

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 Performance Design and Practice
Relevant QAA Benchmark Statement	Art and Design
Date of production/revision	October 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:

- develop your creative abilities to instigate and produce work that is innovative, critical and explores the boundaries of contemporary performance practice and its surrounding debates;
- enable you to evaluate and position your work within an informed contemporary critical framework;
- prepare you for ongoing professional practice or for progress to research degree registration;
- provide you with a challenging, supportive and inclusive environment for the production of performance orientated practice and its related research.

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:

- Develop a professional practice that engages in or challenges the field of performance design and practice.
- Articulate a developed critical understanding of theories, contextual issues and debates relevant to your practice.
- Demonstrate a highly developed and appropriate synthesis of practical, research, evaluative and reflective skills.
- Communicate creative concepts, complex knowledge and critical thinking effectively through both written and visual forms.
- Initiate, manage and realise a purposeful and feasible programme of original creative practice.

Learning and Teaching Methods:

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

- briefing materials and meetings
- inductions and workshops
- lectures and guest speakers
- emphasis on responsibility for choices and decisions
- live external and internally set projects
- off-site and site-specific work, specifically a collaborative European placement project
- personal and group tutorials
- seminars and debates
- critiques and presentations
- study and directional planning
- recommended reading, viewing and visits
- independent study
- peer and self-critical evaluation
- assessment feedback

Assessment Methods:

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

Holistic assessment of achievement as demonstrated through:

- performance practice and design practice work
- research and preparatory work
- project proposal
- documentation of work
- verbal and visual presentations
- written work
- participation in activities and debate
- peer and self-critical evaluation

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:

- The Learning and Teaching policies of the University of the Arts London
- College policies and initiatives
- HE Level Descriptors
- Art and Design Benchmark statement
- Contemporary performance design and practice culture
- External professional organisations

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 is offered in extended full time mode; it runs for 60 weeks over two years of 30 weeks each. The course is credit-rated at 180 credits and comprises 3 assessed units.

Summative assessment is conducted for each unit. All three units must be passed in order to achieve the MA but the classification of the award of MA is derived from the mark for unit 3 only.

The award of PG Cert following successful completion of Units 1 and 2 is normally offered if a student is unable to continue on the course.

Units are as follows:

Unit 1: Thinking as Practice (Research Methodologies 1) (20 credits)

This introductory unit prepares you to engage with the postgraduate and research community at CSM.

Unit 1 introduces you to the fundamental research skills that will enable you to make informed decisions about the appropriate methods to use in your chosen area of study and your professional future. The Unit examines both specific research skills and different kinds of research.

Skills and areas of knowledge covered include: literature search and review; archival skills; software for use in research and e-resources; feasibility studies; data analysis; referencing, citation and bibliographic conventions, and ethics. Regular seminars and workshops emphasise participation and the development of core research skills through practical exercises.

Lectures focus on how research in the arts and discourse is developed, shared and understood. The focus is upon methods involving issues of learning, thinking, evaluation and interpretation as both practice based and theoretical forms of enquiry. The diversity of research activity at CSM provides a broad range of models and examples, with particular attention given to the place of practice in research projects.

Unit 1 is assessed via outputs from project work and assignments and a written submission;

Unit 2: Practice and Design in Context (40 credits)

Unit 2 prepares and develops you practically and conceptually in preparation for the successful completion of the Independent Project Proposal, and subsequently the Independent Project itself.

Over the fifteen weeks of the unit you will be asked to present three proposals for projects. Proposals can take many forms: models, storyboards, power point presentations, realised fragments of larger works, or works in progress. These proposals will form the basis of a tutorial dialogue that aims to channel your practice and scholarly interests into a coherent project proposal for Unit 3, presented at the end of the unit.

Unit 2 is framed by weekly seminars, which focus on critical practice, and is complemented by the development of your research skills in Unit 1 and aim to provide you with a firm knowledge base within which to locate your practice, and a shared framework of reference points and performance-related language, facilitating collaborative work within and beyond the course.

Unit 3: Independent Project (120 credits)

Unit 3 has two parts: the first is undertaken in the second half of year one and the second, undertaken more independently, in year two.

Unit 3 unites your aims and learning, bringing the relationships between your ideas and research methods, the forms, theoretical and professional contexts of your practice to a level of resolution. The full 45 weeks provide you with a substantial opportunity to develop your practice building on the accumulated knowledge that you have gained through the experiences of Units 1 and 2.

