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APPROVED

MA Curating and Collections

Awarding Body	University of the Arts London
College	Chelsea College of Arts
School	University of the Arts London
Programme	Chelsea Fine Art (L050)
Course AOS Code	CHEMACUCF01
FHEQ Level	Level 7 Masters
Course Credits	180
Mode	Full Time
Duration of Course	1 year
Valid From	September 1st 2019
QAA Subject Benchmark	Art and Design
Collaboration	N/A
UAL Subject Classification	Curation and culture
JACS Code	W190 - Fine art not elsewhere classified
UCAS Code	N/A
PSRB	N/A
Work placement offered	N/A
Course Entry Requirements	The standard minimum entry requirements for this course are:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BA (Hons) degree in a related subject or equivalent academic qualifications • Personal statement • Study plan <p>Entry to this course will also be determined by the quality of your application, looking primarily at your personal statement and study plan.</p> <p>APEL - Accreditation of Prior (Experiential) Learning</p> <p>Applicants who do not meet these course entry requirements may still be considered in exceptional cases. The course team will consider each application that demonstrates additional strengths and alternative evidence. This might, for example, be demonstrated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Related academic or work experience • The quality of the personal statement • A strong academic or other professional reference • A combination of these factors <p>Each application will be considered on its own merit but we cannot guarantee an offer in each case.</p> <p>English language requirements</p> <p>All classes are taught in English. If English isn't your first language you must provide evidence at enrolment of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IELTS level 6.5 or above, with at least 5.5 in reading, writing, listening and speaking (please check our English language requirements).
Selection Criteria	<p>We look for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ambition and commitment to develop and challenge work in curation and collections at Master level • An awareness of current debates and practices in curation and collections

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The potential to devise and develop a self-directed programme of curatorial practice and related research• The ability to analyse and evaluate in both visual and oral terms• The ability to develop and contextualise work in written form• An eagerness to engage in the critical debate surrounding contemporary and historical practices as well as to develop a critical framework for their practice• The potential to develop a range of skills and competencies to a professional level |
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Awards and Percentage of Scheduled Learning

Year 1

Percentage of Scheduled Learning	26
Awards	Credits
Postgraduate Certificate	60
Postgraduate Diploma	120
Master of Arts	180

Course Aims and Outcomes

The Aims and Outcomes of this Course are as follows:

Aim/Outcome	Description
Aim	Engage with and interpret knowledge at the forefront of the discipline through the development of your critical, conceptual and practical abilities, achieved through: (a) the investigation of collections and archives; (b) the analysis of methodologies applied to their exhibition and display.
Aim	Generate a self-directed programme of curatorial practice and related collections research, supporting the development of your professional practice.
Aim	Contextualise and theorise your own practice through a critical evaluation of: (a) the work of contemporary practitioners and leading researchers within the discipline; (b) historic collections practices, evidenced in public and/or private collections and archives. This will support the consolidation of transferable and professional skills relevant to employment and further study.
Aim	Develop a comprehensive understanding of methodologies applicable to your own research while demonstrating high-level skills and competencies as a preparation for professional curatorial practice using collections and archives.
Outcome	Articulate a systematic knowledge and a comprehensive understanding of the contemporary and historical context for your curatorial practice as well as related collections research.
Outcome	Analyse complex issues relating to collections and archival display while being able to communicate your understanding of them to a range of audiences.
Outcome	Evaluate research methodologies, develop techniques, and apply methods and propose new hypotheses applicable to your research intentions.
Outcome	Demonstrate an independent and creative approach to problem solving and research, including planning and implementation of tasks relating to exhibition practice at a professional level.

Outcome	Demonstrate self-direction and inventiveness in the development of your curatorial knowledge while acting independently in the planning and implementation of your practice to a professional standard.
Outcome	Exercise the initiative, responsibility and decision-making necessary to support continued professional development and independent learning.
Outcome	Engage critically with theoretical and historical debate in curatorial practice, particularly in relation to collections and archive scholarship.

Distinctive Features	
1	This MA is less concerned in immersing students in broader questions of culture and criticism. Rather its focus will be the specialities attending the formation of collections and the specificities of their organisation along with the exploration of collections and archival display.
2	Learning takes place through close engagement with Chelsea Space where a distinctive and renowned practice is based on a deep knowledge of Chelsea College of Arts Library Special Collections. This daily contact with the local collection is complemented by organised visits and structured engagement with archives and collections across the University as a whole.
3	The course provides access to knowledge of collections formulated in-situ with an emphasis on problem-solving and practical handling, for mounting displays and exhibitions: attention to objects; spatial awareness; working with artists and designing displays. In situ sessions also address matters as selection and hanging of artworks, as well as the various aspects of project management necessary for the successful production of displays.
4	Attention to the latest critical thinking on issues such as: participation; artist curators; the formation of publics; and spectatorship and will be driven by the particular museological expertise of the Course Leader.
5	An important aspect of the course will be the access it provides to archives and collections from across the University. This will enable students to address a variety of collections and the specificities that inform their organisation. This will take place both through onsite introductions and negotiated access to Collections and Archives across the University. There are possibilities for: An annual visit and introduction to the renowned Camberwell Handling Collection followed by the option of negotiated access for individual research projects. An Archives and Special Collections Centre session, followed by the option of negotiated access for individual research projects.
6	The close proximity to Chelsea Special Collections will provide the possibility of sustained contact enabling an ongoing investigation into the various scenarios by which Collections evolve.
7	Access to the CCW Graduate School (whose program is developed in close consultation with course and college gallery teams) will provide lectures and events and research days offering opportunities for cross-disciplinary (and college) collaboration to emerge.

