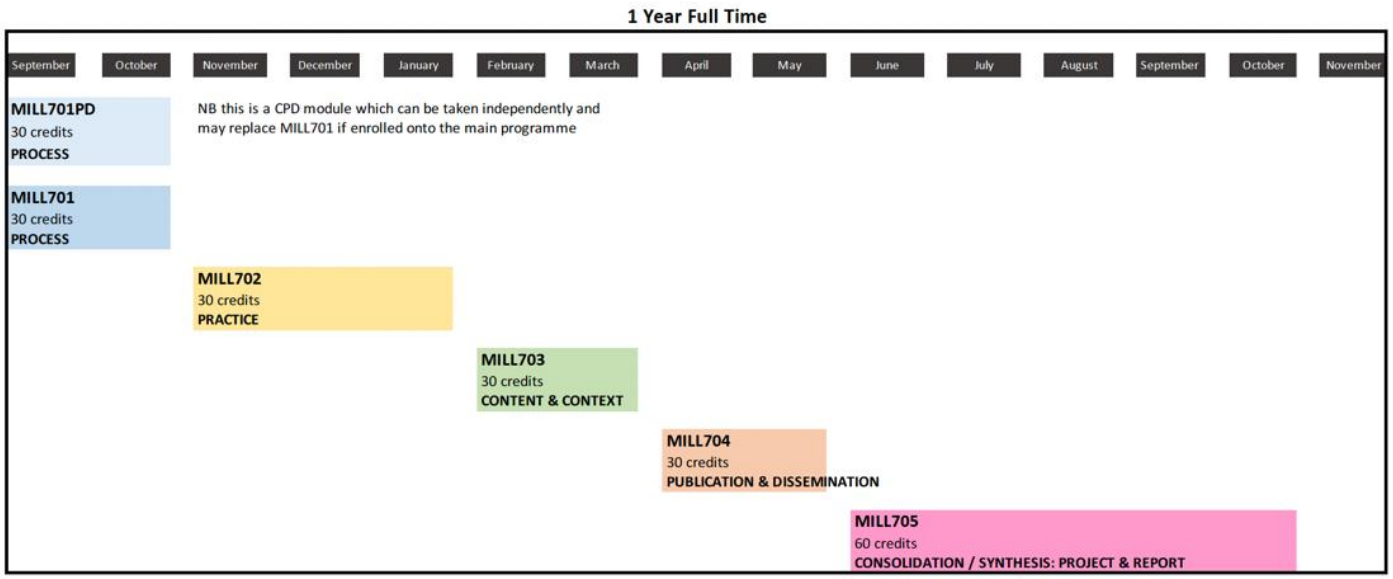
The first stage is concerned with developing core skills, analyzing and sharing prior visual language and methodolgies and exploring technologies, both traditional and cutting-edge Illustration practice whilst laying foundations for future modules.

