



PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This Programme Specification is designed for prospective students, current students, graduates, academic staff and potential employers. It provides a summary of the main features of the programme and the intended learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

Whilst every endeavour has been made to provide the course described in the Programme Specification, the University reserves the right to make such changes as may be appropriate for reasons of operational efficiency or due to circumstances beyond its control. Any changes are made in accordance with the University's academic standards and quality procedures.

This document is available in alternative formats on request.

ARTS UNIVERSITY BOURNEMOUTH

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

The Programme Specification provides a summary of the main features of the **MA Fine Art** course, and the learning outcomes that a 'typical' student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if they pass the course.

Further detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching and learning methods of each unit may be found within this Handbook and the online Unit Information, which is available on your course blog.

<u>Key Course Information</u>	
Final Award	Master of Arts
Course Title	Fine Art
Award Title	MA Fine Art
Teaching institution	Arts University Bournemouth
Awarding Institution	Arts University Bournemouth
Offered in the School of:	Graduate School
<i>Contact details:</i> Telephone number Email	01202 363706 graduateschooloffice@aub.ac.uk
Professional accreditation	None
Length of course / mode of study	53 weeks Full Time 105 weeks Part Time
Level of final award (in FHEQ)	Level 7
Subject benchmark statement	QAA Master's degree characteristics
Language of stud	English
External Examiner for course:	To be confirmed <i>Please note that it is not appropriate for students to contact external examiners directly.</i>
Date of Validation	2006
Date of most recent review	2014
Date programme specification written/revised	September 2014

Postgraduate Ethos

The Master's course recognises individuals and their aspirations, and celebrates ideas, making, and creative risk-taking. Our guiding principle is to offer distinctive, exciting and challenging opportunities for you to engage in your respective subject disciplines in order to critically engage with, and redefine, your particular approaches to your practices and position them within your chosen external, creative, economic, and cultural environment.

We support this principle through our passionate engagement with interdisciplinarity and collaborative practices, with the integration of theory and practice, with our understanding of the particularities of individual practitioners and the broader world, global view, and with an attitude to career development which places professionalism and risk taking in dialogue.

Such a context affords possibilities to engage with fresh, often unpredictable and certainly challenging methodologies and techniques with which you can research, test, develop, progress, interrogate, take risks, make and confidently reflect on your own practice and subject discipline. Whilst you will be encouraged to develop your own themes, relationships between the aesthetic, the political, the ethical and 'value' are ever-present and the courses support your engagement with what are often difficult contemporary issues.

Crucial to the courses and their inherent multifaceted, creative, artistic outcomes, is that you demonstrate a committed passion for your practice and the particular media within your chosen subject discipline. Each course devises specific discipline-focused project work to enable you to be suitably informed in taking the right path towards your chosen career in a diverse range of professions /industries or progress to further study at doctorate level. This discipline focus is, however, enhanced by your experience of interdisciplinary and collaborative approaches and activities which enrich your journey. Our focus on the relationships between personal professional development and the development of communities of practice through sharing and collaboration is underpinned by the unique AUB reputation for truly collaborative working across disciplines, i.e. the practice of complementarity. Through involvement in cross-course groups, shared lectures and other MA activities you will have opportunities to work together with other MA students to form a 'postgraduate network' that will facilitate a wider dialogue around art and design, sustainability, ethics, the political and the often-global reach of creative industries and professions. Our ethos focuses on not only developing your systematic and critical understanding of knowledge and of the application of that knowledge in an appropriate, professional context but also in having the resolve, the skills and the acumen to exercise initiative and personal responsibility in a world which is asking many questions of all of us with respect to our abilities and desires in coexisting with a global community.

In other words, our ethos focuses on the ability for our graduates not only to develop their careers and be employable but also to be engaged in the redefinition of what employment might look like in what are times of tremendous social, political, economic, and ecological change, and indeed upheaval.

Course Description

Practice as research defines what fine art is. This course will enable you to develop your practice as an artist within a supportive, analytical and critical environment. The MA Fine Art course engages with the forefront of contemporary art practice and seeks to contribute a dynamic voice within it. You will develop a questioning mind and a new outlook to your chosen field; examining your existing position and art practice at the outset of the course and then through personal reflection and tutorial advice a structured plan of practice and research will be formulated.

