

COURSE SPECIFICATION

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| Course Aim and Title | BA(Hons) Fine Art |
| Intermediate Awards Available | BA, DipHE, CertHE |
| Teaching Institution(s) | UEL on campus |
| Alternative Teaching Institutions (for local arrangements see final section of this specification) | N/A |
| UEL Academic School | Architecture, Computing & Engineering |
| UCAS Code | W100 |
| Professional Body Accreditation | N/A |
| Relevant QAA Benchmark Statements | Art & Design |
| Additional Versions of this Course | N/A |
| Date Specification Last Updated | March 2019 |

Course Aims and Learning Outcomes

This course offers a dynamic, critical and interdisciplinary learning environment for students wishing to specialise in making contemporary art. We work with a network of artists, writers and curators, educationalists and venues in East London and abroad (study abroad) to create a uniquely inspiring environment in which to study and develop an artistic practice. We are committed to the idea that contemporary art is best taught by artists, curators and writers and all of our staff have an active practice.

The BA (Hons) Fine Art course is part of an Art & Design cluster of courses including Foundation in Art & Design, BA (Hons) Graphic Design, BA (Hons) Illustration, BA (Hons) Fine Art and MA Fine Art. Additionally some of the cluster modules are shared with BA (Hons) Animation and BA (Hons) Creative Writing. Graduating from the cluster courses means that you are not only prepared for your future 4.0 career, but that you will be supported by a network of friends and collaborators from the Art and Design Cluster.

The modules on the course are designed to give you the opportunity for:

- Interdisciplinary Practice – You will have access to extensive resources in Fine Art as well as those of other disciplines, giving you access to extended learning and the opportunity to engage with a range of interdisciplinary practices, accruing fundamental core skills for working in the creative industries.
- Collaborative Practice – You will have opportunities to work on collaborative and inter-disciplinary projects, seminar crits and exhibition opportunities throughout

the course, enabling you to develop an understanding of different working practices in creative industries settings.

- Professional Life (Mental Wealth) –Professional practice is foregrounded in each level in a Professional Life module, preparing you for entry into the creative industries, teaching or post-graduate study. You will begin professional practice from level 4 onwards.
- Contextual Studies- You will gain an appreciation of historical and contemporary cultural to visual culture. Some of the module delivery will include shared learning opportunities with the cluster module students. In the final year of your study (level 6) you will have an option to choose between a theory-into-practice module, with an option module enabling you to apply your learning in a new media project (instead of a traditional written thesis).

Rather than students dropping off a 'production line' we are interested in the individual having a fresh perspective and approach (divergent thinking). Those fresh ideas can be tested, using convergent and critical thinking. It's this method that the creative industry needs its new talent have to be able to succeed in 4iR and beyond.

Each level of study is supported by a creative industry speaker series, allowing you to identify possible career paths for employability and /or entrepreneurship. You will also meet our successful alumni who visit your exhibitions and e.g. pinups, allowing you to feel part of the community of East London creative practitioners and photographers.

The course's fundamental aims and learning outcomes are:

- To initiate, identify, develop and sustain an individual, self-generated creative working practice
- To contextualise this individual practice within the wider field of historical and contemporary Fine Art Practice.
- To use this contextualisation to understand the mechanisms and character of the creative industries and acquire the practical skills in processes and networking to be able to negotiate a career within this field.

What you will learn:

Knowledge

- To understand the social, historical, and cultural significance and context for contemporary Art practice.
- To understand core ideas and processes relating to art practice and be able to discuss your practice in relation to these.
- To evaluate and understand the art world and associated creative fields as an industry and source of employment and how to operate as an active participant within it.

- To evaluate and understand how acquired skills in one specific field can be transferred to other related fields.

Thinking skills

- To develop the ability to find inventive and creative solutions to problems
- To develop self-reflection and analysis of ideas
- To develop critical and analytical skills in relation to your own work and that of others
- To understand how to develop and access your individual creative processes

Subject-Based Practical skills

- To acquire specialised skills relevant to the development of independent practice in all media offered
- To develop the ability to articulate your work and ideas to a specialist and a general audience
- To acquire relevant skills for exhibiting work
- To create and continually update documentation of work and related professional material – Website , CV's, personal profiles, etc

Skills for life and work (general skills)

- Ability to work independently and collaboratively as part of a team
- Ability to plan and schedule projects effectively

Learning and Teaching

Knowledge is developed through

- Practical workshops
- Lectures, Seminars and discussion
- Group tutorials
- One-to-one tutorials
- Knowledge-based activities with feedback
- Research skills-based activities with feedback
- Guest lectures
- Critiques and peer-review feedback
- Guided reading and independent research

Thinking skills are developed through

- Reflective activities with feedback
- Research skills-based activities with feedback
- Seminars and discussion
- Practical fieldtrips
- Museum/ gallery visits /industry visits
- Presentations
- Group tutorials

- One-to-one tutorials
- Problem solving and reflection
- Writing and composition

Practical skills are developed through

- Practical workshops
- Creative project work
- Portfolio development
- Guided and supported independent activities in specialist facilities (e.g. in print rooms, shoot studio, immersive studio, edit suits)
- Self-directed projects
- Work in progress critiques with feedback
- Group tutorials
- One-to-one tutorials
- Peer review feedback (in crits and presentations)
- Exhibitions
- Graduate shows
- Film Screenings

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

- Group work and collaboration
- Planning creative projects with feedback
- Project work- independent, collaborative or self-directed
- Presentations
- Research skills-based activities with feedback
- Live briefs/ projects/ client-based projects

Assessment

Knowledge is assessed by

- Digital Presentation
- Exhibition
- Portfolio

Thinking skills are assessed by

- Verbal and curatorial presentation of work at Exhibition or Presentation
- Work Journals and Essays

Practical skills are assessed by

- Quality of work and presentation of work
- Curatorial competence in Exhibition contexts
- Online and Analog Portfolio completion

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

- Ongoing formative assessment of studio engagement

- Project work
- Group work
- Digital Presentation

Students with disabilities and/or particular learning needs should discuss assessments with the Course Leader to ensure they are able to fully engage with all assessment within the course.