2. CONTENT & CONTEXT and **PRODUCTION & DISSEMINATION**

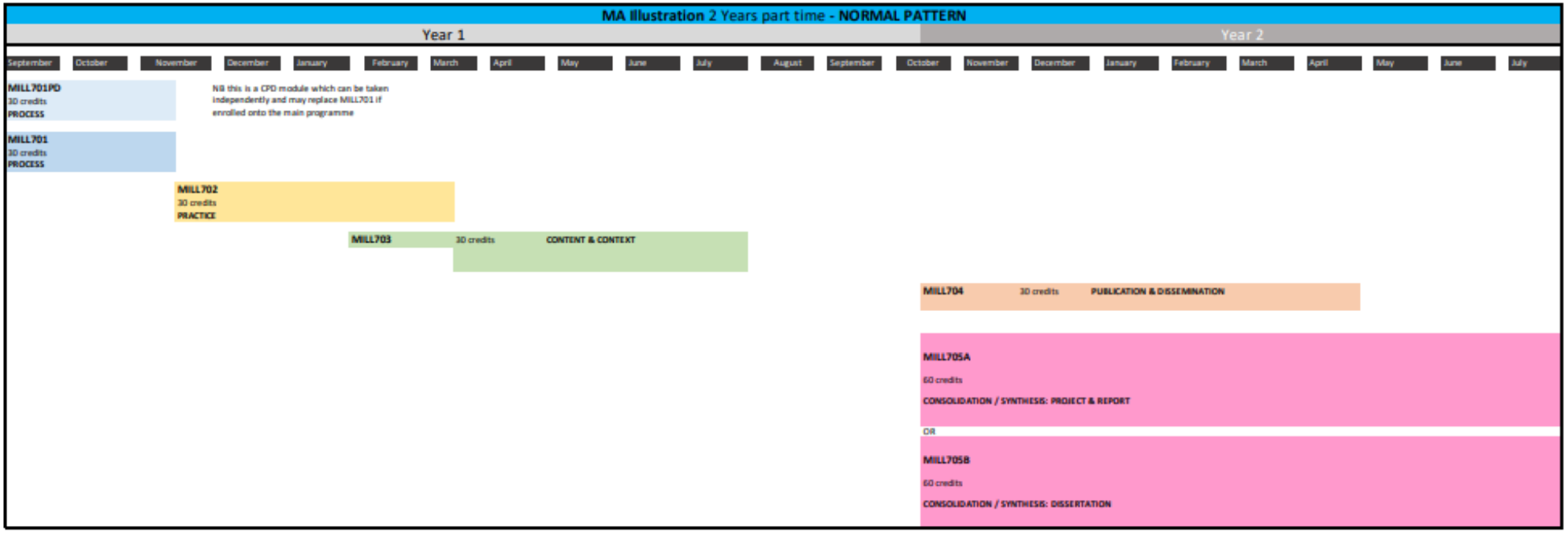
The second stage gives students the opportunities to define their research questions and potentially collaborate with other departments across the University.
Competitions, live briefs and collaboration with local, national and international agencies are also a feature.
Content, communication and the means, constraints and potentials of manufacture and distribution are studied and practically engaged with.
A range of professional practice lectures are delivered to help prepare students for their commercial practice.

3. CONSOLIDATION / SYNTHESIS

The third and final stage sees students establish their research questions and negotiate their own proposals, which may include live briefs and competitions, to consolidate their learning and establish their personal practice within the breadth of Illustration contexts.
They can opt to take either a practical or written focus to this final stage.
Research, critical and contextual skills are embedded throughout the programme via a seminar series and practical workshops.



FT 2022-2023			
	credits	start	end
MILL701PD	30	05/09/2022	24.10.22
MILL701	30	05/09/2022	24.10.22
MILL702	30	31/10/2022	23/01/2023
MILL703	30	30/01/2023	27/03/2023
MILL704	30	31/03/2023	28.05.2023
MILL705A	60	05/06/2023	25/10/2023
MILL705B	60	05/06/2023	25/10/2023



2021-2023			
	credits	start	end
MILL701PD	30	6/9/21	13/11/21
MILL701	30	6/9/21	13/11/21
MILL702	30	15/11/21	11/03/22
MILL703	30	31/01/22	22/06/22
MILL704	30	10/10/22	21/04/23
MILL705A	60	10/10/22	24/07/23
MILL705B	60	10/10/22	24/07/23

7. Programme Aims

The programme is intended to enable and encourage students to:

1. experience a transformative educational experience that develops their understanding of and approach to contemporary illustration practice and establishes them as viable, entrepreneurial practitioners and/or candidates for further study at MPhil/PhD level.
2. investigate and develop a deep critical understanding of their focus of Illustration study and practice by demonstrating knowledge, competence and confidence of an area informed by or at the forefront of Illustration practice by research, project development and realisation and through the systematic evaluation and critical analysis of contemporary and historical Illustration, changing technologies and cultural contexts.
3. engage with issues concerning social, cultural and/or political areas of contemporary debate and investigation e.g. UN Sustainability Goals.
4. engage with a framework of sustained national and international academic debate to develop and demonstrate, a deep understanding of theories, practices and knowledge both relating to existing and/or new Illustration technologies, considering notions of 'audience' and the implications of existing and new modes of distribution.
5. effectively focus, position and develop their study and practice to achieve a body of work and methodology of practice appropriate to existing and emerging professional creative marketplaces; which can enable them to maximise their career opportunities, entrepreneurial skills and prospects as a professional autonomous or collective practitioner within their chosen field in the Illustration and wider Art and Design industries or, if appropriate, establish a direction for further academic research to MPhil/PhD level.

8. Programme Intended Learning Outcomes

Masters degrees are awarded to students who have demonstrated:

PLO1 a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of illustration practice and theory, both nationally and internationally.

PLO2 a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to their own research or advanced scholarship within the discipline of illustration.

