

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

### Course record information

Name and level of final award:	BA Honours Fine Art Mixed Media
Name and level of intermediate awards:	BA Fine Art Mixed Media Diploma of Higher Education Certificate of Higher Education
Awarding body/institution:	University of Westminster
Teaching Institution:	University of Westminster
Status of awarding body/institution:	Recognised Body
Location of delivery:	Harrow Campus
Language of delivery and assessment:	English
Mode, length of study and normal starting month:	Three years full time, four to eight years part time day. September start
<a href="#">QAA subject benchmarking group(s)</a> :	Art & design.
Professional statutory or regulatory body:	N/A
Date of course validation/review:	February 2015
Date of programme specification approval:	July 2015
Valid for cohorts:	e.g. 2016/17 levels 4, and 5, 2017/18 level 4,5 and 6
Course Leader:	Ben Joiner
UCAS code and URL:	WP23 <a href="http://www.westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate">http://www.westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate</a>

## What are the minimum entry requirements for the course?

There are standard minimum [entry requirements](#) for all undergraduate courses. Students are advised to check the standard requirements for the most up-to-date information.

[westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/how-to-apply](http://westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/how-to-apply)

For most courses a decision will be made on the basis of your application form alone. However, for some courses the selection process may include an interview to demonstrate your strengths in addition to any formal entry requirements.

More information can be found here: [westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/how-to-apply](http://westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/how-to-apply)

## Aims of the course

The **BA (Hons) Fine Art Mixed Media** course has been designed to:

- Provide an environment in which students can develop an awareness of the diversity of media and practices available in contemporary Fine Art Mixed Media .
- Develop an individual practice at a very high level within the arena of contemporary fine art mediums/media with appropriate knowledge, understanding, skills and strategies.
- Enable you to relate this practice to a relevant critical framework both contemporary and historical.
- Acquire the critical rigour to develop your individual practice within the context of this framework.
- Develop independence and motivation in all aspects of your programme.
- Enable you to relate the knowledge, understanding, skills and strategies you have acquired to the requirements of a range of future career options.
- Develop an awareness of the transferable skills you have acquired and the ability to relate these to future career options.
- Develop an understanding of the curatorial concerns and the ability to work collaboratively within the context of an exhibition.

## What will you be expected to achieve?

Learning outcomes are statements about what successful students have achieved as the result of learning. These are threshold statements of achievement and the learning outcomes broadly fall into four categories:

- The overall **knowledge and understanding (KU)** you will gain from your course.
- **Graduate attributes (GA)** are characteristics that you will have developed over the duration of your course. These are mapped against the modules at level 4, 5 and 6 in tables 1, 2, and 3 in the section Employment and further study opportunities.
- **Professional and personal practice learning outcomes (PPP)** are specific skills that you will be expected to have gained on successful completion of the course.

- **Key transferable skills (KTS)** that you will be expected to have gained on successful completion of the course.

#### **Level 4 learning outcomes**

##### **Upon completion of Level 4 you will be able to:**

L4.1 Display through your personal creative output in studios, workshops and elsewhere, an increased understanding of the knowledge, skills and strategies available for the material development of your personal Fine Art practice, with an emphasis on the need for play, risk and experiment as crucial elements within that. (KU, PPP, GA)

L4.2 Draw with more confidence on your personal enthusiasms, interests & abilities, both intellectually and in practical terms, to shape an art practice, which is personally significant. (KU, PPP, GA)

L4.3 Engage appropriately & more confidently with theoretical, critical, contextual & historical debates that bring understanding to the world of contemporary Fine Art work/s, applying them in discussion around your own practical and written work, and that of your peers, as well as to the wider (global) arena of practitioners. (KU, GA)

L4.4 Show a growing sense of critical rigour in the appreciation, evaluation, and understanding of your own developing practical and written work, as well as that of your peers (KU, GA)

L4.5 Employ a level of independence in your approach to the practical and theoretical challenges of the course, all within a creative and imaginative environment, sufficient for the successful management of your first year of degree level study. This pertains particularly to the development of skills such as time management, problem solving, & the use & application of materials & resources. (PPP)

L4.6 Make evident, through the more carefully considered choices made with the means of display in relation to practical work, a keener awareness of the curatorial concerns that affect appreciation and understanding within the world of contemporary (post-Modern) Fine Art practice (KU, PPP, GA)