Work or Study Placements

We encourage full time students to seek work experience during their academic course, either during the summer vacations, or to take a sandwich year out between level 5 and level 6 or their studies. Those students who successfully opt for the sandwich placement will be enrolled on a 120 credit Industrial Sandwich Placement module which will appear in the final transcript as evidence of the sandwich placement year. An employment liaison officer oversees the administration of the year out placements and assists in helping students secure a placement.

Course Structure

All courses 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:

- 3 Equivalent in standard to GCE 'A' level and is intended to prepare students for year one of an undergraduate degree course.
- 4 Equivalent in standard to the first year of a full-time undergraduate degree course.
- 5 Equivalent in standard to the second year of a full-time undergraduate degree course.
- 6 Equivalent in standard to the third year of a full-time undergraduate degree course.
- 7 Equivalent in standard to a masters degree.

Courses are made up of modules that are each credit weighted.

The module structure of this course:

| Level | Module Code | Module Title | Credit Weighting | Core/Option | Available by Distance Learning? Y/N |
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|---|--------|---|------|----------|---|
| 4 | VA4026 | Mental Wealth: Professional Life 1 | 20 | Core | N |
| 4 | VA4012 | Practice 1 | 20 | Core | N |
| 4 | VA4011 | Contextual Studies 1 | 20 | Core | N |
| 4 | VA4025 | Research into Practice 1 | 20 | Core | N |
| 4 | VA4013 | Experimentation and Application 1A | 20 | Core | N |
| 4 | VA4024 | Experimentation and Application 1B | 20 | Core | N |
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| 5 | VA5026 | Professional Life 2 (Mental Wealth) | 20 | Core | N |
| 5 | VA5012 | Practice 2 | 20 | Core | N |
| 5 | VA5011 | Contextual Studies 2 | 20 | Core | N |
| 5 | VA5025 | Research into Practice 2 | 20 | Core | N |
| 5 | VA5013 | Advanced Experimentation and Applications | 20 | Core | N |
| 5 | VA5022 | Advanced Practice | 20 | Core | N |
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| P | VA5027 | Industrial Sandwich Placement | 120P | Optional | N |
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| 6 | VA6026 | Professional Life 3 (Mental Wealth) | 20 | Core | N |

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| 6 | VA6012 | Practice 3 | 20 | Core | N |
| 6 | VA6027 | Independent Major Project Part A | 20 | Core | N |
| 6 | VA6028 | Independent Major Project Part B | 20 | Core | N |
| 6 | VA6115 | Research into Practice 3 – Contemporary Practice in Fine Art | 40 | Option | N |
| 6 | VA6415 | Research into Practice 3 – Extended Research Project | 40 | Option | N |

Please note: Optional modules might not run every year, the course team will decide on an annual basis which options will be running, based on student demand and academic factors, in order to create the best learning experience.

Additional detail about the course module structure:

A core module for a course is a module which a student must have passed (i.e. been awarded credit) in order to achieve the relevant named award. An optional module for a course is a module selected from a range of modules available on the course.

Students will have an option module in level 6. The option modules in level 6 are designed to be inclusive to students' discipline, and respond to differentiated assessments needs.

The Fine Art Research into Practice route- Contemporary Practice in Fine Art is assessed as an external exhibition with other written components, responding to the expanded practices of curation and exhibition making.

The Extended Research Project route is aimed as a specific route to those Fine Art students whose professional practice aims are not covered in the contemporary practice module. The Extended Research Project route allows students to contextualise their practice through the study of an area of Fine Art or of a subject that provides potential content for their practical work.

The overall credit-rating of this course is 360 credits. If for some reason you are unable to achieve this credit you may be entitled to an intermediate award, the level of the award will depend on the amount of credit you have accumulated. You can read the University Student Policies and Regulations on the UEL website.

Course Specific Regulations

N/A

Typical Duration

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 and this may impact on the overall duration of their study period.

The expected duration of this course is 3 years full-time or 5-6 years part-time.

A student cannot normally continue study on a course after 4 years of study in full time mode unless exceptional circumstances apply and extenuation has been granted. The limit for completion of a course in part time mode is 7 years from first enrolment.

Further Information

More information about this course is available from:

- The UEL web site (www.uel.ac.uk)
- The course handbook
- Module study guides
- UEL Manual of General Regulations (available on the UEL website)
- UEL Quality Manual (available on the UEL website)
- School web pages
- Emailing Course Leader Alexis Harding on a.harding@uel.ac.uk

All UEL courses are subject to thorough course approval procedures before we allow them to commence. We also constantly monitor, review and enhance our courses by listening to student and employer views and the views of external examiners and advisors.

Additional costs:

While some materials are provided towards some of the initial Level 4 projects (e.g. paper and drawing materials, some film, free printing ink, plaster, some visits and exhibition entry costs), students are expected to fund their own materials for the duration of the Course. This is now common practice on all equivalent courses nationwide. The amount required varies according to individual practice but, typically, students may incur additional cost approximately between £100 and £600 per year according to student choice.

Guidance on what and where to buy materials is given at the beginning of the Course and continually updated.

There is also the possibility of some project funding in Level 6 via the competitive Progression Bursary - this is unique to UEL.

Alternative Locations of Delivery

The UEL BA fine art course has partnerships with Kensington and Chelsea and also Lewisham College where there is direct entry into our Level 6 course.