

# Fine Art

<b>Final award</b>	<i>Professional Doctorate</i>
<b>Intermediate awards available</b>	<i>Postgraduate Diploma in Fine Art (PgDip Fine Art)</i>
<b>UCAS code</b>	N/A
<b>Details of professional body accreditation</b>	N/A
<b>Relevant QAA Benchmark statements</b>	N/A
<b>Date specification last up-dated</b>	<i>July 2014</i>

## Profile

### The summary - programme advertising leaflet

#### Programme content

*The Professional Doctorate in Fine Art is a practice based Research Degree programme. With its greater emphasis on practice it is more appropriate for many artists than a PhD. The aim of this programme is to enable students to develop and to demonstrate a high level of professional practice through their research and creative practice. The programme provides a critical dialogue linking theory with creative practice. The written element supports and reflects on the practice, which represents the main part of the original research.*

#### Professional Doctorate in Fine Art at UEL

- The Professional Doctorate in Fine Art is a unique programme in the UK which offers, beyond MA level, a higher degree in Fine Art research with the emphasis on studio practice with professional outcomes.*
- The early part of the programme, as in a PhD, focuses on the registration of the student's research proposal. The proposal underpins creative practice research, resulting in a final examination by exhibition, with a written report critically reflecting on the practice. The student is encouraged and expected to combine this research with professional practice in the public domain.*
- The programme lasts 4 years (f/t) or 6 years (p/t).*
- The student is supported throughout their programme of study by the programme leader. Each student is allocated a Director of Studies and a 2nd supervisor who have expertise in the student's research field.*
- The programme has a dedicated staff team who are all practicing artists or theoreticians, and the visiting artists programme draws upon artists of international reputation based in London.*
- Students also receive tutorials from any member of the Fine Art staff team and, where appropriate, as part of the visiting artists programme and are encouraged to attend any part of the University's many BA and MA lecture programmes relevant to their research.*

- *The doctorate is part of the Fine Art subject area, which is located at the Docklands Campus, close to City Airport. The Campus is visually and architecturally stunning and is served by the Docklands Light Railway, with Cyprus station being right on campus.*

### **Admission requirements**

*Students will need to attain a first degree to enter onto this programme; this should be a first or 2:1 degree classification.*

*Students are accepted onto the programme with evidence of significant advanced and continuing sustained professional practice. Prospective students are also required to submit a proposal of study for their research at Doctoral level.*

*All applicants are interviewed with a portfolio of work by two members of staff.*

*The same admissions criteria apply for part time students.*

*Exceptionally, applications are considered from overseas students without interview. In this case the application should be submitted with all necessary references, CV, clear research outline with evidence of practice in the form of a CD or electronic portfolio submission, and a telephone number so that a telephone interview can take place/application can be discussed if there are any points that need clarifying. At least two members of academic staff will review each application before a decision is made.*

*Applicants with either prior-certified learning or prior-experiential learning that closely matches the specified learning outcomes of the taught part of the programme may be able to claim exemption via agreed university procedures. No exemption can be claimed against the research part of the programme or in situations where a professional body excludes it.*

*Where English is not the applicant's first language, a minimum IELTS Academic English, or such qualifications as our University deems comparable, score of 7.0 overall, with a minimum of 6.5 in all components, is required at entry. Such assessment of English language competence must normally have been undertaken no more than two years prior to application, though relevant and more recent study in a United Kingdom Higher Education Institution may be accepted as sufficient proof of ability.*

At UEL we are committed to working together to build a learning community founded on equality of opportunity - a learning community which celebrates the rich diversity of our student and staff populations. Discriminatory behaviour has no place in our community and will not be tolerated. Within a spirit of respecting difference, our equality and diversity policies promise fair treatment and equality of opportunity for all. In pursuing this aim, we want people applying for a place at UEL to feel valued and know that the process and experience will be transparent and fair and no one will be refused access on the grounds of any protected characteristic stated in the Equality Act 2010.