L4.7 Begin to articulate within Review Tutorials and seminars, a developing awareness of the career options open to you and a growing sense of the possibilities within the context of professional practice, with regard to both subject specific and the broad range of valued transferable skills developed within the Fine Art discipline. (PPP, KTS, GA)

#### **Level 5 learning outcomes**

##### **Upon completion of Level 5 you will be able to:**

L5.1 Develop the areas of personal concern relevant to your fine art practice through an increased understanding of the knowledge, skills and strategies available within the arena of contemporary fine art, with a growing sense of autonomy. (KU, PPP, GA)

L5.2 Demonstrate an understanding of the specific historical and contemporary contexts relevant to your developing fine art practice. Be able to critically apply these where appropriate as a mechanism to evaluate your studio practice. (KU, PPP, GA)

L5.3 Demonstrate a level of autonomy in the use of appropriate sources and research methods and an increasing ability to interpret and apply them appropriately to your academic work. (KU)

L5.4 Articulate and make decisions relevant to your fine art practice. Understand the need take risks, learn through reflection, experimentation and review while developing the ability to apply this knowledge selectively with independence and determination to develop your ideas. (PPP)

L5.5 Demonstrate a growing level of independence, self-awareness, self-confidence and self-motivation in all aspects of the course. (KU)

L5.6 Demonstrate an understanding of the processes of exhibition curation in relationship to your studio practice. Work effectively with your peers showing an ability to collaborate at a professional level in the production and presentation of an exhibition. (KU, GA)

L5.7 Consider career options and be familiar with professional opportunities beyond undergraduate study. Have the ability and confidence to prepare a portfolio, a CV, and a letter of application. Demonstrate an understanding of how to build an online identity. (PPP, KTS, GA)

L5.8 Demonstrate awareness of the specific skills and resources needed to document your work to a professional standard. (PPP, KTS, GA)

### **Level 6 learning outcomes**

#### **Upon completion of Level 6 you will be able to:**

L6.1 Demonstrate a broad and informed knowledge and understanding that is relevant to your individual Fine Art practice within the context of contemporary fine art. (KU, PPP, GA)

L6.2 Creatively employ the skills, strategies, materials, mediums and media necessary to drive and sustain your Fine Art practice. (KU, PPP, GA)

L6.3 Effectively research and critically engage with areas of theory, history and criticism relevant to contextualising your Fine Art practice. (KU)

L6.4 Identify the conceptual and critical framework that enables you to examine and evaluate your Fine Art practice and the historical and contemporary debates that inform it. (KU, GA)

L6.5 Demonstrate a level of confidence and independence in the development, contextualisation, evaluation and presentation of your practice. (KU, GA)

L6.6 Understand the collaborative processes that contribute to the curation and exhibition of your work. (KU, GA)

L6.7 Make informed decisions about future career options and post-graduate study opportunities. (PPP, KTS, GA)

L6.8 Effectively document, present and disseminate your work in a professional manner using appropriate communication skills and technologies. (PPP, KTS, GA)

## **How will you learn?**

This unique studio based course provides each student with a permanent space and this will depend on the type of work you engage with as you progress through the Course. The studio accommodation is flexible with a number of dark spaces for projection and performance work and bespoke spaces can be constructed when students need a specific environment to work in.

The teaching team are all practising artists with national/ international profiles working in and across the mediums of sculpture, painting, moving image, performance, photography and sound.

Students are allocated a studio tutor who they meet with regularly for individual tutorials. This engagement is a vital part of enabling students to develop high levels of studio work.

The teaching and learning methods encourage students to create an ongoing body of work that is characterised by personal commitment and an increasing sense of autonomy.

There are developmental workshops within the facility centres and technical support is available to enable students to develop their practice with an increasing sense of independence.

The course has a lively programme of talks by visiting artists that expand your understanding of contemporary practice and the debates that inform it. Speakers often give individual tutorials and actively discuss student's work within the studios. Students have the opportunity to exhibit at a professional level and discuss work as part of the fine art practice modules at all levels.

Regular exhibitions and events take place within the studios and students are actively encouraged to look for opportunities to exhibit and promote their work across London.

There are two galleries on campus: London Gallery West and the Project Space. The course culminates with the Degree show that takes place at the prestigious Ambika P3 gallery which is at the Universities Marylebone campus in central London. Students are able to take advantage of the vibrant contemporary London art scene through regular visits to galleries and attending artists' talks, screenings and performances. Exciting field trips have taken place to New York, Los Angeles, Berlin, Kassel Documenta and the Venice Biennale.

