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).

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<th>Awarding Body</th>
<th>University of the Arts London (UAL)</th>
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<td>Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB)</td>
<td>Central Saint Martins</td>
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<td>Teaching Institution</td>
<td>Central Saint Martins</td>
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<td>Final Award</td>
<td>MA Art and Science</td>
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<td>Length of Course</td>
<td>Extended Full time (EFT), 2 years (60 weeks)</td>
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<td>UCAS code</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
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<td>Date of production/revision</td>
<td>May 2017</td>
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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 and contexts of contemporary art and science;
- enable you to evaluate and position your work within a 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 art and 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:

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<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
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<tr>
<td>Develop a professional practice that engages in and/or challenges the field of art and science.</td>
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<td>Articulate an in-depth critical understanding of theories, contextual issues and debates relevant to your practice.</td>
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<td>Demonstrate a highly developed and appropriate synthesis of practical, research, evaluative and reflective skills.</td>
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<td>Communicate creative concepts, complex knowledge and critical thinking effectively through both visual and written forms.</td>
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<td>Initiate, manage and realise a purposeful and feasible programme of original creative practice.</td>
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## 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 practice. This is supported and developed through:

- briefing materials, written guidance and meetings;
- inductions and technical workshops;
- lectures and guest speakers;
• Independent Project proposal document;
• shared teaching events across the postgraduate art programme;
• off-site, site-specific and collaborative project opportunities;
• personal and group tutorials;
• seminars and symposium;
• presentations and exhibition;
• recommended reading and viewing;
• independent study;
• critiques and peer evaluations;
• self-critical evaluation;
• assessment feedback

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 – 13%.

Assessment Methods:
Provide a summary of the relevant assessment methods for the course.

Holistic assessment of achievement as demonstrated through:
research and preparatory work (including research journal)
• Independent Project proposal;
• outputs from group project work and assignments;
• documentation of work;
• verbal and visual presentations;
• written work;
• participation in activities and debate;
• self-critical evaluation;
• realisation of Independent 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:

• The Learning and Teaching policies of the University of the Arts London;
• College policies and initiatives;
• HE Level Descriptors;
• Art and Design Benchmark statement;
• Experience of contemporary fine art practice;
• External professional organisations

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

The course is offered in extended full time mode; it runs for 60 weeks over two years of 30 weeks each. In Year 1 students are expected to commit an average of 40 hours per week. In Year 2 study is predominantly self-managed but students are expected to commit an average of 20 hours per week. Across the two years, therefore, students are expected to commit an average of 30 hours per week.

The course is credit-rated at 180 credits and comprises two assessed units. Summative assessment is conducted for each unit. Both 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 2 only.

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

Units are as follows:

**Unit 1: What is Interdisciplinary Practice? (60 credits)**

Through a series of projects, this unit explores contemporary and historical relationships between art and science and the related critical issues in this interdisciplinary practice. You will participate in practical workshops and access places of particular interest, including sites of scientific and historical significance where context is important to understanding.

Running in parallel are lectures introducing you to ideas, discourses and critical positions in contemporary art and science. Lectures are given by external guest speakers and by staff across the Art Programme, introducing you to their research expertise and interests. These lectures also explore the interface between practice and research and provide a context within which you will become familiar with different approaches to research methods.

Seminars focus on emerging issues in art and science and their contribution to interdisciplinary engagement. They provide a forum in which you develop your ability to evaluate and progress your practice in relation to external bodies of knowledge, enabling you to develop appropriate research methodologies for
your Independent Project (Unit 2), while also building articulacy in critical discussion and writing.

Towards the end of the Unit you will write a Project Proposal for Unit 2 (Independent Project), addressing issues of relevance, validity and feasibility and incorporating an outline of your proposed research methods.

**Unit 2: Independent Project: Art & Science (120 credits)**

The unit’s 45 weeks (15 weeks in Year 1; 30 weeks in Year 2) represent a substantial opportunity to realise your independent project successfully. The project takes the form of an in-depth investigation according to an agreed programme of study leading to practical outputs and a written research paper.

Throughout the independent project you develop the practical aspects of your work and identify and establish access to relevant resources. In addition to the significant sources of knowledge and information you are introduced to we encourage you to develop links with organisations and institutions that will support and inform your particular research and project development. You will have a supervisor or mentor (i.e. Personal Tutor) who will guide the progress of your Independent Project. Progress is supported through tutorials, critiques with professionals in relevant specialist fields, and student-directed group discussions.