### **Programme structure**

*Those students who are required to take the Level M modules of the programme will study these modules in Year 1.*

*During the second year of the Programme the emphasis is on preparation and registration of the research proposal. There is a Fine Art Research Methodologies module at M level in the second year to support the writing of the Research Proposal.*

*In the second year there is also a taught element to the programme- Advanced Professional Practice, which comprises seminars, crits, tutorials, mid-year exhibition and end of year Showcase exhibition.*

*The third and fourth years are individual research based. During this time students develop their personal professional practice, research and theory.*

*The programme provides a critical dialogue linking theory with creative practice.*

*The Professional Doctorate programme is delivered by supervision of research in theory, creative and professional practice. It involves exhibition seminars, and an Annual Review Paper and an annual Showcase exhibition.*

*The Visiting Artists' programme includes presentations and discussions, studio and gallery visits.*

*The taught element of the programme represents less than half of the total programme measured by student effort.*

## **Learning environment**

*Seminars, tutorials, workshops, visiting artists talks, technical demonstrations and exhibitions all support the student's independent research and development of critical theory and practice.*

*Students undertake their independent research and studio practice and present work at work in progress seminars for discussion and debate.*

*External theorist, gallerists and artists contribute to seminars based around student work at exhibitions during the year.*

*Full time students are provided with studio spaces in the AVA building. Part-time students are not allocated studio space. All students have access to a full range of workshops including woodwork, sculpture, printmaking, Mac and PC labs, digital and analogue photography and film. Within Fine Art there is a thriving exhibition culture, centred on the AVA Gallery but including regular external student shows at a range of professional venues. There is an excellent library on the Docklands site, and all the other Learning Resources provided by UEL are available by negotiation.*

*The studio accommodation is in the purpose built School of Arts & Digital Industries (AVA) Building. The Campus is located close to the vibrant East London gallery scene, and East London's renowned concentration of artist studios. It is also within easy reach of Central London and its major international galleries and museums.*

*This Docklands area of London is also one of the liveliest examples of urban development in Europe, and our campus and the AVA building are a significant part of it.*

## **Assessment**

### *FAM001 Fine Art Research Methodologies*

*Assessment of this 60-credit module is through submission of an essay (3,500 words) – 40% weighting and a portfolio/PowerPoint presentation – 60% weighting. The pass mark is 50%.*

### *FAM002 Personal & Professional Practice*

*Assessment of this 60-credit Personal Creative Practice module is through presentation of portfolio/PowerPoint presentation – 50% weighting and submission of a Professional Practice Project which is assessed by viewing the completed project and the report (2,000 words and images and supporting material) – 50% weighting. The pass mark is 50%.*

### *FAM005 Research Methodologies*

*Assessment of this module is through the presentation of the Research Proposal of 3 – 5,000 words plus visual material. This is confirmed by the MA Assessment Board after scrutiny by the external examiner for MA Fine Art. This proposal forms the basis of the registration document that is presented to the Research Degrees Subcommittee leading to registration on the Professional Doctorate*

### *FAD001 Advanced Professional Practice*

*Assessment of this module is by oral presentation to the programme Leader, Director of Studies and 2nd supervisor. The pass mark is 60%.*

*Research undertaken in Years 3 and 4 is assessed by the final exhibition examination and the Doctoral Report (min 4000 word – max 8,000 words) at the end of Year 4. Each student has an oral examination (viva voce) with the external and internal examiners in the assessment exhibition.*

*Students who fail a module twice will be withdrawn from the programme. (Manual of General Regulations Part 3C)*

*All students must submit an Annual Monitoring Report. The progression of all Professional Doctorate students throughout their registration period is formally reviewed annually. The continuation of enrolled status as a student is dependent on the successful completion of an annual review.*

*Students who achieve 120 credits at Level M or D are eligible for a Postgraduate Diploma in Fine Art.*

## **Relevance to work/profession**

*Professional practice is seen as an essential aspect of studio research and in the development of a career related to fine art practice. It is an integral part of the doctorate and students undertake professional practice at points throughout their research programme. Students undertake their professional practice in every area of professional activity; gallery exhibition and site-specific, residency, commission, publication and education. Students are encouraged to work independently in the public domain. All students complete the programme with professional profiles related specifically to their own research project and career ambitions.*

## **Research/project work**

Registration of the research component can only take place following a recommendation from the relevant School Research Degrees Sub-Committee to the university Research Degrees Subcommittee of the suitability of the candidate to undertake research, of the programme of research, of the supervision arrangements and of the research environment. These approvals require appropriate academic judgement to be brought to bear on the viability of each research proposal.