Emphasis is placed on helping and encouraging students to develop their own agenda as they progress through the course with an increasing sense of ownership of your practice. Option modules are available at all levels and provide an opportunity to undertake a module that is complimentary and expansive in relationship the core fine art practice modules. Students will be given advice through review tutorials to enable them to make informed choices.

Students undertake a work placement in semester two at level 5 and this provides them with the opportunity to explore future career options. These insights are shared with your peer group through presentations that take place as part of the assessment at the end of the module. The course has established an extensive network of contacts that include high profile artists, galleries, periodicals and schools.

The theoretical modules at levels 4 and 5 are all delivered on a weekly basis through

lectures. They are designed to provide an awareness of the issues and debates that are central to gaining an understanding of contemporary fine art practice. The level 4 modules provide an overview of the key debates and issues that have informed contemporary fine art.

The semester two level 5 module Contemporary Art Ideas & Forms is also taught via individual tutorials so that students gain the necessary support as they develop their essay topic in preparation for the Dissertation that they have to submit in their final year.

Level 5 offers exciting opportunities to further broaden your developing practice through the semester two collaborative option modules, these are Creative Encounters and Art Science Collaboration . They will provide the opportunity to collaborate with students from different disciplines within the faculty, to develop project work and take part in exhibitions within the Faculties exhibition and project spaces. You will be given tutorial advice so that you can make informed choices about these option modules.

The dissertation is a major part of the level 6 programme and is fully supported through workshops and individual tutorials. Students develop their chosen topic so that they are writing about issues and concerns that relate to their studio work. You are allocated a supervisor with the appropriate subject expertise who you work closely with throughout the development of the text.

**The course employs a number of different forms of delivery these include:**

#### **Lectures**

The theoretical modules are lecture based and within the lecture format there are opportunities for discussions to take place so that students are actively involved.

#### **Tutorials**

Individual tutorials form the basis of the studio teaching and this engagement creates a space that enables students to develop and discuss their emerging practice. For the dissertation in your final year you are allocated a supervisor who you will meet with regularly for individual tutorials.

#### **Review Tutorials**

These take place at the end of each semester and take an overview of your work across modules and create an important place for reflection.

#### **Cross Year Tutorials.**

Tutorials are introduced at key points so that you can discuss and gain feedback on your work with students from each level of the course. The constitution of each group is carefully constructed to ensure that the discussions are productive. First and second year students are encouraged to help with the installation of the Degree Show exhibition, thereby gaining valuable insight into the many different aspects of a public exhibition.

#### **Group Tutorials**

Group tutorials provide an opportunity to discuss your emerging ideas with your tutor and peers and gain valuable feedback with regard to how your work is perceived.

### **Presentations**

Presentations are an important part of studio assessment with students being given the opportunity to talk about the issues and concerns that inform their practice. The Professional Practice module at level 5 culminates in a presentation to your peers and provides an important moment where different insights and experiences can be shared in a very productive way.

### **Studio Critique**

Students present and curate their work within an exhibition in the studios and galleries on campus at the culmination of the practice modules. The work is discussed in the form of group studio critiques and written feedback is provided by your studio tutor.

### **Gallery Visits/ talks.**

Gallery visits stimulate discussion and encourage primary research. The two main centres Galleries East and Galleries Central provide the setting so that you see exciting work by emerging and established artist.

Artists talks at Tate Modern, Tate Britain, ICA, Whitechapel and Camden Art Centre are some of the exciting venues.

### **Field Trips.**

Field trips take place every two years and aim to give an international take on contemporary practice, trips have been made to New York LA, Venice, Kassel and Barcelona.

### **Screenings.**

Artists films and documentaries about artists form a significant part of the teaching in both the practice and theory modules.

### **Workshops**

Workshops take place within the studios, library, 3D workshops, photography, print and digital edit suites. They are developmental and allow students to explore in depth the different ways that they may develop their practice.

### **Personal Tutorials**

Students are allocated a personal tutor who will be available to discuss and support you with regard to any academic or pastoral concerns that you may have.