Course Diagram

Weeks 1-15		Weeks 16-30		Weeks 31-45	
Unit 1: Analysis of Curatorial Practices (60 credits)	Summative Assessment Postgraduate Certificate Exit Point	Unit 2: Methods of Curatorial Display (60 credits)	Summative Assessment Postgraduate Diploma Exit Point	Unit 3: Enacting Curatorial Strategies (60 credits)	Summative Assessment Masters Exit Point

Course Detail

You will work alongside curators, learning how to handle art and design objects.

Professionals in the curatorial team at Chelsea Space will guide your curating of artefacts. Your exhibition skills will be underpinned by curatorial knowledge, enhanced by study visits to major institutions. Curators from museums, such as Tate, the British Museum and the V&A, will offer you unique perspectives on their work.

By combining practical engagement with historical understanding, the course builds the skills needed for a successful career.

What to expect

- Practical skills that will sit alongside critical reflection to help you develop a balanced approach to curating
- Learn curatorial methods, such as exhibition design, concept development, marketing, press releases, audience engagement, artist liaison and budgeting
- Explore current critical debates, staying up to date on issues such as the formation of publics, and the status of artists in collections, as well as objects and their meaning
- The course will help build your confidence in handling a range of materials, such as: moving image, paintings, photographs, prints, drawings, garments, textiles, ceramics and glassware
- Receive support from the curatorial team at Chelsea Space who will provide training within an active and supportive curatorial environment so that you can skilfully engage with the best examples of contemporary practice

Mode of study

MA Curating and Collections is offered in full-time mode and runs for 45 weeks over 12 months. You will be expected to commit an average of 40 hours per week to your course, including teaching hours and independent study.

Course Units

A short description of each unit and what you can expect.

Unit 1 - Analysis of curatorial practices

This unit is an introduction to your course, the college and the university.

- To have hands on experience of practice-based curating
- To develop your written work in relation to your critical research paper and exhibition reviews
- To develop your analytical skills and knowledge
- To discuss and develop your research

Unit 2 - Methods of curatorial display

This unit will deepen your engagement with collections and archival research alongside curatorial practice.

- To establish connections within museum and curatorial networks to help you progress your research interests
- To gain a critical perspective on the museum, gallery and curatorial contexts, through detailed knowledge of the political and historical background, and stewardship issues related to the collections and archives sector
- To plan and begin to implement your project of self-directed study

Unit 3 - Enacting curatorial strategies

In this unit you will reflect upon current curatorial practice and develop your own professional practice utilising Chelsea Space as a venue.

- To develop a critical understanding of work that challenges existing practice
- To further develop your project of self-directed study
- To analyse and test your project work and ideas through seminars
- To present work in the college postgraduate show

Throughout the 3 units of the course, you will study in the following ways:

- Exhibition studio workshop - practical sessions focusing on exhibition-making
- Curatorial studies - sessions focusing on historical and theoretical framing of curatorial practice
- Collections visits - engagement with museums, events, exhibitions and displays
- Lecture programme - lectures from professors, readers and other invited speakers

During the course, you will have individual and group tutorials developing your skills through the taught sessions alongside the professional practice activity with staff at

Chelsea Space. Individual research will be guided to help you make the most of the Special Collections, as well as, library and learning resources across UAL.

The UAL collections include:

- Chelsea's Special Collections, which have a strong emphasis on modern and contemporary art and design
- Camberwell's ILEA collection of ceramics and glassware
- Central Saint Martins' Museum and Study Collection, which include early printed books, prints, illuminated manuscripts, embroideries, 1920s German film posters, textiles and garments

Learning and Teaching Methods

- Collaborative work with peers
- Gallery, museum and other visits
- Presentations and crits
- Research topic groups
- Self-directed study and research
- Seminars
- Tutorials
- Visiting artist and practitioner talks and tutorials

Assessment Methods

- Critical writing
- Presentations
- Project portfolios

Reference Points

- QAA Subject Benchmark statements
- QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications
- CCW Postgraduate Framework
- UAL Creative Attributes Framework

The University will use all reasonable endeavours to provide the Course and the services described in this Output. There may be occasions whereby the University needs to add, remove or alter content in relation to your Course as may be appropriate for example the latest requirements of a commissioning or accrediting body, or in response to student feedback, or to comply with applicable law or due to circumstances beyond its control. The University aim to inform you of any changes as soon as is reasonably practicable.