Candidates for a Professional Doctorate must successfully complete all assessed elements of their programme before the award of the degree can be made.

Once the research stage of the programme is reached progression will be formally reviewed annually by a Panel comprised of staff with appropriate academic and professional expertise who are independent of the candidate's supervisory team. The School Research Degrees Sub-Committee and the university Research Degrees Subcommittee monitor the reports from these Panels.

The examination of the research component of the Professional Doctorate has two stages: firstly the submission and preliminary assessment of the research; and secondly its defence by oral examination.

### **Added value**

*Through continuing professional practice students develop a wide understanding of the relationship between studio practice and professional activity. There are also opportunities to involve mentors and work-based experience during the research programme.*

### **Your future career**

*Frequently a Doctorate qualification is a requirement for University teaching, and the Professional Doctorate fulfils this requirement. Graduates have successfully taken academic positions at universities and colleges both in the UK and overseas. Graduates exhibit their work internationally and have received recognition in a large number of international competitions and exhibitions. Links, relevant to the student, are undertaken with institutions, museums, galleries, universities and schools during the programme of research.*

### **How we support you**

*The development of the proposal is supported by the Fine Art Research Methodologies module leader and tutor, the Programme Leader and supervisors. Research methods are consistently the subject of tutorial dialogue with the supervisors in the studio. Further support is offered by the visiting artists programme and external critique. Each student's research is addressed individually and as it develops during the period of study. Technical support is either by workshop or by individual consultation.*

*Regular and planned individual tutorials take place with the Director of Studies, the 2nd Supervisor and students can request a tutorial from any member of the Fine Art staff team*

*There is a timetabled seminar programme where students present work in progress and gain feedback from both their peers and members of staff.*

*All students present work at mid-year exhibitions and at an end of year Showcase exhibition. Crits take place – often facilitated by an outside artist, curator, gallerist or critic.*

*There is a specialist subject librarian to support student's research.*

*English Language and Dyslexia support is available as well a support for other learning needs.*

*The Graduate School is responsible for providing a focus to the support of our postgraduate research students and for our institution's research and scholarly strategy.*

*Professional Doctorate students will have at least two and not normally more than three supervisors, who together demonstrate an appropriate range of academic and professional experience. One supervisor shall be the Director of studies, with responsibility to supervise the candidate on a regular and frequent basis.*

### **Bonus factors**

*There are opportunities to meet and discuss contemporary art with practitioners and theorists as an integral part of the programme in a number of locations and contexts; conferences, studio visits, gallery talks, visiting artist presentations, seminars and symposiums.*

*There are opportunities to show work in group exhibitions.*

## **Outcomes**

### **Programme aims and learning outcomes**

#### **What is this programme designed to achieve?**

This programme is designed to give you the opportunity to:

- *Develop, research, and undertake a doctoral project*
- *Develop focused personal enquiry and conceptual clarity in fine art practice*
- *Undertake sustained and enhanced professional practice of experiential research and development*
- *Gain a critical knowledge of contemporary fine art and its contexts within the chosen field of study*
- *Become a self-reflective practitioner and continue to develop personally and professionally through your career*

#### **What will you learn?**

- *Knowledge of an advanced level of one's own critical disposition in respect to the wide field of fine art practice.*
- *Knowledge of an advanced level of the discipline of fine art practice acquired through the inter-activity of practical, theoretical and professional study.*

- *Knowledge of the multi-cultural and inter-disciplinary nature of contemporary fine art research.*
- *A critical knowledge of the methodologies of fine art practice.*

Additionally a candidate who is awarded a Professional Doctorate will be expected to have achieved the following learning outcomes:

- Created and interpreted new knowledge, through original research, or other advanced scholarship, of a quality to satisfy peer review, which extends the forefront of the discipline and merits publication;
- Systematically acquired an understanding of a substantial body of knowledge which is at the forefront of an academic discipline or area of professional practice;
- The general ability to conceptualise, design and implement a project for the generation of new knowledge, application or understanding at the forefront of the discipline and to adjust the project design in the light of unforeseen problems;
- A detailed understanding of applicable techniques for research and advanced academic enquiry;
- Ability to make informed judgements on complex issues in specialist fields, often in the absence of complete data, and be able to communicate their ideas and conclusions clearly and effectively to specialist and non-specialist audiences;
- Ability to continue to undertake pure and/or applied research and development at an advanced level, contributing substantially to the development of new techniques, ideas or approaches;
- The qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and largely autonomous initiative in complex and unpredictable situations, in professional or equivalent environments.