### **How will you be assessed?**

The course offers a variety of assessment methods that aim to enable students to see and evaluate the extent to which they have fulfilled the stated learning outcomes of the study programme for which they are registered and have achieved the standard for the award they seek. CHECK The Fine Art Mixed Media assessments are designed to accomplish the following:

### **Formative Assessment**

Formative assessment is provided within all the fine art practice modules at all levels. This takes the form of a mid-semester presentation to your peer group and academic staff of work in progress in the studio. This is an important moment as you will gain formative feedback from both the academic staff and your peer group as to the relative strengths and weaknesses of your work. You will then have time to address these concerns before the final summative assessment at the end of the module. At level 6 students receive written as well as oral feedback following their studio presentation.

Within the contextual studies modules at level 4 and 5 students receive formative feedback in response to the essay plan that is submitted in week 8 of the modules. The final year dissertation is structured so that you receive formative feedback at key moments. Students are introduced to the dissertation module at end of level 5 through a workshop. You will then submit a dissertation proposal at the start of level 6 and this will be used to select the appropriate supervisor who will provide feedback regarding the development of the research and writing processes necessary for the completion of the dissertation.

Regular tutorials provide feedback throughout the module. In week 8 you submit a 4,000 word draft and receive tutorial feedback so that you have sufficient time to respond before you submit the completed text at the end of the module.

### **Summative Assessment**

Within the fine art practice modules students present their work within the studios. A great deal of care goes into preparing the studios and you submit an exhibition proposal so that you can be allocated a space appropriate to the curatorial concerns of your work. At levels 4 and 5 the assessments take the form of a studio crit where you are given the opportunity to present your work to peers and academic staff. This is followed by an internal moderation meeting where parity is established via discussion between all the staff teaching on that module. The external examiner is invited to view the exhibitions of work for all the level 5 and 6 modules. This is followed by an external moderation meeting that is attended by all academic staff teaching on the module.

### **Synoptic Assessment**

Intrinsic to students' development on the course is their ability to establish a meaningful relationship between the theoretical (contextual) elements of the programme and the fine art practice elements.

To facilitate this process within the practice modules at levels 4 and 5 students produce a critical journal and a critical evaluation and these components are weighted at 20%.

The journal provides a developmental space where students can write commentaries in response to their research, make connections to other artists, and develop and critique their practice. It is a personal space where they can critically reflect on and contextualise their practice within the wider context of contemporary fine art.

**You write a critical evaluation in relation to stated criteria that ask you to consider:**

- The relationship between intention and outcome.
- The relationship of your practice to other contemporary artists and relevant critical debates.



- Your relative strengths and weaknesses.
- Potential future developments.

Both the journal and evaluation are important components that give an indication of your depth of understanding and your ability to contextualise and critique your practice.

At level 6 the journal is no longer a weighted component but the students' ability to contextualise their practice within the wider context of contemporary fine art practice is further emphasised through the increasing importance of the critical evaluation. In the final level 6 practice module 2MMA606 the evaluation is weighted at 15% and forms an important part of both the internal and external moderation processes.

### **Feedback**

Feedback is provided:

- Through the tutorial system and at formative and summative assessment points. The aim is to provide you student with a clear indication of your individual development and achievement within the module. You have review tutorials at the end of semester one that take an overview of your achievements on the course to date. They identify emerging issues and take a holistic view of your practice.
- Formative assessments that tend to happen at mid-point in each semester and at summative assessments tend to happen at the end of each semester.
- In written form via Blackboard for both the formative and summative assessments and orally through studio critique and peer review.
- Using Face Time and Skype.

### **Critical Judgement**

To ensure that the assessment is an open participatory process in which work is judged against agreed criteria at all levels and which enables students to reflect and develop their own critical judgement and critical self-awareness.

### **National standards within the discipline**

To ensure that the students work is judged against the appropriate national standard of Fine Art courses via external moderation.

### **Assessment Methods**

- Oral and visual presentations to seminar group and to tutor group.
- Formal written reports, essays, dissertation.
- Proposals.
- Informal written material, notebooks and workbooks.
- Critical Journals.
- Critical Evaluations.
- Individual projects, portfolios.
- Digital presentations.
- Websites.
- Turn-It-In.
- Artist's statements.

