MA CULTURE, CRITICISM AND CURATION
# MA Culture, Criticism and Curation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Awarding Body</th>
<th>University of the Arts London</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>College</td>
<td>Central Saint Martins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme</td>
<td>Culture and Enterprise (L030)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course AOS Code</td>
<td>05257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FHEQ Level</td>
<td>Level 7 Masters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Credits</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mode</td>
<td>Full Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of Course</td>
<td>1 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching Weeks</td>
<td>45 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valid From</td>
<td>January 1st 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QAA Subject Benchmark</td>
<td>Communication, media, film and cultural studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UAL Subject Classification</td>
<td>Curation and culture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JACS Code</td>
<td>W290 - Design studies not elsewhere classified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCAS Code</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSRB</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work placement offered</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Course Entry Requirements</strong></td>
<td>The standard entry requirements for this course are as follows:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• An honours degree in a relevant field: history; art history; culture, communications or media</td>
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studies; fine art or design; fashion (history & theory or design); multimedia or interactive design; curatorial, gallery, archive or museum work; research; collections management or interpretation; journalism – digital, broadcast, press and radio; art criticism or publishing; marketing and PR; retail or business, if culturally related OR

- An equivalent EU / international qualification

AND at least one year of relevant professional experience.

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

Exceptionally applicants who do not meet these course entry requirements may still be considered. 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

OR a combination of these factors.

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

**English Language Requirements**

IELTS level 7.0 or above, with at least 6.0 in reading, writing, listening and speaking (please check our main English Language requirements webpage).

**Selection Criteria**

We select applicants according to potential and current ability in the following areas:

- Evidence of interest in and understanding of history, culture, and /or arts and design
- Evidence of critical thinking and research abilities, particularly in written work
| Experience of collaborative work  
| Evidence of self-motivation and ambition. |
## Awards and Percentage of Scheduled Learning

### Year 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Awards</th>
<th>Percentage of Scheduled Learning</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate Certificate (Exit Only)</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate Diploma (Exit Only)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Master of Arts</td>
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- **Awards**
  - Postgraduate Certificate (Exit Only): 60 Credits
  - Postgraduate Diploma (Exit Only): 120 Credits
  - Master of Arts: 180 Credits
Course Aims and Outcomes

The Aims and Outcomes of this Course are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aim/Occurrence</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aim</td>
<td>This course aims to: Engage with historical and contemporary scenarios of culture, encouraging new knowledge and proposing - through curating and writing - new cultural forms to both specialist and general audiences.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aim</td>
<td>The course aims to help students develop a research-led, creative and critical curatorial practice that will enable them to undertake professional work or progress to further study.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outcome</td>
<td>A detailed understanding of current forms of curating and critical writing about culture.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outcome</td>
<td>An ability to integrate research skills and interests, both for academic writing and curatorial and editorial projects.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outcome</td>
<td>Initiative and personal responsibility, decision-making skills in complex and unpredictable situations, and consolidation of independent learning required for continuing professional development.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outcome</td>
<td>Practical skills in handling historical and contemporary collections through engagement with museums, archives and creative environments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outcome</td>
<td>An ability to locate yourself within curatorial and critical practice and be committed to advancing your work in a professional, creative or academic context.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outcome</td>
<td>An ability to work, contribute and participate effectively and responsibly as an individual and collaboratively, both as part of a team and with external and/or industry partners.</td>
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### Distinctive Features

1. Within a competitive field of postgraduate courses and training in curatorial practice, MACCC works with two distinctive approaches. The first is its allegiance to 'culture', which is neither narrow (as with a course such as Digital Curation or Photography and Curation), nor mainstream (as with ubiquitous MAs in Curating Contemporary Art). The second is the way the course approaches intellectual and practical work as a joined-up form of enquiry. Theory and research are considered to be foundational to project work; and practice ('learning through doing') is considered fundamental to the course's scholarly pedagogy.

2. Curating and critical writing are seen as critical and creative practices with potential to be adaptable to institutions and to independent or alternative practices. Both are positioned as requiring adaptation and innovation. Students are not taught 'rules of thumb' but instead how to act with agency within complex and changing environments.

3. The course has exceptionally strong links with Central Saint Martins' Museum and Study Collection and the University's Archives and Special Collections Centre, providing students on the course with project work and access to specialist knowledge integral to their field of study.

4. Projects are realised through group work, through which collaboration is discussed, tested and reflected upon. These make use of the College's excellent resources as well as links with external organisations. They lead to partnerships with organisations both internal and external to the University, providing opportunities for students to build their individual 'practice' or professional capacity. These projects are of a very high standard and public profile.

5. Curating and Culture is an identified subject area within UAL, albeit one that can be found as components of many courses. We see such broad interest and engagement with culture and curation across the University, along with MACCC's niche-approach to the subject and particular ways of teaching theory and practice, as a strong offer that makes UAL both diversified and coherent.

6. Distinctively international cohort. Students have come from the UK, Europe, the Americas, Asia and Australasia.

7. Engages with social and political issues and positions research-led curation as a potent agent of change.

8. Emphasis on interdisciplinary thinking and enquiry. Multiple subject backgrounds in both the staff team and student cohort enriches the experience by placing a diversity of experiences and views in dialogue with
one another.
Course Detail

The theorist and novelist Raymond Williams described culture as one of the most difficult words in the English language. It crosses disciplines and holds multiple meanings. It designates things and processes. Historically, culture meant “civilisation”. More recently its definition has shifted towards the entertainment and education sectors. This has been accompanied by an ongoing negotiation about what might constitute the objects, activities, agents and interpretations of cultural production.