PLO3 originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in illustration and associated creative fields.

Conceptual understanding that enables the student:

PLO4 to evaluate critically current research and advaned scholarship in illustration and to evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, to propose new hypotheses.

Typically, holders of the qualification will be able to:

PLO5 deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate their conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences using traditional or emerging technologies.

PLO6 demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level.

PLO7 continue to advance their knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level.

And holders will have the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring:

PLO8 the exercise of initiative, personal and ethical responsibility and decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations and the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.

9. Admissions Criteria, including APL, APEL and DAS arrangements

Entry Requirements for MA Illustration	
BA Illustration or associated BA courses	Normal minimum entry requirements are 2:1 plus supporting portfolio of work and a 200 - 500 word draft statement of intent. Candidates are interviewed before an offer is made. We will consider students below 2:1 if they can demonstrate a strong academic portfolio or a record of professional experience.
International	Normal minimum entry requirements are 2:1 (or equivalent) plus supporting portfolio of work and a 200 - 500 word draft statement of intent. Candidates are interviewed before an offer is made. We will consider students below 2:1 if they can demonstrate a strong academic portfolio or a record of professional experience. IELTS score of 6.5 or equivalent required for overseas students.
APL, APEL and transferring students	The University also has substantial experience in supporting mature students and welcomes applicants in this category. Applicants with APL https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/uploads/production/document/path/9/9353/APL_case_studies.pdf will be considered on an individual basis according to the University Regulations Framework. Students interested in transferring postgraduate credits will be considered on merit and current University regulations regarding transfer of credits from other institutions will apply. A supporting portfolio of work and a 200 - 500 word draft statement of intent. Candidates are interviewed before an offer is made.

200 - 500 word draft statement

- This should outline the applicant's areas of potential interest, avenues of potential study and career aspirations.

Portfolios

- Applicants will be required to supply a digital portfolio of their work that demonstrates a range of their most recent work together with accompanying descriptive notes, including a specimen of their most recent essays, seminar papers and/or dissertation.

Interviews

- Where feasible, applicants will be asked to attend an interview together with their portfolio of work.
  As an alternative to a physical interview, the interview may also be undertaken online using Skype or similar with accompanying digital portfolio.
- The portfolio of work may be print and/or digitally based and if it is impractical to bring examples of 3 dimensional or installation / environmental / performance work; videos or good quality photographs are acceptable.
- The portfolio, in combination with the applicant's previous learning / experience and the outline proposal, should demonstrate their suitability and potential to:
  - research, identify, evaluate and solve Illustration problems
  - research, identify, evaluate and contextualise Illustration theoretical frameworks at Masters level.

10. Progression criteria for Final and Intermediate Awards

Students achieving 60 credits at pass level (MILL701 / MILL701PD & MILL702) are eligible for the Intermediate Award: **PGCert Illustration**
Students achieving 120 credits at pass level (as per PGCert Illustration plus MILL703 & MILL704) are eligible for the Intermediate Award: **PGDip Illustration**

Students achieving 180 credits at pass level (as per PGDip Illustration plus either MILL705A or MILL705B) are eligible for the Final Award: **MA Illustration**

Students achieving an aggregate of 49.5 - 59% are awarded: **MA Illustration**

Students achieving an aggregate of 60 - 69% are awarded: **MA Illustration Merit**

Students achieving an aggregate of 70% and above are awarded: **MA Illustration Distinction**

Compensation – as per University Regulations

11. Exceptions to Regulations

For modules/contents taught during the first 6 months of Year 1 (MILL701/ MILL701PD and MILL702) a Provisional Assessment Results Meeting (PARM) will run to allow for referrals to be undertaken within 'term' time, given the need for specialist facilities.

12. Transitional Arrangements

N/A

13. Mapping and Appendices:

13.1 ILO's (PLO) against Modules Mapping (attached)

Document: 07A Programme Specification Mapping

13.2 Assessment against Modules Mapping

	MA Illustration			
	MODULE TITLE	**C1**	**P1**	
MILL701PD	**PROCESS**	100%		Project
MILL701	**PROCESS**	100%		Project
MILL702	**PRACTICE**	80%	20%	Project and Presentation
MILL703	**CONTENT & CONTEXT**	100%		Project and Visual Research Journal
MILL704	**PRODUCTION & DISSEMINATION**	100%		Project and Report
MILL705A	**CONSOLIDATION / SYNTHESIS**	100%		Project with report plus promotional materials
MILL705B	**CONSOLIDATION / SYNTHESIS**	100%		Dissertation plus promotional materials

Students are allowed 2 attempts per module

13.3 Skills against Modules Mapping

The requirements for achieving awards are set out below.