The Fine Art course supports you as an emerging artist who is eager to explore and confront your practice in the endeavour to redefine your position in relation to contemporary art.

You will be engaged in focusing on the context for your practice, asking where it is aligned with other specialisms and exploring the importance of process and material. You are expected to be an independent thinker and be open minded to enable you to be analytical and reflective of your practice whilst incrementally increasing and deepening your thought processes as the course progresses. Whether you are aiming to exhibit in contemporary galleries, work in the public domain, engage in social art enterprise, teach art at school, college or university, go on to PhD study, this course supports you in your aspirations.

You are encouraged to focus on the relevance and meaning of materials and process, the potentials of site specificity, display and the interpretation of your work by audiences. It is important to learn about your potential audiences and how sites, galleries and other venues are interpreted through artworks. Materials and the processes that artists use to manipulate them all carry significant meaning; they become part of the way in which audiences interpret work.

MA Fine Art is designed to enable you to follow your research interests at level 7 through conceptual and critical thinking. You will be working alongside students and staff from the other Master of Arts courses. This valuable experience enables you to define and inform the direction of your practice and research through the core MA units but also draw from the expertise across the Faculties at AUB. Ideas are generated through research, scholarly activity and conceptual enquiry and brought to realisation in an individual body of work that is tested in the public domain.

Critiques of practice and ideas are a regular feature of the Fine Art course and you are invited to provide an explication of your practice at several pivotal moments during your MA study. As a group of fine art practitioners you are encouraged to set up informal critiques of your practice and engage in discussion and debate on topics that are of current concern.

Areas of expertise within the course team include: the transformation of both hard and soft materials in the pursuit of meaning; drawing; renewal of painting; the 'objectness' of sculpture; installation and space; performance; video and the document of time-based activities; photography and new media.

Statement of Student Entitlement

- Tutorials – three supervisory tutorials per 60 credit unit; totalling 9 over the course. In addition, each student is entitled to assessment feedback tutorials on the Strategies for Practice and Master's Project 1 units. A tutorial time of 45 minutes is allocated.
- Group Critique – three critiques; one near to the middle of each unit.
- Staff and student-led lectures and seminars.
- Regularly timetabled group meetings with MA Course Leader and/or relevant tutors.
- Access to the Quiet Study Room during Library hours.
- Access to relevant resources agreed through your Course Leader.
- Agreed attendance on undergraduate workshop/darkroom/resource area inductions.
- Agreed access to relevant studios as required for assessments purposes.
- Postgraduate show where appropriate.
- Agreed access to discipline-related and cross-discipline lectures/seminars on undergraduate programmes.
- Attendance at Gallery events, Research days and other appropriate AUB events.

Course Aims

The course aims to:

1. Encourage intellectual progression by providing a stimulating forum for critical debate and inter-disciplinary approaches to practice.
2. Support you in developing the research methods and skills required in the gathering, sampling and analysing of data, in order to find and solve complex problems.
3. Encourage you to reflect critically on your achievements and to evaluate them within a challenging environment that will enable you to meaningfully extend your practice professionally and/or toward PhD study.
4. Enable you to develop professional maturity and to understand and discuss your work in the context of your discipline as well as the social, political and cultural spheres in which your work will be situated.
5. Develop a rich cultural community that actively engages creative practice in issues of ethics, sustainability and the political.

Course Outcomes

By the end of the course you will be able to:

1. Produce a high level of individual or collaborative work that acknowledges current practices within both Fine Art and the disciplines and communities associated with it.
2. Demonstrate advanced ability through making and thinking to research, investigate, describe and critique issues and situations thereby providing original insights into contemporary practice.
3. Demonstrate and apply highly developed and advanced practical and conceptual understanding of materials, techniques and processes and to raise questions for further study or professional development.
4. Show acquisition of appropriate skills and acumen in communication, presentation and autonomous learning in relation to career aspirations.
5. Develop your practice with respect to relevant issues of sustainability, ethics and the political.

