

## Programme Specification

Every taught course of study leading to a UAL award is required to have a Programme Specification. This summarises the course aims, learning outcomes, teaching, learning and assessment methods, and course structure. Programme Specifications are developed through course validation and are formally approved by UAL Validation Sub Committee (VSC). They are available to prospective students through the course web page, and must be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure currency of information (for example, following any minor modification or local developments).

Awarding Body	University of the Arts London (UAL)
Teaching Institution	Central Saint Martins
Final Award	MA Culture, Criticism and Curation
Relevant QAA Benchmark Statement	n/a
Date of production/revision	November 2016

This section is available to provide any introductory information on the course. It might include explanation of the position of courses which form a named pathway within an 'umbrella' programme.

### Course Aims

The aims of the course identify the rationale underlying the student's educational experience and own personal achievement from studying on the course and its affect upon the student's long term achievement and career.

This course aims to:

1. critically investigate culture and cultural history through the investigation of archives, collections and cultural objects, and the production of exhibitions, publications and events as vehicles for representing new knowledge and new understandings of these histories;
2. participate in interdisciplinary and innovative research, using techniques of image, object and textual analysis, and inventive practices in exhibition design and communication;
3. work collaboratively on a group project, learning to negotiate individual involvement in relation to group goals and engage professionally with external organisations;
4. exercise initiative and personal responsibility in advancing your research and creative skills and subject knowledge and in managing your own career or progressing to PhD.

### Course Outcomes

The course enables the student to demonstrate the following subject knowledge and understanding, intellectual and academic skills, practical subject skills, key attributes and transferable skills. Each outcome should be detailed below.

The outcomes that you will have demonstrated upon completion of the course, are:

- A systematic knowledge and understanding of the histories and conventions of the exhibition, display and interpretation of cultural objects and practices informed by current scholarship and research;
- A critical understanding of current audience and cultural policy and the ability to share this with a range of audiences;
- Analysis, interpretation and reinterpretation of complex cultural issues using skills that include historiography, oral history, biography, literary narrative, cultural analysis, visual and textual analysis, applicable to advanced scholarship;
- Practical skills in handling historic and contemporary collections through engagement with material in museum, archive and creative environments;
- Transferable skills including the ability to innovate, engage critically and creatively, act independently, and work effectively and responsibly in a group towards completing a project, which is reflective of your progress in planning, managing and advancing your career;
- An ability to locate yourself within the discipline and be strategic about your future.

### Learning and Teaching Methods:

Provide a summary of the relevant learning and teaching methods for the course.

The primary means of learning for each student is through research and evaluation, debate, collaboration, and practice. This is supported and developed through:

- Unit and project briefings that provide details of timetable, assignment guidance and assessment arrangements
- Inductions and orientation sessions to introduce MA CCC students to the Culture & Enterprise Programme, the College and UAL, general and

specialist facilities, and course guidelines

- A series of study-days that integrate history, theory and practice around themes and topics critical to an understanding of culture. They aim to encourage interdisciplinary thinking and practice and include student participation
- Additional lectures, discussions, workshops, guest lectures and site visits
- A group project facilitated by briefings, workshops, discussions and independent work
- Participation in student fora
- Time for research and development of individual and group work
- Personal and group tutorials, including personal tutorials focusing on your professional direction and planning your independent and group work
- Support for dissertation, including briefings, tutorials and structured group activities
- Summative assessment feedback

### **Assessment Methods:**

Provide a summary of the relevant assessment methods for the course.

Holistic assessment of achievement as demonstrated through:

In Unit 1

- An essay of 4,000 words
- Contribution to a group project, including written profile of activity
- Participation in and informed contribution to workshops, discussions and fora

In Unit 2

- 12,000-14,000 word Dissertation
- Contribution to and achievement of a group project, negotiated with the group and in dialogue with tutors
- Written and oral presentation reflecting individual participation in group project

### **Reference Points**

List any policies, descriptors, initiatives or benchmark statements used in the development of the course.

The following reference points were used in designing the course:

- FHEQ Level Descriptors (Level 7)
- University Strategy for Student Learning

- External industry advice and guidance
- Student consultation

## Programme Summary

### Programme structures, features, units, credit and award requirements:

List the course details that constitute the agreed student entitlement for this course. This should include unit titles and credit, types of learning, learning hours per week and details of tutorial support.

The Course runs full-time for 12 months, January-December and is worth 180 credits. There are 30 weeks of taught time which align with standard HE terms, and an additional 15 weeks of independent work.

A high level of academic and professional engagement is expected throughout the Course. Practical work is undertaken with archives and collections requiring you to aspire to high-level organisational, communication, technical and professional skills from the outset; curatorial and critical writing practices are explored early in the course and then realised in the context of the final group project. Seminars, reading lists, and discussions will orient you toward key debates and theoretical issues. You are expected to do significant amounts of independent reading and research, and to use the discussions, essays and formal presentations as platforms for developing your independence of thought and critical skills. Every teaching day is an opportunity for peer-learning, and for you to work together as a group to develop and test your ideas to raise the potential and impact of your project-work and your collaborative project.