MA Culture, Criticism and Curation works with two distinctive approaches: it examines culture as a broad field, while treating intellectual and practical work as a form of joined-up enquiry. The course aims to make research accessible to new and larger audiences, removing it from a solely academic environment. Taking advantage of its location in an art school, the course integrates theoretical issues and practical skills. It interrogates history and considers how new knowledge is presented in the public realm.

MA Culture, Criticism and Curation will teach you how to become both an innovative practitioner and a strong researcher, with the skills to communicate to specialist and general audiences alike. Project work is a combination of theory and research and learning through doing is fundamental to the course. MA Culture, Criticism and Curation promotes a community of practice, which is central to student development. The course is designed as a series of intensive workshops, combining seminars, discussions, site visits and practical projects. These are often interdisciplinary and the course encourages a holistic approach to critical, practical, peer-to-peer, group and independent work. There are also opportunities for programme, College and University-based events which allow you to engage with the rich culture of research and innovation at Central Saint Martins.

MA Culture, Criticism and Curation makes use of London’s wealth of collections, archives and creative practitioners, staging teaching in relation to these resources. You will work on live projects which are devised in response to the complex issues surrounding the presentation of culture in public spaces. Working in groups, you will learn how to collaborate effectively, how to use the project as a testing-ground and how to contribute individual skills and ideas to a collective end.
## Course Units

On MA Culture, Criticism and Curation, you will examine theoretical concepts in relation to organisations, events and the work of individual practitioners. Each year, the course makes use of relevant cultural events in London and beyond. Students work with external archives and collections, encouraging high-level organisational, communication, technical and professional skills from the outset.

On the course, critical writing spans academia, art criticism and journalism as well as project reports and evaluations. You will explore curatorial practices early in the course, leading up to a final group curatorial project. During your studies, you are expected to undertake a significant amount of independent reading and research. Lectures, reading lists and discussions will direct you towards key debates and theoretical issues. Alongside your own research, course discussions, essays and formal presents will help develop your critical skills.

MA Culture, Criticism and Curation is taught by a team of tutors who bridge academic research and practices of criticism, journalism, art, exhibition design, curation and collections management. They will support your acquisition of high-level critical and practical skills, enabling you to work in the field of art and culture or progress to a research degree.

### Unit 1: Foundations

Unit 1 will introduce you to a range of practices and concepts within the fields of culture, criticism and curation. You will begin to research your dissertation in order to develop a proposal and also take part in a group curatorial project. Unit 1 is supported by a series of seminars, workshops, site visits, project meetings and activities. These will help you build knowledge, critical thinking and creativity in response to ideas, environments cultural objects and communities.

### Unit 2: Testing

Unit 2 is a continuation of the activities undertaken in Unit 1. You will continue to develop your dissertation and present it as work-in-progress. You will be encouraged to develop a bespoke research direction. This unit requires you to focus on historical knowledge and ideas, considerations of audience, cultural policies, competing systems of representation, exhibition conventions, writing and oral presentations.

### Unit 3: Articulating and Realising

Unit 3 is a culmination of the dissertation and group projects. The dissertation will contribute to the development of your research interests – whether these are aimed at employment, curatorial practice or PhD study. The unit is supported by a series
of seminars, workshops, site visits, project meetings and activities. These will help you complete your projects and prepare for exiting the course.

**Projects and professional partnerships**

Working collaboratively with organisations – small and large, independent and well-established – is central to MA Culture, Criticism and Curation. Final projects are often undertaken in partnership with external organisations. Previous examples include The Guardian, Flat Time House, the Old Operating Theatre Museum and Herb Garret, David Roberts Art Foundation, the South London Gallery, the Archive Studio at the Southbank Centre and Artists Studio Company (ASC).

**Mode of study**

MA Culture, Criticism and Curation is offered in full-time mode which runs for 45 weeks over 12 months. You will be expected to commit 40 hours per week to study, which includes teaching time and independent study.

**Credit and award requirements**

The course is credit-rated at 180 credits.

On successfully completing the course, you will gain a Master of Arts (MA degree).

Under the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, an MA is Level 7. All units must be passed in order to achieve the MA but the classification of the award is derived from the mark for the final unit only.

If you are unable to continue on the course, a Postgraduate Certificate (PG Cert) will normally be offered following the successful completion of 60 credits, or a Postgraduate Diploma (PG Dip) following the successful completion of 120 credits.
## Learning and Teaching Methods

- Unit and assessment briefings
- Inductions and orientation sessions
- Seminars and lectures
- Workshops
- Facilitated project meetings
- Independent research and project work
- Visits
- Guest talks
- Short independent projects
- Group and one-to-one tutorials
- Discussions and critiques
- Formal presentations of research and project work
- Group curating and editorial projects to a set brief
- Tutor-led, peer and self-assessment

## Assessment Methods

- Essays
- Presentations
- Group curating project
- Project proposal
- Oral and written reports
- Dissertation

## Reference Points

The following reference points were used in designing the course:

- FHEQ Level Descriptors (Level 7);
- QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for Art and Design, 2008;
- UAL Creative Attribute Framework;
- HEA Embedding Equality and Diversity in the Curriculum;
- UAL 2015-2022 Learning, Teaching and Enhancement Strategy;
- UAL Equal Opportunities Policy 2016;
- External industry advice and guidance;
- Student and graduate consultation;
Course Diagram
Indicative assessment weeks are detailed in the course diagram. For exact dates please refer to the timetable.

This is a January start course. For details of start and end points, term dates are published on the UAL website: https://www.arts.ac.uk/students/term-dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spring Term</th>
<th>Summer Term</th>
<th>Autumn Term</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 V 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 V</td>
<td>31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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**Unit 1: Foundations**  
60 credits

**Unit 2: Testing**  
60 credits

**Unit 3: Articulating and Realising**  
60 credits

Key

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Summative assessment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Independent study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>Vacation period</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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.