### **Knowledge**

- To develop a critical comprehensive understanding of a substantial number of developmental theories and their application in education and child development
- To develop a detailed knowledge and understanding of the substantial theoretical and conceptual bases upon which assessment, consultation, intervention and therapeutic skills have been developed
- To understand the nature of research processes, the different purposes of research and contexts and theories of knowledge production

### **Thinking skills**

- To be able to critically analyse, synthesise and evaluate, in terms of research and practice, for applied professional practice in Fine Art.
- To systematically make informed critical judgements about personal practice and that of other artists.
- To make professional judgements relating to own practice and that of other artists/theoreticians

### **Subject-Based Practical skills**

- To research and develop and apply effective interventions to promote psychological wellbeing, social emotional and behavioural development and to raise educational standards
- To be able to effectively assess and intervene in complex systems and organisations in order to affect individuals development
- To produce a synthesised body of work to the highest technical standard
- To consult effectively with professionals drawing on theory and research

### **Skills for life and work (general skills)**

- To develop advanced process and communication skills
- To be able to work authoritatively
- To analyse, synthesis and communicate complex and contradictory information in written and verbal form
- **The programme structure**

## **Structure**

### **The programme structure**

#### **Introduction**

All programmes are credit-rated to help you to understand the amount and level of study that is needed.

One credit is equal to 10 hours of directed study time (this includes everything you do e.g. lecture, seminar and private study).

Credits are assigned to one of 5 levels:

- 0 equivalent in standard to GCE 'A' level and is intended to prepare students for year one of an undergraduate degree programme
- 1 equivalent in standard to the first year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme
- 2 equivalent in standard to the second year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme
- 3 equivalent in standard to the third year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme
- M equivalent in standard to a Masters degree
- D equivalent in standard to a Doctorate degree

#### **Credit rating**

Professional Doctorate programmes are coming under an institutional credit framework but this process will not be complete until September 2011. The detailed information on the specification will indicate if this programme has yet implemented the framework

#### **Typical duration**

On some programmes it is possible to move from full-time to part-time study and vice-versa to accommodate any external factors such as financial constraints or domestic commitments. Many of our students make use of this flexibility where it is available and this may impact on the overall duration of their study period.

The normal minimum and maximum periods of registration for a Professional Doctorate are as follows:

**Minimum Maximum**

Full-time 33 months 48 months

Part-time 45 months 60 months

**How the teaching year is divided**

*All modules are core.*

*During the first year the emphasis is on preparation and registration of the research proposal. In the second year there is a 60 credit Level M Fine Art Research Methodologies module -FAM005 to support this undertaking. The successful completion of this module fulfils the skills requirement for postgraduate research. Students also study a 60 credit Level D module FAD001 Advanced Professional Practice. In years two and three students undertake the Research module in which students develop their own personal research and practice. This research culminates in the final examination exhibition (submittal) at the end of the third year.*

*The student is supported throughout their programme of study by the Director of Studies and 2nd Supervisor. Students can request tutorials from any member of the Fine Art staff team and can also receive tutorials where appropriate as part of the visiting artists programme and are encouraged to attend any part of the university's many BA and MA lecture programmes relevant to their research.*

*The Professional Doctorate programme is delivered by supervision of research in theory, creative and professional practice. It also involves tutorials, work in progress seminars, exhibition seminars, and an Annual review Paper. The Visiting Artists' programme includes presentations and discussions, studio and gallery visits.*

*The taught element of the programme represents less than half of the total programme measured by student effort.*

**What you will study when**

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**FULL TIME**

**YEAR**

**SEM A**

**SEM B**

**SEM C**

1            60 credits Masters level - module FAM 001

60 credits Masters level - module FAM 002

2            **60 credits Masters level - FAM005**  
**Fine Art Research Methodologies**  
**60 credits Taught Level D – FAD001**  
**Advanced Professional Practice**

