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**APPROVED**

## MA Curating and Collections

<b>Awarding Body</b>	University of the Arts London
<b>College</b>	Chelsea College of Arts
<b>School</b>	University of the Arts London
<b>Programme</b>	Chelsea Art
<b>Course AOS Code</b>	CHEMACUCF01
<b>FHEQ Level</b>	Level 7 Masters
<b>Course Credits</b>	180
<b>Mode</b>	Full Time
<b>Duration of Course</b>	1 year
<b>Valid From</b>	September 1st 2021
<b>QAA Subject Benchmark</b>	Art and Design
<b>Collaboration</b>	N/A
<b>UAL Subject Classification</b>	Fine art
<b>JACS Code</b>	W190 - Fine art not elsewhere classified
<b>UCAS Code</b>	N/A
<b>PSRB</b>	N/A
<b>Work placement offered</b>	N/A
<b>Course Entry Requirements</b>	<p>The standard minimum entry requirements for this course are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• BA (Hons) degree in a related subject or equivalent academic qualifications</li><li>• Personal statement</li><li>• Study plan</li></ul> <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>

## **APEL - Accreditation of Prior (Experiential) Learning**

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:

- Related academic or work experience
- The quality of the personal statement
- A strong academic or other professional reference
- A combination of these factors

Each application will be considered on its own merit but we cannot guarantee an offer in each case.

### **English language requirements**

All classes are taught in English. If English isn't your first language you must provide evidence at enrolment of the following:

- 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**

We look for:

- 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
- 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

### **Scheduled Learning and Teaching**

During your course you will engage with learning and teaching that includes both online and face-to-face modes. The advertised scheduled activity for the course will be delivered

through a combination of live, synchronous and asynchronous on-line learning. Scheduled learning and teaching activity may include lectures, seminars, studio and workshop briefings, tutorials, external visits and project briefings.

# Awards and Percentage of Scheduled Learning

## Year 1

<b>Percentage of Scheduled Learning</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Awards</b>	<b>Credits</b>
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 exhibition and display; (c) understanding the theoretical frameworks that shape critical approaches to audience engagement, such as feminist critique, decolonisation, and sexual difference.
Aim	Generate a self-directed programme of curatorial practice and related collections research, supporting the development of your professional practice.
Aim	Produce critical evaluations of: (a) the work of contemporary practitioners and leading researchers within the discipline; (b) collections practices, evidenced in public and/or private collections and archives.
Aim	Develop a comprehensive understanding of methodologies to position your own research within the context of professional curatorial practice. This will support the consolidation of transferable and professional skills relevant to employment and further study.
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.

<b>Distinctive Features</b>	
1	This MA focuses on the development of critique through the practice of curating. Direct engagement with collections, through the organisation of constitutive objects and practices, provides the basis of knowledge and research.
2	Learning takes place through close engagement with Chelsea Space. Its distinctive and renowned practices are based on a deep knowledge of Chelsea College of Arts Library Special Collections. Close 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. Emphasis is placed on problem-solving. Skills are developed for the practical handling of art and/or design objects in the context of displays and exhibitions. Key features include: attention to objects; spatial awareness; artist engagement; designing displays. In situ sessions also address matters, such as selection and hanging of artworks. Various aspects of project management necessary for the successful production of exhibitions and displays will be addressed.
4	Attention to the critical thinking on emergent issues will be driven by the expertise of the Course Team, working within the context of UAL's research environment.
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. This will take place through onsite introductions to material. Negotiated access will be granted to Collections and Archives across the University.
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 UAL Professors and/or Readers will provide opportunities to engage in high-level research in curating as well as across other disciplinary contexts.

# Course Diagram

LEVEL 7																																																													
AUTUMN TERM															SPRING TERM															SUMMER TERM															AUTUMN TERM																
BLOCK 1															BLOCK 2															BLOCK 3																															
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	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45																	
<b>Unit 1</b> Introduction to curatorial practices, concepts and collection 60 credits																<b>Unit 2</b> Methodology and techniques 60 credits																<b>Unit 3</b> Synthesis: Exhibition project and self-directed study 60 credits																													
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PG Cert Exit Point															PG DIP Exit Point															MA Exit Point																															

**S = Summative Assessment**

Indicative summative assessment weeks are noted in the course diagram. For exact dates please refer to your timetable.

## 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 among the university's professors or readers, will also offer you unique perspectives on their work. Where necessary, other invited speakers, will lead discussions on exhibition practice. 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, dissemination of exhibition content, as well as objects and their interpretation
- 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 15 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

### Unit 1 - Introduction to curatorial practices, concepts and collections

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

- To provide a grounding for you to understand your key research concerns, through discussion and reflection
- To develop your knowledge of key issues in the curatorial field
- To gain hands-on experience of curating, through practice-based approaches to learning
- To develop your communication skills, through written work and oral presentations
- To understand curating as a means of reinterpreting objects and practices

### Unit 2 - Methodology and techniques

This unit will deepen your practice through engagement with collections research alongside curatorial activity.

- To establish connections with curatorial networks to help you progress your research interests
- To gain a critical perspective on institutional practices, through a detailed knowledge of the curatorial contexts
- To plan and implement a collections-based display
- To increase communication skills, through written work and oral presentations.
- To evaluate curatorial methods used to reinterpret objects and practices.

### **Unit 3 - Synthesis: Exhibition project and self-directed study**

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 articulate your own position in respect of key curatorial debates.
- To plan and implement an exhibition as part of a postgraduate show
- To finesse communication skills, through written work and oral presentations
- To analyse curatorial methods used to reinterpret objects and practices

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

- Exhibition studio workshop - practical sessions focusing on exhibition-building skills
- Curatorial studies - sessions focusing on historical and theoretical framing of curatorial practice
- Collections visits - engagement with museums, events, exhibitions and displays
- Guest speakers sessions led by 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

Note: 120 Credits must be passed before the final unit is undertaken.

### **Learning and Teaching Methods**

- Collaborative work with peers
- Gallery, museum and other visits
- Guest speaker talks
- Practice demonstrations
- Presentations and crits
- Self-directed study and research
- Seminars
- Tutorials

### **Assessment Methods**

- Critical writing
- Presentations and crits
- 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*