

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 modifications or local developments).

Awarding Body Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB)	University of the Arts London (UAL)
Teaching Institution	Central Saint Martins
Final Award	MA Narrative Environments
Length of Course	Extended Full-Time (EFT), 2 years
UCAS code	N/A
Date of production/revision	May 2018

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:

- Contribute responsibly, as a creative practitioner, to the design of narrative environments;
- Develop critical, collaborative practice that transcends the traditional boundaries of your own discipline;
- Participate in complex, multidisciplinary projects, in a systematic and creative way;

- Challenge the conventions of cultural and commercial industries through the development of narrative environments;
- Exercise initiative and personal responsibility in advancing your own research skills and subject knowledge, and in managing your own career or further studies.

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:

Outcome:	Understanding of and engagement with key contextual, theoretical and critical discourses, industries and institutions at the forefront of the subject debate. <i>(MC Analysis and Subject Knowledge)</i>
Outcome:	Ability to research, refine and argue a critical position systematically in relation to your evaluation of current research and new modes of practice. <i>(MC Research and Presentation and Communication)</i>
Outcome:	Self-direction, originality and informed decision making in instigating, managing and communicating creative solutions to complex multidisciplinary projects. <i>(MC Experimentation, and Personal and Professional Development)</i>
Outcome:	Ability to work, contribute and participate professionally and effectively as part of a team. <i>(MC Collaborative and/or Independent Professional Working)</i>
Outcome:	Ability to locate yourself within the discipline and profession, evaluating personal and professional strengths and weaknesses. <i>(MC Technical Competence, Collaborative and/or Independent Professional Working and Personal and Professional Development)</i>

Learning and Teaching Methods

Provide a summary of the relevant learning and teaching methods for the course (i.e. lectures, seminars, independent learning).

The primary means of learning for each student is through studio practice. This is supported and developed through:

- Unit and project briefings;
- Set and self-initiated project briefs;
- Inductions, lectures and seminars;
- Collaboration and interdisciplinary team-working;
- Peer learning;
- Self and peer assessment;
- Guest speakers;
- Group discussions, reviews and critiques;
- Working with clients on live projects;
- Placement;
- Mentoring;
- Collaborative field research;
- Dissertation teaching;
- Independent study.

Scheduled Learning and Teaching

State the notional learning hours and provide a percentage breakdown of timetabled teaching and learning activities per level.

Scheduled Learning and Teaching – this is the percentage of your time spent in timetabled learning and teaching. You are expected to study for 1,800 hours over 60 weeks; below is the amount of time which is timetabled activity. The rest of your learning time will be self-directed, independent study.

Percentage of time spent in timetabled learning and teaching – 20%.

Assessment Methods

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

Holistic assessment of achievement as demonstrated through:

In Unit 1

- Group presentations throughout each project;
- Participation and informed contribution to seminars;
- A learning log comprising visual, textual and audio material selected from project outputs and your reflective journal;
- A 3D visual, textual or audio artefact developed individually from project outputs and the reflective journal.

This Unit is summatively assessed on the basis of the learning log and artefact (100%). All other assessment requirements are part of the formative assessment for the unit.

In Unit 2 you are required to submit the following elements. These are assessed holistically, that is, there is no specific percentage assigned to any one of these submissions. They are treated as a portfolio of finished projects.

- A placement diary;
- An individual written company audit of 1,000 words;

- An individual written self-appraisal in the form of a log of 600 words supported by appropriate visual and audio material;
- A Major Project Plan;
- A research book;
- A Major Project proposition.

In Unit 3 you are required to submit the following elements. These are assessed holistically, that is, there is no specific percentage assigned to any one of these submissions. They are treated as a portfolio of finished projects.

- A Project Rationale of 1,000 words;
- A submission as agreed through the Major Project Proposition;
- An individual Critical Appraisal of minimum 4,000 and maximum 6,000 words;
- Collaboration on planning the degree show and effective communication of your proposed display.

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.

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, and details of tutorial support. If the course includes a work or study placement (including Dip Professional Studies), the duration and a summary of expectations around arrangements must be highlighted.

The course is offered in an extended full-time mode. This means that your learning is timetabled over 60 weeks, over two academic years, rather than the 45 week over one year full-time mode operated by many universities.

The course is credit-rated at 180 credits and comprises three assessed units. Summative assessment is conducted for each unit. All 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.

You are expected to commit 30 hours per week to your studies, within which your taught input will normally be scheduled over three days. The course has been designed in this way to enable you to pursue your studies, whilst also undertaking part-time employment, internships or care responsibilities.

The course is divided into three Units.

Unit 1: Methodology and Scope of the Design of Narrative Environments is an intensively taught period of 20 weeks, consisting of short group projects that introduce you to a variety of research methods, multidisciplinary collaboration, the methodology and scope of the design of narrative environments and the theoretical, socio-economic and cultural context of practice. Unit 1 is a 60 credit Unit that integrates Personal and Professional Development (PPD), enabling you to become an active member of a learning community and developing your skills in communication, reflection, planning and decision-making.