**3 and 4     300 Research Level D credits**

## **PART TIME**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>SEM A</b>	<b>SEM B</b>	<b>SEM C</b>
	60 credits Masters level FAM001		60 credits Masters level FAM002
2	60 credits Masters level - FAM005 Fine Art Research Methodologies		
3	60 credits Taught Level D FAD001 Advanced Professional Practice		
		30 Research credits Level D FAD002	
4	90 Research credits Level D FAD002		
		90 Research credits Level D FAD002	
5			
6		90 Research credits Level D FAD002	

<b>Level</b>	<b>UEL Code</b>	<b>Module Title</b>	<b>Credit</b>	<b>Status</b>
M	FAM001	Critical Concepts	60	Core
M	FAM002	Professional Practice	60	Core
M	FAM005	Fine Art Research Methodologies	60	Core

D	FAD001	Advanced Professional Practice	60	Core
D	FAD002	Research module	180	Core
D	FAD002	Research module	120	Core

*N.B Students who have successfully completed a Masters programme in Fine Art or related subject in which the learning outcomes match those of FAM001 and FAM002 and meet the admissions criteria will have 120 Level M credits accredited.*

## **Requirements for gaining an award**

### **Awards**

#### **Professional Doctorate in Fine Art**

A programme leading to a Professional Doctorate consists of a minimum of 540 credits at level M or level D. This consists of

- a minimum of 360 credits at level D
- a maximum of 390 research credits at level D
- a minimum of 60 taught credits at level D
- a maximum of 180 credits at level M
- a minimum of 90 research credits at level D

Up to half of the credits for an award may be achieved through accredited or experiential learning.

It is not possible to claim accredited or experiential learning against the research stage of the programme.

#### **Postgraduate Diploma**

A programme leading to a Postgraduate Diploma (intermediate award) consists of 120 credits at Level M or D (FAM001 and FAM002)

#### **Postgraduate Certificate**

A programme leading to a Postgraduate Certificate consists of 60 credits at Level M or D

*In order to gain the award of Professional Doctorate in Fine Art candidates must complete 540 credits as outlined in the modules, including the presentation of an exhibition of original work that demonstrates a high level of professional practice, research, and creative practice. The exhibition must demonstrate that the student has created and interpreted new knowledge, through original research, or other advanced scholarship, of a quality to satisfy peer review, which extends the forefront of the discipline and merits publication/exhibition.*

*This exhibition is supported by a Doctoral Report, detailing research, professional practice, and context of exhibition.*

## **Assessment**

### **Teaching, learning and assessment**

## **Teaching and learning**

*List here the key teaching and learning methods used. In order to demonstrate that you have covered the learning outcomes it may be useful to sub-divide this as follows*

*Knowledge is developed through*

- *Seminar presentations, lectures and visiting artist programme.*
- *Independent research related to the proposal.*
- *Independent research related to studio practice and supervisory guidance throughout the programme.*
- *Related activity in the public domain; conferences, symposia, exhibitions and residency participation and involvement.*
- *Independent studio practice.*

*Thinking skills are developed through*

- *Seminar and tutorial discussions, critiques and exhibitions.*
- *Lectures and visiting artists programme and participation in critique.*
- *Problem solving activity and origination of solutions within the aesthetics of individual and collaborative practice.*
- *Participation in national and international debate through conference, symposium and exhibition attendance and individual contribution.*

*Practical skills are developed through*

- *Application and assimilation of new media and advanced technical practice.*
- *Ambitious and innovative approach to materials and visual phenomena incorporating the stratagems and gambits of experimentation.*
- *Reflection on practice and alternative approaches to practical manipulation through discussion with supervisors and visiting artists.*
- *Continuing independent studio practice and exhibition of work.*

*Skills for life and work (general skills) are developed through*

- *Oral and written presentation, promotion and articulation of an informed position.*
- *Preparation and implementation, both textual and technical of the presentation skills related to professional practice in the public domain.*
- *Identification and problem-solving skills across a wide range of professional and inter-disciplinary activities.*
- *Effective time-management.*