Reference Points

UK Quality Code for higher education, including:

- Subject Benchmark Statement: *Master's degree characteristics*
- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)

AUB Regulatory Framework and Postgraduate Assessment Regulations

AUB Creative Learning Plan

AUB Strategic Plan

AUB Employability Framework

Learning and Teaching Strategies

Peer Learning and Group Work

While students at undergraduate level are encouraged to learn through their peers, at MA level this is an imperative. Each member of the MA cohort is an active participant in learning and teaching, and through this, the sharing of good practice is established. In cross-course groups, students work together to deliver student-led seminars and presentations on topics that arise from the seminars.

In discipline-specific group meetings, students and staff have the opportunity to discuss the issues at the forefront of their discipline.

Lectures and Gallery Talks

Lectures are used to focus on issues and provide information for you as you progress through the course. They are generally followed by question and answer sessions. Gallery talks usually take the form of an event supporting an exhibition and would include a presentation of work and/or dialogue with exhibitors that are drawn from a broad range of practitioners – such as artists, photographers, performers, designers, crafts persons, writers, critics and curators.

Seminars

Seminars are important opportunities for generating dialogue and interrogating practice. These explore issues related to practice in context and opportunities follow with student-led response seminars for specific aspects, issues or areas of individual and/or collective inquiry to be developed in detail.

Tutorials

Tutorials provide an opportunity to discuss individual student progress on the unit and on the course. They are used to air specific issues raised through the work, provide critical observation and recommend new direction and research strategies. The tutorial following a formal assessment is known as an assessment feedback tutorial. Supervision may be provided to you by a tutor delegated from another course if appropriate.

Group Critique

Group critique involves all students and forms distinctive learning and teaching points in the year. These events are led by a visiting lecturer (see below) and supported by the MA Course Leader and other MA course tutors. Discussion primarily focuses on the individual work produced in the units and takes place mid-way through each phase.

Visiting Professionals

The course invites several visiting artists/designers to contribute to the discussion in seminars and group critique. Visiting practitioners describe and discuss their work and maintain a lively and current debate.

Industry Liaison Groups

Set up to recognise the importance of maintaining awareness of current developments/practices within the professional workplace and as a pro-active element with subsequent influence on curriculum design, and meeting at individually predetermined points throughout the academic year, Industry Liaison Groups comprise members drawn from professional practice and organisations, AUB academic staff, AUB technical support staff, AUB alumni and representatives from the student cohort. Their aim is to support and advise on matters relating to student progression into the work environment and they play a significant role in informing course reviews, course revalidation and the development of the professional aspects that are intrinsic to particular course units.

As an informal group, the industry related members, in view of personal commitments, do not necessarily attend every meeting, rather, an organic approach is adopted where different 'voices' are invited to be involved. The revolving nature of the group can in this way bring a more enlightened and diverse range of conversations.

Study Visits

These involve visits to galleries and museums, theatres and performances, design collections, trade fairs, expositions, biennales and design practices here in the UK, the EU and worldwide. There are added costs notified in advance of the visit. Your attendance at academic and discipline specific conferences is encouraged.

Using technology to assist learning

The University is systematically developing technology-enhanced approaches to learning. AUB learning technology provides access to a full range of course documentation and provides an effective mechanism for the maintenance of course and broader institutional communication.

Postgraduate network

While students at undergraduate level are encouraged to learn through their peers, at MA Level this is an imperative through peer learning and group work. Each member of the MA cohort across the Graduate School is an active participant in learning and teaching, and through this postgraduate network, the sharing of good practice is established. Through involvement in cross-course groups, shared lectures and other MA activities you will work together with other MA students to form the postgraduate network that will facilitate a wider dialogue around the Arts, sustainability, ethics, the political and the creative industries.

Full and Part Time Modes of Study

The part-time and full-time overlap offers the students several opportunities. The part-time students will have the valuable and informative experience of attending the critiques, group and individual presentations scheduled for full-time students providing them with relevant skills and knowledge. This will provide a real understanding of what is expected of them. In addition, the full-time students will gain from part-time students' assistance in the preparation of their MA show. All new full-time and part-time cohorts will be welcomed by existing part-time students in their second year of study and will be able to learn from their experiences of the course and of the University. Part-time students in their second year will be able to act as mentors to the new students.