### **Employment and further study opportunities**

University of Westminster graduates will be able to demonstrate the following five Graduate Attributes:

- Critical and creative thinking

- Literate and effective communication
- Entrepreneurialism
- A global outlook and engagement with communities
- Social, ethical and environmental awareness

### **Career opportunities for Fine Art Graduates**

Exciting opportunities to exhibit work are formally structured as part of the fine art practice modules. These exhibitions take place in the studios and gallery spaces on campus. In terms of Professional Practice you will be involved with the curatorial process and the generation and promotion of publicity. Exhibitions that take place off campus in galleries and alternative spaces are actively encouraged and supported by the course.

The Degree show at Ambika P3 provides the opportunity to showcase your work in one of London's most prestigious spaces, organise and take part in fund raising events and contribute to the design and production of the exhibition publicity e.g. Private View cards, posters and catalogues.

The Professional Practice: Work Placement module at level 5 has enabled the Course to develop a network of exciting contacts within the art world. This module provides the opportunity to identify and explore future career options within the contemporary fine art arena, and in a number of cases the placement results in employment after graduation. The first destination statistics indicate that students who graduate from the Course are very resourceful and a large proportion continue to work in the Fine Art arena as artists, curators, writers, critics, exhibition officers, gallery administrators, the public arts and community arts sectors and in education at all levels.

Placements have taken place at some of the London's most eminent galleries including Tate Modern and Tate Britain, the Serpentine Gallery, Camden Arts Centre, Sadie Coles Gallery, David Zwirner Gallery and Artangel, and many other commercial and non-commercial galleries.

Shadowing an artist provides an invaluable insight into life after graduation and the professional art world. In many cases this has led to opportunities beyond graduation. Artists have included Antony Gormley, Richard Wilson, Richard Woods, Tracy Emin, Keith Wilson, Jeremy Deller, Marvin Gaye Chetwyn, Doug Fishbone, Shezad Dawood, and Helen Chadwick.

Having developed many transferable skills during their three years of study graduates have worked at a high level in related fields. These have included graphic design, website design, theatre design, electronic imaging studios, animation studios, post and pre-production companies and art therapy.

We have a very strong record in preparing graduates for post-graduate study at the Royal College of Art, The Slade School of Art, Goldsmiths, Central Saint Martins, Chelsea and Camberwell. Subject areas have been mainly painting, sculpture and moving image but have also included performance and animation.

## **Employability & Skills Strategy**

Graduates from the Fine Art Mixed Media course have a high employment rate and you are able to explore opportunities through the placement at level 5 and within the fine art practice modules where you develop the skills necessary to work as a professional artist or at a high level in the expanded field of the creative industries. Graduates from the Fine Art Mixed Media course are able to capitalise on and benefit from studying in London which as a global city and major creative centre presents many opportunities.

Students develop many sophisticated skills within each of the modules on the course. These are divided into four groups:

Knowledge and understanding  
Key transferable skills  
Professional and personal practice  
Graduate attributes.

## **Key Skills**

Students acquire key skills progressively throughout the programme within both the theoretical and practical elements of the curriculum.

On graduating students will have the following skills:

### **Problem solving**

The ability to:

- develop strategies to test ideas through experimentation with confidence and flexibility.
- understand and develop the appropriate range of skills necessary to evidence and consolidate your practice using media relevant to contemporary fine art. (KU, KTS, GA)

### **Autonomy**

Central to the course philosophy is the ability to:

- develop your own programme of study within both the practice and contextual elements.
- critically evaluate the outputs using the tutor as a consultant.
- reflect on and respond to feedback effectively. (KU, KTS, GA, PPP)

### **Critical Awareness**

You develop critical awareness within the practice and contextual elements of the course. This develops across the three years of the course bringing the practice and contextual elements into closer proximity.

The final year Dissertation is an in depth critical and contextual analysis of a topic that relates to and informs your practice. (KU, GA)

### **Communication and Presentation**

Essentially on the course you are developing very sophisticated communication skills to enable you to work as a professional artist. Primary to this is the development of your studio practice and your ability to communicate ideas through discussion, written evaluations and exhibiting work.

Your ability to communicate in written form is developed through the essay components of the theoretical modules at level 4 and 5 and the dissertation at level 6.

The practice modules require the generation of a critical evaluation that is a reflective text through which you critique your work.

Artist's statements and press releases require a different approach as they are the promotional aspects of exhibition practice.

You develop presentation skills in all the practice modules, the Contexts of Contemporary Practice module at level 4 the Work Placement module at level 5 and via Professional Practice submissions at level 6. You also develop a sophisticated understanding of how to use appropriate technology.