The course is divided into two Units: *Unit 1: Theories, Methods and Research* is taught intensively for 13 weeks and supports the development of strategies for the interpretation and reinterpretation of culture. You will be introduced to subject knowledge and key research and practical skills. You will also begin to work together as a group, learning to negotiate, communicate and share ideas and importantly learn how to approach and resolve difficulty and conflict. You will come to understand the study of culture and cultural objects and be introduced to key analytical skills (such as historiography, textual and visual analysis, oral history, collections management and systems, interpretation and ethical issues, curation, critical writing and editing). As outcomes, you are each expected to produce a piece of critical writing, present it publically, and contribute to a group curatorial project.

*Unit 2: Practice* spans the Summer and Autumn terms and the intervening holiday period (30 weeks) and is aimed at moving you into a deeper engagement with research, writing, and curatorial work. It includes taught elements, independent

study and group /collaborative work, and requires a high level of engagement, critical awareness, creativity and independence.

The taught part of this programme continues the series of seminars and discussions, workshops, crits and site visits that began in Unit 1. In addition to this, you will begin your major work for the Course, your dissertation and the group project. These will be supported differently, as appropriate to the different needs of each project, but include briefings, lectures and seminars, workshops, group presentations, independent study and personal tutorials, live and via the VLE.

The dissertation is a major piece of research, analytical and evaluative writing. You will be encouraged to develop a bespoke research project within the course framework, which could prepare you for further academic research in Humanities subjects. The dissertation is a key piece of work that will contribute to your exit portfolio, whether this is aimed at employment or PhD.

The group project is student-led and its form and content will be different year on year as negotiated and developed by each cohort. As the culmination of the course, we expect and will encourage you to exercise significant innovation, in terms of the subject matter, forms of presentation, engagements with audiences and location: to '*create new knowledge and propose new forms of presenting to wider audiences*' (cf Course Aims). This project may include the conception and production of a publication and/ or communication strategy that supports and extends the project.

The course dynamic—the 'community of practice'—is central to the success of each cohort. The course is responsive to the overall aspirations of each cohort and is designed to foster a holistic approach to critical, practical, peer-to-peer, group and independent work.

#### Distinctive features of the course:

Identify and list those characteristics that distinguish your course from other, similar courses. Refer to both the student experience on the course and future possible career opportunities.

1. theory-practice course on culture and cultural history that bridges high level scholarship with critical writing and curatorial practices;
2. interdisciplinary focus;
3. Some of the learning takes place via 'live' projects, including site visits and workshops that engage you with a range of primary sources that provide the 'raw material' for history making;
4. annual collaborative group project led by the student cohort;
5. excellent links to external organisations and collections;

6. close link to Central Saint Martins' Museum and Contemporary Collection and opportunity to learn about archives through projects on site;
7. course is embedded in the research culture of the College and University, giving you opportunities to engage with innovative and exciting research in art, design and theory, and facilitating progression to PhD, if desired.

## **Recruitment and Admissions**

### **Admission Policy/Selection Criteria**

Summarise relevant details contained in the validation papers i.e. list the methods used in selection such as interviewing. Selection criteria should be fully listed.

### **What we look for**

- Interest in and understanding of history, culture, and/or arts and design
- Reflexive and critical thinking
- Experience of collaborative work
- Self-motivation, ambition, and interest in research.

### **Student selection criteria**

Applicants will be selected on the basis of the following criteria:

- A BA qualification or equivalent level of skills and knowledge in your own discipline, evidenced by work done in your field
- Evidence of interest in and understanding of history, culture, and /or arts and design
- Evidence of critical thinking and research abilities, particularly in written work
- Experience of collaborative work
- Evidence of self-motivation and ambition

The selection procedures for the course adhere to the Equal Opportunities policy of the University of the Arts London.

Selection for interview will be through the submission of a Personal Statement, examples of historical, critical or theoretical writing and a Project Proposal that outlines an idea for a cultural event or exhibition.

Your personal statement should give us information about yourself and why you want to join the course. (Write no more than 300 words.)

- What are you doing at the moment educationally, professionally, personally?
- Why do you wish to study on this course?
- Do you have any relevant experience?
- Why do you think you are a suitable candidate for acceptance?

The project proposal should provide a rationale and outline for a cultural project based upon an archive or collection. It should demonstrate your critical engagement and creative thinking within the cultural field, your interests and your ability to conceptualise and plan project work. It does not need to have happened; you only need to propose an idea, but it should be realisable.

### **The Project Proposal**

- Helps you to position your interests academically and professionally
- Reflects your personal interests and direction at this stage and prepares you for collaborative and practical projects during the programme
- Should be between 800 and 1,000 words, and include images or other media as needed.

