

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	BA (Honours) Fine Art
Length of Course	Three years, full time
UCAS code	W100
Date of production/revision	May 2017

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:

- enable the intellectual and technical production of art to realise individual creative potential and direction;
- develop investigative, critically reflective and independent learning through the study, debate and practice of contemporary fine art in historical, theoretical, social and cultural contexts;
- provide a supportive and inclusive environment for the acquisition of specialist and generic skills and knowledges necessary for professionally

responsible, independent and collaborative practice in fine art, postgraduate study and employment within the cultural industries.

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:	Evidence a considered approach to art making, through exploration, experimentation, problem solving and invention.
Outcome:	Demonstrate a diagnostic and creative application of the understanding of the relationship between the technical and conceptual aspects of media and their use.
Outcome:	Produce a body of self-generated, informed work, which substantially demonstrates a critical and contextual understanding of fine art practice.
Outcome:	Demonstrate a considered and coherent approach to the gathering, organisation, use and critical evaluation of relevant research material, to contextualise your work, and that of others, effectively.
Outcome:	Exercise significant judgement in the appropriate communication of information, ideas and proposals in visual, written and oral forms.
Outcome:	Demonstrate the ability to deploy the creative, practical and professional skills necessary to work within the visual arts and/or related cultural industries, responsibly, independently and collaboratively.

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:

- briefing materials and meetings;

- inductions and workshops;
- teaching events;
- projects and assignments;
- off-site work;
- placement opportunities;
- exchange opportunities;
- personal and group tutorials;
- seminars and debates;
- critical reviews and presentations;
- lectures and guest speakers;
- study and development planning;
- recommended reading, viewing and visits;
- independent study;
- peer and 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. In each year you are expected to study for 1,200 hours over 30 weeks; below is the amount of time which is timetabled activity. The rest of your learning time will be self-directed, independent study.

Year 1 – 18%

Year 2 – 18%

Year 3 – 16%

Assessment Methods:

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

Holistic or element assessment of achievement as demonstrated through:

- studio work;
- research and preparatory work;
- study plans;
- documentation of work;
- verbal and visual presentations;
- written work;
- participation in debate;
- peer and self-critical evaluation

Element assessment means that each element is weighted (according to percentages) and added together to create the unit grade.

Holistic assessment means that tutors will look at all the work for the unit and make a single judgement against the marking criteria.

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 fine art practice and 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, 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.

Artists create the cultural resources of our shared future. It is important that an Honours Degree in Fine Art recognises the breadth and diversity of the social, political, cultural, economic and technological context of contemporary art.

BA Fine Art focuses upon developing challenging forms of practice rather than following a medium based or a general fine art course. It offers a practice-based approach to technical, conceptual, historical and critical contexts, equipping students with the skills and knowledge to define and innovate within their chosen cultural and artistic fields.

Pathways

The course is organised into four Pathways: 2D, 3D, 4D and XD. Students are allocated to a pathway through a diagnostic process at the start of the course, however pathway transfer is possible. Each pathway has a distinct studio culture that is orientated around particular discussions, themes and resources and engages students with specific critical perspectives and technical inductions, developing their work in relation to different forms of practice rather than within the limitations of a particular medium.

The pathways also embody an inter-disciplinary approach that is reflected in cross-pathway events that are structures throughout the course. As the student progresses through the course, the relationship between the pathways is progressively porous. While some students may stay within a pathway throughout the course, others can develop a more open trans-disciplinary practice.

2D explores how making is informed by contemporary culture, politics and social forms as much as by questions of the image and abstraction. It considers the screen, the picture plane and surface are explored as fundamental aspects of visual production. Technical inductions are positioned in terms of these questions. In the studio we discuss how diverse disciplines, practices and forms of thought can be mixed.

3D explores matter, scale, production, material and immaterial form in relation to place and audience. Students are inducted into a range of traditional and new 3D technologies, and to the debates surrounding hybrid production processes. The studio is a place where the reading and writing of space can take place and be questioned. 3D challenges a conventional understanding of the studio, exhibition and institutional space.

4D explores time-based, durational performative, and interdisciplinary practices. Critical and philosophical positions are explored in relation to practice, and current ideas such as the post-medium condition, the apparatus of technology and temporality are considered. The Pathway has an experimental approach to the studio and explores how this might challenge conventions of practice. In this context, the 'open work' is engaged as a site where collaboration and production take place.

XD explores the possibilities of not only 'what does art mean?' but also 'what can art do?' and 'where can art be?' The implications of working across different platforms and placing art in particular situations and communities throws into question the rights and responsibilities of the artist in relation to the audience and the environment. The studio is considered as a laboratory where ideas for interventions in the practice of everyday life can be generated.