Unit 2: Challenging, Originating and Repositioning Narrative Environments provides an opportunity for you define your own direction by doing a placement, and developing your major project proposition. The unit begins with a broad open project, which prepares you to move from responding to design briefs, to devising your own, self-directed brief, (your major project). This is followed by a placement, which gives you direct insight into opportunities and working methods in the industry and enables you to appraise your own abilities and ambitions. The major project is self-directed. You define your own research question, aims and objectives and you assemble your own team. The major project enables you to define your own professional and personal goals, reflect upon the dynamics of the

industry, consolidate your experience and advance your skills and knowledge. You evolve the major project to detailing, prototyping, testing, production and installation where feasible. Unit 2 is a 60 credit Unit that integrates Personal and Professional Development (PPD), enabling you to explore the professional world, and become a reflective self-sufficient practitioner and manage your career development.

Unit 3: Challenging, Originating and Repositioning Narrative Environments 2 requires that you write a project rationale that contextualises and justifies your direction; you detail, prototype, test, produce and install your major project at whatever scale is feasible. You write a critical evaluative appraisal of your Major Project. You contribute to the organisation, design and implementation of the degree show exhibition. The implementation and evaluation of the major project enables you to define your own professional and personal goals, reflect upon the dynamics of the industry, consolidate your experience and advance your skills and knowledge.

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.

- A narrative approach to space as a medium of communication;
- Extensive list of industry affiliates and collaborators who contribute directly to student learning through mentoring, guest lectures, sponsored projects etc.;
- Collaboration and multi-disciplinary team-working are at the heart of the learning and teaching experience;
- Work-placement with a host organisation outside of the University;
- Each student is allocated a mentor.

Recruitment and Admissions

Selection Criteria

The criteria used to make a decision on selection must be fully listed. It must be clear how an applicant's suitability to study on the course as demonstrated at the pre-selection and/or interview stage will be judged (good practice examples are available through the Programme Specification Guidance). Procedures for selection must adhere to the Equal Opportunities Policy of UAL.

You can apply for this course using our online application form found on the course webpage: <http://www.arts.ac.uk/csm/courses/postgraduate/ma-narrative-environments/>

Selection for interview will be through submission of examples of work developed through your prior educational and employment experiences. Once you have submitted the online application form, you will receive a confirmation email that includes links to where you should submit the extra information we require for the selection process:

Personal statement

Your personal statement should explain what role the course would play in your personal and professional development and where you aim to locate yourself within the cultural and commercial industries.

Portfolio

Please note, you can submit text and as many website links as you need to, but the portfolio form does not allow you to upload files.

Your portfolio should demonstrate your practical and conceptual skills as well as your working processes. The content of your portfolio will depend on your field of expertise as follows:

Designers should include:

- 20 images of visual work;
- Examples of moving image work if appropriate;
- Developmental research material;
- Samples of written work.

Curators and museum studies graduates should include:

- A link to a detailed professional CV with project descriptions;
- Documentation of work where possible.

Architects should include:

- Your degree project;
- Two other projects featuring concept drawings and process work that demonstrate your own concerns;
- Drawings, designs, visualisations and photographs of models appropriate to your experience and background.

Writers and humanities graduates should include:

- A publications list or CV detailing recent projects (e.g. screenplays, scripts, art direction, articles from journals or newspapers, short stories, novels);
- Details of membership of professional organisations (e.g. Writers Guild, NUJ);
- At least three samples of work.

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 and preferably some examples of post college work in your particular field;
- Evidence of interest and understanding of narrative structure;
- Work demonstrating engagement with narrative in a spatial context, whether that is a real or virtual space;
- A reflective and critical approach;
- Experience of teamwork;

- Self-motivation, ambition and a commitment to the programme.

Entry Requirements

List the academic entry requirements relevant to the course, noting any requirements that are above the UAL minimum, or any course specific grade requirements. Language requirements such as IELTS must also be provided. Entry requirements will constitute the standard, conditional offer for 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 are:

- Architecture;
- Exhibition design;
- Graphic design;
- Interior design;
- Multimedia or interaction design;
- Museum studies or curatorship;
- Performance design or theatre design;
- Retail design;
- Spatial design;
- 3D design;
- Writing;
- Design management.

The qualifications and experience we are seeking vary according to your field of expertise, as follows:

Designers:

- A degree in 2D or 3D design or equivalent experience.

Curators and museum studies graduates:

- A degree in museum studies or equivalent museum experience; or
- A degree in another subject. At least two years' experience in a full time museums curatorial position and associate membership of the Museums Association.

Architects:

- A degree and RIBA Part I or the equivalent.

Writers and humanities graduates:

- A degree or equivalent experience.

Applicants whose first language is not English must demonstrate their competence in English to IELTS Level 6.5 by the production of an IELTS Certificate or evidence of an equivalent level of achievement.

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.

	Unit 1 (Methodology and Scope of the Design of Narrative Environments) 60 credits																				Unit 2 (Challenging, Originating and Repositioning Narrative Environments 1) 60 credits									
	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Year 1																														
	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	(Unit 2 continued)										Unit 3 (Challenging, Originating and Repositioning Narrative Environments 2) 60 credits																			
	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Year 2																														
	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30