In Year 1, if not fully resolved at the Unit 1 assessment point, your independent project proposal is reconsidered at a progress review tutorial (Year 1, Term 3). All project agreements include a commitment to forms of submission and to appropriate mentoring and supervision arrangements. At the end of year one you will take part in the interim show in which you will curate and install an exhibition in a public venue outside of the art school. All aspects of mounting an exhibition will be considered including publicity, curation and collaborative working.

In Year 2 you continue to be supported in your independent engagement with the realisation of your project and written work. You will meet for critical debates and tutorial support, and take part in interim presentations of your work discussing progress, challenges and discoveries, and issues of form, audience and presentation. A professional practice lecture series across our art programmes also offers insights into publishing practices, intellectual property, funding sources and other areas. The unit culminates with the degree show in which you will present your work in the context of your developing professionalism, and collaborate with students from the other MAs.
within the programme to prepare the degree show spaces and consider curation and placement of works.

A summer term student directed presentation or symposium challenges you to debate key questions arising from your 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.

The synergies of the Postgraduate Art Programme, incorporating MA Fine Art, MA Photography, MA Art and Science, MRes Art: Exhibition Studies, MRes Art: Moving Image, and MRes Art: Theory and Philosophy will create a dynamic context for exploration of practices and issues in contemporary culture.

The extended full time mode provides flexibility for students to manage time, to engage with the richness of professional and study opportunities provided by London, and to devote comparatively substantial real time to personal and professional development.

The course provides an extensive final unit of 120 credits (45 weeks) enabling continuous development and realisation of a substantial personally defined project.

This pioneering development of MA Art and Science responds to a fast emerging territory for interdisciplinary and collaborative art practice. It provides a significant opportunity to interrogate the creative relationships between art and science and how they may be communicated. Students have the opportunity to investigate the interrelationships between science and studio activity and to explore different approaches to making and presenting their work. The course will explore ideas that might lead to innovative outcomes in practice and/or research.

MA Art and Science is distinguished by its support for:

- exploration of the approaches of art and science to enquiry: how scientific ideas may inform/provoke the making of art, and how practices in art and science may correspond;
- learning from and forming links between artists, scientists and professional practitioners engaged with ideas relating art and science;
student projects through the use of established links with external institutions;

development of current thinking relating art and science towards further research.

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.

The course welcomes applicants representing a wide range of ages and life experiences, educational and working backgrounds, cultural roots and nationalities.

Selection is based on:

1. The application form, with an initial, indicative written Project Proposal. This is an initial outline proposal of your intentions for the course. A template is provided to help structure this.

   This must be accompanied by a submission of selected images/documentation of your work/research which can be available online or on CD/DVD, evidencing your current creative practice, and a short contextual statement (see Admission procedures below for further details).

   Your application should also be accompanied by two references, at least one of which should be academic or professional, and copies of your latest qualifications certificates.

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

   - the quality of the applicant's practice;
• the appropriateness of the applicant’s skills, experience and practice to the area of interest identified for development in the course;

• effective communication of intentions, purposes and issues;

• the level of contextual awareness;

• the potential for realisation of the stated objectives within the timeframe of the course and envisaged resources;

• evidence that the applicant has the confidence and ability to benefit from and contribute to the learning environment at postgraduate level.

2. The interview, for those applicants selected following submission of the form, indicative project proposal and supporting work. The interview is used to evaluate the extent to which a candidate demonstrates:

• a thoughtful and responsible approach to practice;

• the capacity for independent research;

• appropriate critical and reflective abilities;

• an awareness of the cultural and social context within which they practice;

• appropriate communication skills;

• a preparedness to participate collaboratively in debate, practice and presentation.

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.

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.
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 admittance 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.

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 with a minimum of 5.5 in any one paper, 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

Red lines = unit assessment points; grey squares = personal tutorials.
See your course timetable for further formative assessment events.

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Unit 1: What is Interdisciplinary Practice? (60 credits)
Unit 2: Independent Project: Art & Science (120 credits)

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Unit 2 cont’d: Independent Project: Art & Science