## **Assessment**

*Throughout the period of study, progression is monitored through tutorial contact with the student's supervisors and the programme leader. This is formalised by the presentation of an Annual review and at the progression meeting at the end of each academic year. Where concerns are raised regarding the student's development related to their programme of study, the student is informed and given advice before the commencement of the next academic year.*

*Knowledge is assessed by*

- *External assessment of the final exhibition with oral examination.*
- *Review by internal and external examiners to enable viva voce to proceed and including the Record of Professional Practice*

*Thinking skills are assessed by*

- *The development of visual articulation evidenced throughout the programme and in the final exhibition.*
- *The appropriateness and originality of the visual outcome in relation to the core issues of the research.*
- *The contextualisation of the research within the given field of activity.*
- *The oral and written communication of this material throughout the programme and in the final exhibition.*

*Practical skills are assessed by*

- *Evidence of the implementation of appropriate methodological approaches in issues of practice.*
- *Technical mastery of salient techniques and innovative application in studio practice.*
- *Evidence of planning and clear presentation of the student's research position.*
- *Evidence of effective time management throughout the programme.*

*Skills for life and work (general skills) are assessed by*

- *Evidence of oral and written fluency in studio and professional activity.*
- *Articulation of both own professional practice and that of other artists.*
- *Evidence of successful identification of problems and effective solutions within studio and professional practice.*
- *Evidence of effective time-management throughout the programme.*

## **Quality**

### **How we assure the quality of this programme**

#### **Before this programme started**

Before this programme started, the following was checked:

- there would be enough qualified staff to teach the programme;
- adequate resources would be in place;
- the overall aims and objectives were appropriate;
- the content of the programme met national benchmark requirements;
- the programme met any professional/statutory body requirements;
- the proposal met other internal quality criteria covering a range of issues such as admissions policy, teaching, learning and assessment strategy and student support mechanisms.

This is done through a process of programme approval which involves consulting academic experts including some subject specialists from other institutions.

### **How we monitor the quality of this programme**

The quality of this programme is monitored each year through evaluating:

- external examiner reports (considering quality and standards);
- statistical information (considering issues such as the pass rate);
- student feedback.

Drawing on this and other information, programme teams undertake the annual Review and Enhancement Process which is co-ordinated at School level and includes student participation. The process is monitored by the Quality and Standards Committee.

Once every six years an in-depth review of the whole field is undertaken by a panel that includes at least two external subject specialists. The panel considers documents, looks at student work, speaks to current and former students and speaks to staff before drawing its conclusions. The result is a report highlighting good practice and identifying areas where action is needed.

### **The role of the programme committee**

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### **The role of external examiners**

The standard of this programme is monitored by at least one external examiner. External examiners have two primary responsibilities:

- To ensure the standard of the programme;
- To ensure that justice is done to individual students.

External examiners fulfil these responsibilities in a variety of ways including:

- Approving exam papers/assignments;
- Attending assessment boards;
- Reviewing samples of student work and moderating marks;
- Ensuring that regulations are followed;
- Providing feedback through an annual report that enables us to make improvements for the future.

### **Listening to the views of students**

The following methods for gaining student feedback are used on this programme:

- *Student representation on programme committees*
- *End of module questionnaire*

Students are notified of the action taken through:

- *circulating the minutes of the programme committee*

## **Listening to the views of others**

The following methods are used for gaining the views of other interested parties:

- *Discussion with external examiners*
- *Response from professional visitors to exhibitions*
- *Response from colleagues within the school and the Graduate School*

## **Further Information**

### **Where you can find further information**

*Further information about this programme is available from:*

- *The UEL web site (<http://www.uel.ac.uk>)*
- *The student handbook (<http://www.uel.ac.uk>)*
- *UEL Manual of General Regulations and Policies <http://www.uel.ac.uk/qa/>*
- *UEL Quality Manual <http://www.uel.ac.uk/qa/>*
- *Regulations for the Academic Framework <http://www.uel.ac.uk/academicframework/>*
- *The Graduate School <http://www.uel.ac.uk/gradschool/index.htm/>*
- *The School of Arts & Digital Industries website [www.uel.ac.uk/adi](http://www.uel.ac.uk/adi)*