Course Structure and Stages

The course is divided into three Stages. Students need to pass all three Stages to gain the degree, however, the final degree classification is based on the achievement in the Stage 3 units.

Stage 1: Working within their pathway, students will begin to explore their practice identifying and experimenting with key ideas and a range of approaches for developing work. The principal focus of the autumn and spring terms is teaching within the pathway. The summer term introduces students to collaboration and cross-pathway events.

Stage 1 comprises the following Units:

- Unit 1 Fine Art: Introduction to Study in Higher Education – 20 credits
- Unit 2 Process and Method – 20 credits
- Unit 3 Emerging Practice – 40 credits
- Unit 4 Situating Practice – 40 credits

Stage 2: Continuing practice is an essential part of this Stage. Students engage cross-pathway in discursive seminars, exhibitions and external projects. These will present students with opportunities to challenge and question their practice shifting between collaborative and individual approaches to making work.

Stage 2 comprises the following Units:

- Unit 5 Studio Practice and Exhibition – 40 credits
- Unit 6 Critical Discourses – 40 credits
- Unit 7 Studio Practice and Projects – 40 credits

Stage 3: The relationship of continuing practice to the dissertation is the key focus of this Stage, leading up to the degree show in the summer term. Cross-pathway interaction is maintained through dissertation group tutorials, critical review and the ultimate collaboration in the context of the final exhibition.

Stage 3 comprises the following Units:

- Unit 8 Research and Practice – 40 credits
- Unit 9 Continuing Practice and Degree Show – 80 credits

Diploma in Professional Studies:

In addition to the three Stages, students can also opt to take the year-long Diploma in Professional Studies between Stages 2 and 3, offering highly focused and personalised work placements which help them develop enhanced communication, networking, and organisational skills. In recent years students have had placements at Tate Modern, The Royal Festival Hall, Anthony Gormley's studio and the National Theatre.

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 Studio

The studio is a site that has to be perpetually reinvented and the pathways address this in a number of ways: as laboratory, performative site, social space and discursive environment. It is an ambiguous territory that shifts between production, exhibition and interpretation. This approach has given rise to an innovative collaboration with ACME studios where 20 BA Fine Art graduates are given a subsidised studio for one year once they graduate. The characteristics of these studios are informed by questions that arise from the CSM King's Cross studios workshops and project spaces.

Exhibition-making

Experimental forms of exhibition-making take place within each stage of the course and happen both within the context of the University and in public venues outside of the institution. Recent examples include Camden Collective, Archway Tower, British Library, Camden Arts Centre, performances within the Tate Turbine Hall. The spaces at King's Cross offer a positive and challenging environment for students to make work in.

Event-based teaching

Event-based teaching happens throughout the course in the form of mounting exhibitions, engaging with outward-facing projects and involving different forms of collaboration. The King's Cross locality is an important factor for these activities enabling the course to engage in the regeneration and changing dynamics of the area and to build links with the local community and neighbouring institutions such as the Wellcome Trust and British Library. This also provides the opportunity to integrate staff research, which is embedded into the course through a variety of teaching events.

Critical Studies

Critical Studies supports a student's theoretical exploration and provides the methodologies and a conceptual framework for developing practice. This takes the form of lectures, seminars, tutorials and presentations throughout the course, leading up to the final dissertation that is immanent to studio practice and is jointly taught. The Critical Studies tutors are fundamental in the delivery of theory within the course. Writing and presentation skills and the ability to articulate practice, are a key focus of the course and are essential skills for a practicing artist.

Cross-programme Events

Cross-programme events give an insight into a wider sense of how research operates within the Art Programme, but also in terms of the other Programmes within both the College and the University. Examples are seminar/symposium projects such as Intimacies Unguarded (<http://www.arts.ac.uk/csm/csm-research/intimacy-unguarded/> - the project explores creative and critical approaches to autobiography, biography and memoir), and Headstone to Hard Drive (<http://events.arts.ac.uk/event/2014/10/25/Headstone-to-Hard-Drive-Monument-to-Folly-1/> - the project explores how developments in technology affect the arts).

External Links

The course has excellent external links with specialist art institutions and with different areas of the art world. Projects take place with a range of external partners for students whilst on course, and at the point of graduation in their transition into professional life. This gives invaluable opportunities to collaborate with new teams and engage with audiences beyond the college environment. Project partners range from international arts institutions, to up-and-coming, artist-run spaces.

Student Exchanges

International student mobility is a major focus of the course. This can take the form of exchanges within the extensive range of Erasmus partners that the course offers as well as outside Europe, to Japan and the USA. Alongside this the course is actively engaged in the University's Study Abroad scheme, with the incoming international students bringing an important additional dynamic to the course.

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.