As well as this dynamic synergy between the full- and part-time modes of study, it has to be recognised that the course is driven by the individual student's practice and research, and how they choose to contextualise this and make it work within the structure of the course. There are considerable points of contact between full and part-time (some of which are also noted above), but there are also key points where the PT and FT delivery diverge and during which the part-time students are required to work independently. An ability to study independently is the underlying principle of postgraduate courses and, students opting for the PT route on this course allow themselves the further 'space' in which to develop their practice and thinking. A consequence of this is more independent study, but progress is monitored via meetings with tutors, such as the mid-unit reviews for PT students.

It is important to note, then, that the course seeks a specific commitment from students, where they are able to balance the demands of periods of independent postgraduate study with the discussions, seminars, group critiques and tutorials/reviews. It is also crucial that the different study modes (PT and FT) are seen as something to be embraced, as a positive contribution to the course as a whole, enabling as they do, the integration of a wide range of approaches and experiences to practice and theory.

It is important to recognise that the designated weekly study hours for PT are half of those for FT students, and for reasons of parity, access to subject area resources and academic support must be understood commensurately. The longer study

periods (x2) of each unit for PT students ensure that parity is clearly evident and accounted for between the two modes (FT and PT) of study. In this way, the overall study hours and proportionate access for each unit sustain parity of experience for FT and PT students.

Assessment

Each unit is assessed separately, and the assessment forms part of the unit. Assessment both provides a measure of your achievement, and also gives you regular feedback on how your learning is developing.

For every unit of your course, we will inform you of what you are expected to learn; what you have to submit; how your work will be assessed; and the deadline for presenting your work for assessment. This is made available through Unit Information, which is on your course blog.

You will receive a final mark for each unit in the form of a percentage, which will be recorded on your formal record of achievement (transcript). Each component of assessment is graded using a notched marking scale, whereby only certain marks are used within each grade. The only marks available within any ten-point band are *2, *5 and *8 (e.g. 62, 65, 68). These marks correspond to a low, mid, and high level of achievement within each grade band.

All learning outcomes must be passed to successfully complete the unit.

You are assessed, broadly speaking in two ways: formatively and summatively.

Formative assessment provides feedback that will help you to develop your learning. It should be seen as 'ongoing' assessment in the sense that it enables you to pinpoint strengths and weaknesses and address them appropriately. Formative assessment may take place in tutorials, seminars, critiques and other discussions about your work.

Summative assessment generally takes place at the end of a unit of study. It is an overall evaluation of your acquisition of the skills and knowledge developed in that part of the course.

There will be specific tutorials and formative assessment events once per term to make you fully aware of your progress on the course and monitor your development.

Assessment of collaborative work

In the event of collaborative work being produced and submitted for *collaborative* assessment it will generally follow the procedure outlined below.

1. The intention for assessed collaboration should be identified through the individual student's Study Plans and PDPs, and must have the prior agreement in principle of the Course Leader/relevant tutor(s).
2. A parity meeting will devise and implement an academically rigorous assessment method/procedure that will be submitted for approval of, and ultimately confirmation by, the Course Leader. Such confirmation will be conveyed to each student involved in the collaborative activity and agreement made with each that the procedure is fully understood.

3. An important component of this procedure will be a requirement for each student to provide a written (qualitative and quantitative) self-evaluation and evaluation of others' role within, and contribution to, the development and outcome of the 'submitted work'*. These evaluations will be used to *inform* the assessment process.
4. Following assessment and the subsequent parity meeting, *individual* marks will be agreed that will create the 'practice' component of the overall unit mark.

**Submitted work* – understood here as a generic term to cover whatever the manner or form in which this may be offered – *presentation / performance / artefacts / et al.*

Distinction

A Master's Degree with Distinction may be awarded. Only units at Level 7 contribute towards the determination of a Distinction.

For further information on assessment and awards, and the criteria for the award of Distinction please visit: <https://viewpoint.aub.ac.uk>

Course Structure

All students are registered for the award of Master of Arts; however, exit awards are available if you leave the course early. If you successfully complete a level of the course, you will automatically be entitled to progress to the next level.