Award	Elements	Credits
PGCert Illustration	2 x 30 M level credit Modules MILL701/ MILL701PD, MILL702	60 Credits
PGDip Illustration	4 x 30 M level credit Modules MILL701, MILL702, MILL703, MILL704	120 Credits
MA Illustration	4 x 30 M level credit Modules 1 x 60 M level credit Module MILL701, MILL702, MILL703, MILL704, MILL705A or MILL705B	180 Credits

Some participants may complete one or more module of the MA Illustration and take their credits onto another programme/institution.
MILL701CP is offered as a 30 credit CPD module which allows students to experience the MA whilst not enrolled on the whole programme.

13.4 Appendice

Appendix – Learning Outcomes map

Document: PLO vs ALO

Programme Learning Outcomes against Assessed Learning Outcomes

	PLO1	PLO2	PLO3	PLO4	PLO5	PLO6	PLO7	PLO8
		a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to their own research or advanced scholarship within the discipline of illustration.					continue to advance their knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level.	
	Assessed Module Learning Outcomes							
MILL701 / MILL701PD		**Synthesis and Creativity** 1. Flexibly and creatively apply knowledge in unfamiliar contexts and generate solutions. **Adaptation to Context** 2 Autonomously adapt performance to multiple contexts.					**Personal evaluation and development** 3. Use personal reflection to analyse self and own actions **Interpersonal and communication skills** 4. Make connections between known and unknown areas, to allow for adaptation and change.	

	PLO1	PLO2	PLO3	PLO4	PLO5	PLO6	PLO7	PLO8
		a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to their own research or advanced scholarship within the discipline of illustration.				Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level.		
	Assessed Module Learning Outcomes							
MILL702		**Conceptualisation and Critical Thinking** 1. discuss ideas at a sophisticated level of abstraction, forming critical responses to existing theoretical discourses, methodologies or practices and suggest new concepts or approaches **Problem Solving, Research & Enquiry** 2. select appropriate methodological approaches and critically evaluate their effectiveness.				**Performance** 3. Autonomously implement and evaluate improvements to performance, drawing on innovative or best practice. **Personal evaluation and development** 4. Use personal reflection to analyse self and own actions, making connections between known and unknown areas, to allow for adaptation and change. **Interpersonal and communication skills** 5. Evaluate and implement capabilities and qualities to support effective communication in specialised contexts**.**		

	PLO1	PLO2	PLO3	PLO4	PLO5	PLO6	PLO7	PLO8
	a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of illustration practice and theory, both nationally and internationally.			to evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in illustration and to evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, to propose new hypotheses.	deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate their conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences using traditional or emerging technologies.			
	Assessed Module Learning Outcomes							
MILL703	**Knowledge & Understanding** 1. Can identify and understand, within a specialised field of study, the connection of ideas with global systems thinking and the UN sustainability goals. **Ethical awareness & application** 2. Incorporates a critical ethical dimension to their practice, managing the implications of ethical dilemmas and works proactively with others to formulate solutions.			**Operational context:** 4. Operates in complex and unpredictable and/or specialised contexts, requiring selection and application from a wide range of advanced techniques and information sources. **Synthesis and Creativity** 5. Flexibly and creatively applies knowledge in unfamiliar contexts, synthesises ideas or information in innovative ways, and generates transformative solutions **Team and organisational working** 6. Works effectively within a team as leader or member. Clarifies tasks and makes appropriate use of the capacities of team members.				

	PLO1	PLO2	PLO3	PLO4	PLO5	PLO6	PLO7	PLO8
			originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in illustration and associated creative fields.		deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate their conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences using traditional or emerging technologies.	demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level.		
	Assessed Module Learning Outcomes							
MILL704			**Problem Solving, Research & Enquiry** 1. Designs and undertakes substantial investigations to address significant areas of theory and/or practice. Selects appropriate advanced methodological approaches and critically evaluates their effectiveness.		**Conceptualisation and Critical Thinking** 2. Uses ideas at a high level of abstraction. Develops critical responses to existing theoretical discourses, methodologies or practices and suggests new concepts or approaches **Interpersonal and communication skills** 3. Identifies, evaluates and implements capabilities and qualities to support effective communication in a range of complex and specialised contexts.	**Autonomy and responsibility for actions** 4. Acts with initiative in decision-making and accessing support, within professional or given guidelines, identifying accountability for outcomes.		