Visiting artist talks, studio crits and seminars provide a lively forum for discussion and debate. (KU, PPP, KTS, GA)

### **Self-Evaluation**

The ability to identify and apply the appropriate criteria, and to write a self-evaluation of your work happens within the critical evaluations that you write for the practice modules. This text is reflective and forms an important part of the overall discussion and assessment of your work. (KU, GA)

### **Group Work**

The ability to operate effectively, supportively and professionally as part of a team that takes on a variety of curatorial and promotional tasks. These attributes are developed in the practice and contextual modules and take the form of group presentations in the Contexts of Contemporary Practice module at level 4 and group exhibitions organised as part of the Work Placement module at level 5. These skills are also applied in student-led exhibitions and projects that take place both on and off campus. (KTS, PPP, GA)

### **Graduate Attributes, Westminster Distinctiveness**

You will acquire the graduate attributes listed below as you progress through the course and they have been developed to enhance the employability of students after completion of the course.

#### **Critical and creative thinkers**

Knowledge and understanding of contemporary fine art is developed through the practical, theoretical and contextual elements of the course. London contains two major commercial gallery centres in central and east London and by familiarising yourself with this invaluable resource you are able to develop your knowledge and understanding of the diverse practices of contemporary artists. You develop the ability to critique your practice through studio discussion with the academic staff and your peers.

Level 4 introduces students through workshops and discussion to different media and practices and encourages students to make and articulate complex connections across related disciplines.

This process is continued at levels 5 and 6 through seminars, studio discussion, the programme of visiting artists, gallery visits and gallery talks and field trips.

#### **Literate and effective communicators**

Studio discussion and crits encourage you to articulate sophisticated arguments and debate key issues that are central to the development of both your studio and theoretical work. You are introduced to a number of software packages related to digital editing, AV presentation, building websites and word processing. These are important skills to develop and are very well supported by introductory, developmental and specialist workshops.

Research and development are central to both your practice and theoretical work and you are encouraged to question, evaluate and critique the relevance and significance of academic source material.

### **Innovation and risk taking**

The course actively encourages you to experiment and take risks in the development of your studio work.

Your studio tutor will help you to strategise and develop different approaches that will open up new, unexpected and exciting possibilities.

You will be provided with regular feedback through the tutorial system so that the process is reflective.

You will be encouraged to take the initiative and develop approaches that are idiosyncratic, student-centred and that enable you to take ownership of your work.

Coping with uncertainty and change and recognising that these are essential parts of the creative process are central to the development of your studio work.

### **International (global) in outlook**

The vibrant London art world provides a rich resource where internationally acclaimed artists exhibit their work.

There are regular field trips to exciting cities and these have included New York, Los Angeles, the Venice Biennale, Kassel Documenta and Berlin. These trips are important because they expand your knowledge of the international contexts that contemporary artists work within. Documenta and Biennales provide critical insights into the international and global state of contemporary fine art practices.

### **Socially, ethically and environmentally aware**

Through the lecture programmes at level 4 and 5 you are able to develop and establish a considered position in relationship to historical and contemporary socio-political debates. These debates will help you to recognise and evidence these concerns in your theoretical and studio work at all levels of the course.

### **Key transferable skills/other attributes**

#### **Key Skills**

Throughout the programme you acquire key skills that support your personal development. These skills can be categorised as those that relate to Learning Resources, Information Management, Problem Solving, Communication, Group Working, Self-evaluation, Autonomy, and Professional Practice. Some of these skills are learnt in specific modules e.g. the Fine Art and Professional Practice 3.1 module at level 6 and the Professional Practice: Work Placement module at Level 5. They are also embedded in the course work in both the theory and practice modules and in the inductions and developmental workshops organised for all students.

#### **Professional and personal practice learning outcomes. Work experience, exhibitions, live projects**

All students are encouraged to undertake work experience as part of the level 5, semester two Professional Practice: Work Placement module 2MMA507. This placement provides you with the opportunity to explore experientially and test out future career opportunities.

The course has built up an extensive network of contacts within the vibrant London art world. You share these experiences by giving formal presentations to your peer group and academic staff.

Your tutors encourage you to initiate and take part in exhibitions both within the University and off campus in order to gain valuable experience of the promotional and curatorial aspects of exhibiting in a professional manner and context.