### **Critical and evaluative writing**

- Reflects your academic and professional interests
- Could be a piece of published writing or an academic essay written for coursework. Independent or unpublished writings will also be accepted
- Should total between 3,000 and 5,000 words
- Evidences your ability to write and your interest in and understanding of history, culture, and /or arts and design.

This 'portfolio' should reflect your intellectual engagement with the subject area, prior learning and your potential to conceptualise and develop practical work.

### **Entry Requirements**

List the entry requirements relevant to the course.

Applicants must have an Honours Degree or evidence of equivalent learning, and normally at least one year of relevant professional experience. The relevant disciplines and professional fields include:

- HistoryArt History
- Culture, Communications or Media Studies
- Fine Art
- Fashion (History & Theory)
- Multimedia or interactive design
- Curatorial, gallery or museum work
- Research

- Collections management or interpretation
- Journalism—digital, broadcast, press and radio
- Art criticism and other forms of writing practices
- Marketing and PR
- Retail, if culturally related

Applicants will be considered for admission who have already achieved a relevant Honours Degree, who can evidence experiential learning equivalent to a degree or who have 3 years' relevant professional experience.

All classes are conducted in English. If English is not your first language, we strongly recommend you send us an English language test score together with your application to prove your level of proficiency. If you have booked a test or are awaiting your results, please clearly indicate this on your application form. When you have received your test score, please send it to us immediately. The standard English language requirement for entry is IELTS 7 with a minimum of 6.5 in any one paper, demonstrated through the production of an IELTS Certificate or evidence of an equivalent level of achievement. For further information visit: <http://www.arts.ac.uk/study-at-ual/international/application-advice/language-requirements/>

Applicants who will need a Tier 4 General Student Visa should refer to this link: <http://www.arts.ac.uk/study-at-ual/international/immigration-and-visas/>

### Admission Procedures

The selection procedures for the course must adhere to the Equal Opportunities Policy of UAL.

The selection procedures for the course adhere to the Equal Opportunities policy of the University of the Arts London. Applications are normally made directly to the University and are evaluated on the basis of the entry requirements and the selection criteria.

Applications for this course are initially assessed on the application form and information requested which is determined annually and may include one or more of the following:

- Personal statement
- Curriculum vitae
- Project or study proposal
- Portfolio
- Written assignment

Following initial consideration applicants may be invited to attend portfolio review and / or interview.

### **Course Diagram**

Insert a course diagram which includes; units and their credit values, plus credit values per year/level, category of units (i.e. core or specialist), progression routes, years/levels of the course, any other relevant characteristics that distinguishes the course

Please see below.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	
<b>Spring Term</b>										IS	V	<b>Summer Term</b>										IS					V			IS					<b>Autumn Term</b>															
<b>Unit 1 –Theories, Methods and Research</b> (60 credits)													<b>Unit 2 – Practice</b> (120 credits)																																					
<p>This unit supports you to develop skills and strategies for the study, interpretation and reinterpretation of culture. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research and conceptual skills that include historiography, oral history, biography, literary narrative, cultural analysis, visual and textual analysis, applicable to advanced scholarship in the discipline</li> <li>• Methods in research: archives, collections, texts, images (still and moving) and objects</li> <li>• Critical writing for research</li> <li>• Curatorial case-studies</li> <li>• ‘Handling’ history: collections management &amp; systems, interpretation and ethical issues</li> </ul> <p>You will produce academic writing, participate in a group curatorial project and present work in a symposium. Personal Tutorials are scheduled around week 12</p>													<b>Summative Assessment</b>	<p>This unit supports you to engage research with forms of communication, developing critical understandings of audience, cultural policy, systems of representation, cultural objects, conventions of exhibitions and forms of writing and oral presentation.</p>													<b>Tutorial support during Admin weeks and/ or draft feedback by email</b>	13 weeks Independent Study and 3 weeks Vacation					<b>Tutorial support during Admin weeks and/ or draft feedback by email</b>	<p>Your work includes a Dissertation, a group curated project, a publication, and other forms of programming and dissemination.</p> <p>You will generate new knowledge and consider new forms of presenting culture in curated exhibitions, written, visual, oral (and other) forms.</p>													<b>Summative Assessment</b>			

The course starts in January each year and runs for 45 weeks across three terms and the Easter and Summer student vacation periods. There are 30 weeks of taught time, which align directly with the standard HE terms.

There are a further 15 weeks of independent study (IS), during which students will have access to supervised facilities in college and across the University including libraries, special collections, disability and study support etc. There are no scheduled sessions during these 15 weeks, and students are not expected to be on site in the building unless they choose to be. Personal tutorial support by email will be made available during scheduled staff admin weeks at the end of the Summer term and prior to the start of the Autumn Term.

The 45 weeks run across the standard Easter and Summer student vacation periods, during which time, students will be encouraged to take two weeks and three weeks of time away from their studies (respectively) (V). The positioning of these periods is at the student's discretion, providing they fall during the standard student vacation period.