	PLO1	PLO2	PLO3	PLO4	PLO5	PLO6	PLO7	PLO8
			originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in illustration and associated creative fields.	to evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in illustration and to evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, to propose new hypotheses.	deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate their conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences using traditional or emerging technologies.	demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level.	continue to advance their knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level.	the exercise of initiative, personal and ethical responsibility and decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations and the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development
	Assessed Module Learning Outcomes							
MILL705A			**Knowledge & Understanding** 1. Has a deep and systematic understanding within a specialised field of study and its interrelationship with other relevant disciplines. 2. Demonstrates an understanding of current theoretical and methodological approaches and how these affect the way the knowledge base is interpreted **Personal evaluation and development** 3. Uses personal reflection to analyse self and own actions. Makes connections between known and unknown areas, to allow for adaptation and change.	**Analysis and evaluation** 4. Undertakes analysis of complex, incomplete or contradictory evidence/data and judges the appropriateness of the enquiry methodologies used. Recognises and argues for alternative approaches.		**Autonomy and responsibility for actions** 5. Acts with initiative in decision-making and accessing support, within professional or given guidelines, evaluating and accepting full accountability for outcomes.	**Conceptualisation and Critical Thinking** 6. Synthesise ideas at a high level of abstraction and render.	**Synthesis and Creativity** 7. Flexibly and creatively applies knowledge, synthesises ideas or information in creative ways, and generates transformative solutions to professional ambitions. **Ethical awareness & application** 8. Critique the ethical dimension to their practice, managing the implications of ethical dilemmas.

	PLO1	PLO2	PLO3	PLO4	PLO5	PLO6	PLO7	PLO8
			originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in illustration and associated creative fields.	to evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in illustration and to evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, to propose new hypotheses.		demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level.	continue to advance their knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level.	the exercise of initiative, personal and ethical responsibility and decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations and the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development
MILL705B	**Assessed Module Learning Outcomes**							
			Knowledge & Understanding 1. have a deep and systematic understanding within a specialised field of study and of its interrelationship with other relevant disciplines.	**Analysis and evaluation** 2. Undertakes analysis of complex, incomplete or contradictory evidence/data and judges the appropriateness of the enquiry methodologies used. Recognises and argues for alternative approaches. **Interpersonal and communication skills** 3. Identifies, evaluates and maintains capabilities and qualities to support effective communication in complex and specialised contexts.		**Autonomy and responsibility for actions** 4. Acts with initiative in decision-making and accessing support, within professional or given guidelines, evaluating and accepting full accountability for outcomes.	**Conceptualisation and Critical Thinking** 5. Synthesise ideas at a high level of abstraction, evidencing developed critical responses to existing theoretical discourses, methodologies or practices and suggesting new concepts or approaches	**Synthesis and Creativity** 6. Flexibly and creatively applies knowledge, synthesises ideas or information in creative ways, and generates transformative solutions to professional ambitions.

Programme Specification Mapping (PGT): module contribution to the meeting of Award Learning Outcomes
Tick those Award Learning Outcomes the module contributes to through its assessed learning outcomes.

Module	**Credits**	**C** core **E** elective	Award Learning Outcomes contributed to (for more information see Section 8) Descriptor for a higher education qualification at level 7 on the FHEQ. Knowledge & understanding Cognitive & intellectual skills Key & transferable skills Employment related skills Practical skills								Compensation Y/N	**Assessment element(s) and weightings** [use KIS definition] E1 - exam E2 - clinical exam T1 - test C1 - coursework A1 - generic assessment P1 - practical
			PLO1	**PLO2**	**PLO3**	**PLO4**	**PLO5**	**PLO6**	**PLO7**	**PLO8**		
MILL701	30	C									Y	C1
MILL702	30	C									Y	C1, P1
Learning Outcomes 60 credits												
MILL703	30	C									Y	C1
MILL704	30	C									Y	C1
Learning Outcomes 120 credits												
MILL705A	60	E									N	C1
MILL705B	60	E									N	C1
Learning Outcomes 180 credits												
Confirmed Award LOs												