For the award of Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert) you must have achieved a minimum of 60 credits at Level 7; and any specific requirements of the course as outlined in the Course Handbook.

For the award of Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip), you must have achieved a minimum of 120 credits at Level 7; and any specific requirements of the course as outlined in the Course Handbook.

For the award of Master of Arts (MA), you must have achieved 180 credits, of which a minimum of 120 credits must be at Level 7; and any specific requirements of the course as outlined in the Course Handbook.

Course Content

'Strategies for Practice' comprises a range of projects that begin with re-visiting fundamental properties of fine art. Although some properties could be familiar to you, you will be encouraged to analyse and critically evaluate how and why they are manifested in your practice. If your first degree was in a subject other than fine art, or if you are an international student who may be less familiar with working with certain processes, these introductory projects will give you the opportunity to develop skills and adjust to new and curious ways of working. If you are an experienced practitioner these projects will challenge you to articulate and question some of the basic assumptions that may underpin your practice; for instance, why are certain things important?

As the Strategies for Practice unit progresses you will be encouraged to survey promising areas of investigation in preparation for your Master's Projects 1 & 2. You will identify theories relevant to your emerging study focus and methods appropriate to these concerns for generating new knowledge and understanding.

Taught sessions are divided into two different kinds, there are *MA combined sessions* that are compulsory for all Postgraduate Network students to attend, and *MA specialist sessions* that are particular to individual MA courses. MA specialist sessions require compulsory attendance for students on specific courses only but, if space permits, are open to all students on the Postgraduate Network.

Course Leaders will meet at the end of every year to plan combined sessions for the forthcoming year. This planning will take into account student numbers on each course. So, for example, if student numbers permit, in week 1 you will participate in 'Inter-MA presentations' where you present your work to all students in the Postgraduate Network. If, however this is impractical due to the number of students involved, then courses will work in pairs so that the students from two different courses will present to each other. Pairs of courses working in this way will rotate every year to ensure the relationships between all Postgraduate Network courses endure over time.

Master's Projects 1 & 2 involve periods of study that determine your major body of practical work. They contrast with the predominantly taught mode of delivery in Strategies for Practice and sustain and fuse the understanding and application of research methods, completion of plans and presentations to students and staff. Master's Project 1 will require you to formalise your intentions in a Study Plan, and to interrogate contextual issues relevant to your study focus through your practice.

In Master's Project 2 you will carry through your plan of action identified in the Study Plan and establish ways of presenting and disseminating the outcomes of your project in ways that communicate to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.

Course Units

Unit Code Weighting		Unit Title	Credit
F/T	P/T		
FIF756	FIP756	Strategies for Practice: Materials, Methods, Contexts	60
FIF757	FIP757	Master's Project 1: Exploration	60
FIF758	FIP758	Master's Project 2: Resolution	60

Course Diagram

This diagram shows the proposed start/end dates for each unit and shows teaching weeks only; holiday periods are not included.

Level 7 full-time mode of study (45 weeks-over 53 weeks)													
	Term One				Term Two				Term Three				
0	Weeks 1-5				Weeks 16-30				Weeks 31-45				
	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	
Induction week	FIF756 Strategies for Practice: Materials, Methods, Contexts (weeks 1-15) (60 credits)				FIF757 Master's Project 1: Exploration (weeks 16-30) (60 credits)				FIF758 Master's Project 2: Resolution (weeks 31-45) (60 credits)				Assessment of Master's Project 2 exhibition
	Assessment				Assessment								Submission and assessment of PDP Professional Evaluation

Level 7 part-time mode of study (90 weeks over 105 weeks)

0 week	1-30 weeks	31-60 weeks	61-90 weeks
Induction week	<p>FIP756 Strategies for Practice: Materials, Methods, Contexts (60 credits)</p>	<p>FIP757 Master's Project 1: Exploration (60 credits)</p>	<p>FIP758 Master's Project 2: Resolution (60 credits)</p>
	Assessment	Assessment	<p style="text-align: center;">Assessment of Master's Project 2 exhibition</p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">Submission and assessment of PDP Professional Evaluation</p>