The first part of Unit 3 normally consists of a single extended European placement project organised by the course team and usually take the form of a collaborative practical project. You work alongside your peers, either independently or under the direction of an artist /tutor, to realise collectively a particular brief in a particular context.

The second part, year two, supports you in more independent engagement in the production of a body of work for presentation, combined with the completion of written work. You continue to meet for critical debates and tutorial support throughout, and lead interim presentations about your work, in person and online, discussing progress, challenges and discoveries, and issues of form, audience and presentation.

You will normally be expected to produce practical work within one of two defined modalities:

- as practice as research, in which case work should be clearly experimental and explorative of defined formal aspects of performance practice; OR
- as professional performance, in which case work should be shown publicly, outside of the College, and engage with the specific demands of the context of its production.

Throughout the second year there will be regular events designed to bring the cohort together at key points.

At the end of Unit 3 you are assessed through your practical work and the written paper, the finalised Independent Project Proposal, and a self-evaluative report documenting and analysing your progress through the unit. These different pieces of work should synthesise to reflect your conceptual, practical and professional abilities. Your mark for Unit 3 determines the classification of your MA award.

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.

- Promotes experimental, investigative and informed approaches to the conceptualisation and creation of performance
- Emphasises collaboration and professionalism: responsibility, negotiation, communication and self promotional skills are particularly developed through external live projects, alternative spaces / venues
- Develops a wide range of transferable academic skills including research; planning; documentation; performative, reflective and evaluative writing; visual and verbal presentation
- Offers a richly diverse international and multi-cultural community of practice
- Delivered by a professionally and research active staff team also teaching on the BA, practicing nationally and internationally across a wide range of media and approaches
- Connects with numerous performance-related institutions, venues, associations and cultural centres in London, the UK, and Europe, providing a wide range of resources, contacts and opportunities

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

MA Performance Design and Practice suits artists with a background or demonstrable interest in theatre design, visual performance or related practice including dance, film, video and time-based media. Although it particularly suits individuals interested in time-based or narrative art forms, it also attracts those involved in broader performance-related practices.

Appropriate related backgrounds include architecture, photography, installation, live art or other interdisciplinary art practices.

Student selection criteria

The application, indicative Project Proposal and supporting material will be assessed for:

- The quality of the applicant's practice
- Evidence that the applicant understands the nature of a practice based research or professional project at Masters level and has a grasp of the methodologies necessary for them to effectively deliver the project outcomes
- The appropriateness of the applicant's practice and indicative research / professional interests to the programme to which they are applying
- Evidence that the applicant has the confidence and ability to benefit from and contribute to the learning environment at postgraduate level

Applicants may be selected for interview following submission of the form, indicative Project Proposal and supporting work. The interview is used to evaluate the extent to which a candidate demonstrates:

- An intelligent and mature approach to their practice
- The capacity for independent research;
- Appropriate critical abilities;
- An awareness of the cultural and social context within which they practice
- Appropriate communication skills and a preparedness to participate collaboratively in debate and practice

Portfolio and interview advice

References and interviews help determine whether the personal and professional aspirations of the applicant are compatible with the aims and outcomes of the course. Interviews also give the opportunity for the applicant to demonstrate an objective, critical and reflective relationship to their work. If possible, it is a good idea to bring examples of current work since application.

MA Performance Design and Practice welcomes discussion with potential applicants regarding the appropriateness of initial proposals, and encourages applicants to take every opportunity to make contact in advance of application.

Entry Requirements

List the entry requirements relevant to the course.

An applicant will be considered for admission who has already achieved an educational level equivalent to an Honours Degree.

This educational level may be demonstrated by:

- possession of an Honours Degree or an equivalent academic qualification;
- possession of a professional qualification recognised as equivalent to an Honours Degree;
- prior experiential learning, the outcome of which can be demonstrated to be equivalent to formal qualifications otherwise required;
- a combination of formal qualifications and experiential learning, which taken together can be demonstrated to be equivalent to formal qualifications otherwise required.

Possession of entry qualifications alone does not entitle a candidate to be admitted to the Course. Evidence of ability is demonstrated by the applicant's application and accompanying materials.

Advanced entry: applicants may be considered for admitted at a point later than the start of the Course, provided that they have fulfilled, in a way judged to be equivalent, the requirements of the Course prior to the proposed point of entry.

English language ability: If your first language is not English you must demonstrate your competence in English to IELTS Level 7.0 by the production of an IELTS Certificate or evidence of an equivalent level of achievement.

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

See diagram below