Staff also invite you to attend exhibitions and screenings of their work and this results

in a positive exchange of ideas and discussion that is informative and enabling. The regular programme of talks by visiting artists provides students with an invaluable insight into the professional context of contemporary practice.

### Course structure

This section shows the core and option modules available as part of the course and their credit value. Full-time Undergraduate students study 120 credits per year. Course structures can be subject to change each academic year following feedback from a variety of sources.

<b>Credit Level 4</b>				
<b>Module code</b>	<b>Module title</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>UK credit</b>	<b>ECTS</b>
	<b>Semester One</b>			
4FIAR001W	Introduction to Mixed Media (Fine Art) Practice.	Core	40	20
4FIAR002W	Sources of Contemporary Fine Art Practice	Core	20	10
	<b>Semester Two</b>			
4FIAR003W	Contemporary Fine Art Practice 1 Experimentation.	Core	20	20
4FIAR004W	Contexts of Contemporary Fine Art	Core	20	10

	Practice			
4FIAR005W	Material Light	Option	20	10
4FIAR006W	Reconsidering Drawing	Option	20	10
<b>Award of Certificate of Higher Education in Fine Art Mixed Media available</b>				
<b>Credit Level 5</b>				
<b>Module code</b>	<b>Module title</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>UK credit</b>	<b>ECTS</b>
	<b>Semester One</b>			
5FIAR001W	Contemporary Fine Art Practice 2.1 Exploration & Development.	Core	40	20
5FIAR002W	Concepts of Contemporary Fine Art	Option	20	10
5IMAG015W	Photo related Theory	Option	20	10
	<b>Semester Two</b>			
5FIAR003W	Contemporary Fine Art Practice 2.2 Presentation.	Core	20	20
5FIAR004W	Contemporary Art Ideas & Form	Core	20	10
5FIAR005W	Work Placement/ Professional Practice.	Option	20	10
5IMAG010W	Art/Science Collaboration.	Option	20	10
TBC	Creative Encounters	Option	20	10
<b>Award of Diploma of Higher Education in Fine Art Mixed Media available</b>				
<b>Credit Level 6</b>				
<b>Module code</b>	<b>Module title</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>UK credit</b>	<b>ECTS</b>
	<b>Semester One</b>			
2MMA601	Contemporary Fine Art Practice 3.1 Research & Development.	Option	20	10
2MMA602	Dissertation	Core	40	20
	<b>Semester Two</b>			
2MMA606	Contemporary Fine Art Professional Practice 3.2 Realisation.	Core	60	30
<b>Award /BA Fine Art Mixed Media available</b>				
<b>Award /BA Honours Fine Art Mixed Media available.</b>				

### Professional Body Accreditation or other external references

#### Internal

Internally the course design incorporates the research, professional practice and scholarship of the course teaching team who are recognized practitioners in the field

of Fine Art. The observations and comment from current students and recent graduates had also contributed to development of the curriculum and considerations for the general student experience. A healthy course is not static but needs to remain flexible in its curriculum, teaching and provision of learning to external change, student feedback, developments in the field and input from the academic and support staff.

The following University documents and quality assurance processes underpin the curriculum, course design and delivery framework:

Quality Assurance Handbook

Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy

Principle and Process of Curriculum Design

Guide to Higher Education skills and Career Management

University Employability Strategy

Peer Observation Models of Personal Development Planning

Learning Outcomes & Assessment Criteria

Guided Independent Study – a Brief Guide

Personal Tutoring Policy

### **External**

The course has a number of external reference points, guest speakers and alumni working in contemporary fine art.

### **Bibliographic and Pedagogic Reference:**

Subject Benchmarking Statement for Art & Design external examiners feedback

SEEC credit level descriptors QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications

### **Academic regulations**

The current Handbook of Academic Regulations is available at [westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations](http://westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations)



## **How will you be supported in your studies?**

### **Course Management**

The Course Leader has overall management and administrative responsibility of the course programme answering to the Cluster Leader for Creative Practice. Module leaders take managerial and administrative responsibility for individual modules and make a significant contribution to the teaching of that module. The course programme is delivered through a combination of appointed staff, technical support staff, visiting lecturers, and guest lecturers. Students and staff keep in touch through email, Blackboard and regular studio meetings. All teaching and support staff are involved in main course events such as exhibitions, the degree show, open days, and recruitment, assessment and personal tutoring. As a staff team we make considerable use of the Course Committee Meetings, twice each year these meetings bring representatives from the student body and staff together. Students and staff can formally raise issues and comment on the course from their various perspectives and involvements.