Opportunities for all

We are committed to making university education an achievable option for a wider range of people and seek to recruit students from diverse socio-economic, cultural

and educational backgrounds. We are committed to supporting all our students to achieve their potential both during and after their courses.

What we look for

We are interested in students who are prepared to question and take a critical perspective and who show potential to develop as innovative artists.

Student selection criteria

Applicants are selected according to their demonstration of potential and current ability to:

- work imaginatively and creatively in visual media
 - engage with experimentation and invention
 - show imagination and ambition in proposals for their work
- demonstrate a range of skills and technical abilities
 - show personal commitment to skill development
 - engage with materials and processes
- provide evidence of intellectual enquiry within their work
 - demonstrate relevant research
 - reflect critically on your learning
- demonstrate cultural awareness and/or contextual framework of their work
 - identify historical and contemporary art practices
 - identify social and/or cultural influences on their work
- articulate and communicate intentions clearly
 - demonstrate appropriate and effective communication skills
 - present their work appropriately and effectively

- indicate the relevance of this course to their personal development
 - develop their own ideas beyond set project briefs
 - show willingness to work both collaboratively and independently
 - reflect their knowledge of this course

Portfolio and interview advice

The portfolio should demonstrate a range of skills appropriate to the subject area, containing examples of work completed within recent years, whether for a college project or personal work. It is important that the work applicants include reflects their engagement in creative practice, critical thinking and technical abilities and also that they include evidence of background research, e.g. sketchbooks, preliminary work and written material.

Ideas, visual research and experimentation are more important than finished work and can be shown in two dimensional work, made objects, photographs or through recorded moving image/live events.

Pathway choices are considered during the admissions process. We therefore advise applicants to describe any specific interest they have in their personal statement, taking into account the descriptions of the programme pathways we offer (see above: Structure). These interests or preferences will also inform the selection and presentation of 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.

This course requires portfolio evidence.

Entry to this course is highly competitive. Selection is determined by the quality of the application, indicated primarily in the portfolio of work and written statements. A very high proportion of successful applicants complete a Foundation Diploma in Art and Design. Applicants are normally expected to have achieved, or be expected to achieve, the course entry requirements detailed below:

- Foundation Diploma in Art and Design

- A pass in one GCE A level
- Passes at GCSE level in three other subjects (grade C or above)

or

- Passes in two GCE A Levels
- Passes at GCSE level in three other subjects (grade C or above)

or

- UALAB Level 3 Pre-University Art and Design
- Passes at GCSE in four other subjects grade C or above, at least one of which should be in an art and design subject (or the equivalent Level 2 qualification in an appropriate subject)

This educational level may be demonstrated by possession of equivalent qualifications; e.g. International Baccalaureate or High School Diploma. The course will exceptionally consider A Level candidates who can present a portfolio of equivalent standard to those produced by students on Foundation courses.

Applicants who do not meet these course entry requirements may still be considered if the course team judges the application demonstrates additional strengths and alternative evidence. This might be demonstrated by, for example: related academic or work experience; the quality of the personal statement; a strong academic or other professional reference; or a combination of these factors.

English language requirements

All classes are conducted in English. If English is not the applicant's first language they will be asked to provide evidence of their English language ability at enrolment. The standard English Language requirement for entry is IELTS 6.0 with a minimum of 5.0* in any one paper, or equivalent. For further information visit:

<http://www.arts.ac.uk/study-at-ual/language-centre/language-requirements/>

*However, the UK Border Agency requires a minimum of 5.5 in each paper, so applicants who will need a Tier 4 General Student Visa should check on this link:

<http://www.arts.ac.uk/study-at-ual/international/immigration-and-visas/>

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

Course Diagram and Assessment Map: red squares = unit assessment weeks; grey squares = personal tutorials

		Winter										Spring										Summer									
Stage 1	wk	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
Full Time 1		Unit 1 <i>Fine Art: Introduction to HE Studies</i> 20 credits										Unit 3 <i>Emerging Practice</i> 40 credits										Unit 4 <i>Situating Practice</i> 40 credits									
		Unit 2 <i>Process and Method</i> 20 credits																													
		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
Stage 2	wk	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
Full Time 2		Unit 5 <i>Studio Practice and Exhibition</i> 40 credits															Unit 7 <i>Studio Practice and Projects</i> 40 credits														
		Unit 6 <i>Critical Discourses</i> 40 credits																													
		31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
Full Time		Diploma in Professional Studies (120 credits) <i>optional 'sandwich' year</i>																													
Stage 3	wk	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90

Full Time 3	Unit 8 <i>Research and Practice</i> 40 credits																													
	Unit 9 <i>Continuing Practice & Degree Show</i> 80 credits																													
	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90