The outcomes of these meetings form a significant part of the Universities Annual Monitoring process where action points are raised and emerging issues are resolved.

### **Course approval, monitoring and review**

The course was initially approved by a University Validation Panel in **1994**. The Panel included internal peers from the University and external subject specialists from academia and industry to ensure the comparability of the course to those offered in other Universities and the relevance to employers. Periodic Course Review helps to ensure that the curriculum is up-to-date and that the skills gained on the course continue to be relevant to employers.

The course is monitored each year by the School to ensure it is running effectively and that issues which might affect the student experience have been appropriately addressed. Staff will consider evidence about the course, including the outcomes from each Course Committee, evidence of student progression and achievement and the reports from External Examiners, to evaluate the effectiveness of the course. The Annual Monitoring Sub-Committee considers the School action plans resulting from this process and the outcomes are reported to the Academic Council, which has overall responsibility for the maintenance of quality and standards in the University.

### **Student involvement in Quality Assurance and Enhancement**

Student feedback is important to the University and student views are taken seriously. Student feedback is gathered in a variety of ways. The most formal mechanism for feedback on the course is the Course Committee. Student representatives will be elected to sit on the Committee to represent the views of their peer group in various discussions. The University and the Students' Union work together to provide a full induction to the role of the Course Committee.

All students are invited to complete a Module Feedback Questionnaire before the end of each module. The feedback from this will inform the Module Leader on the effectiveness of the module and highlight areas that could be enhanced. The University also has an annual Student Experience Survey that elicits feedback from students about their course and University experience.

Students meet with Review Panels when the periodic review of the course is conducted to provide oral feedback on their experience on the course. Student feedback from Course Committees forms part of the Faculty's quality assurance evidence base.

### **Academic Support**

Upon arrival, an induction programme will introduce you to the staff responsible for the course, the campus on which you will be studying, the Library and IT facilities, additional support available and to your Faculty Registry Office. You will be provided with the Course Handbook, which provides detailed information about the course. Each course has a course leader or Director of Studies. All students enrolled on a full-time course and part-time students registered for more than 60 credits a year have a personal tutor, who provides advice and guidance on academic matters. The University uses a Virtual Learning Environment called Blackboard where students access their course materials, and can communicate and collaborate with staff and other students

### **Learning Support**

The Academic Learning Development Centre supports students in developing the skills required for higher education. As well as online resources in Blackboard, students have the opportunity to attend Study Skills workshops and one to one appointments.

Learning support includes four libraries, each holding a collection of resources related to the subjects taught at that site. Students<sup>1</sup> can search the entire library collection online through the Library Search service to find and reserve printed books, and access electronic resources (databases, e-journals, e-books). Students can choose to study in the libraries, which have areas for silent and group study, desktop computers, laptops for loan, photocopying and printing services. They can also choose from several computer rooms at each campus where desktop computers are available with the general and specialist software that supports the courses taught at their Faculty. Students can also securely connect their own laptops and mobile devices to the University wireless network.

### **Support Services**

The University of Westminster Student Affairs department provide advice and guidance on accommodation, financial and legal matters, personal counselling, health and disability issues, careers, specialist advice for international students and the chaplaincy providing multi-faith guidance. The University of Westminster Students' Union also provides a range of facilities to support students during their time at the University.

### **How do we ensure the quality of our courses and continuous improvement?**

The course was initially approved by a University Validation Panel in **1994**. The panel included internal peers from the University, academic(s) from another university and a representative from industry. This helps to ensure the comparability of the course to those offered in other universities and the relevance to employers.

The course is also monitored each year by the Faculty to ensure it is running effectively and that issues which might affect the student experience have been

appropriately addressed. Staff will consider evidence about the course, including the outcomes from Course Committees, evidence of student progression and achievement and the reports from external examiners, to evaluate the effectiveness of the course. Each Faculty puts in to place an action plan. This may for example include making changes on the way the module is taught, assessed or even how the course is structured in order to improve the course, in such cases an approval process is in place.

A Course review takes place periodically to ensure that the curriculum is up-to-date and that the skills gained on the course continue to be relevant to employers. Students meet with review panels to provide feedback on their experiences. Student feedback from previous years e.g. from Course Committees is also part of the evidence used to assess how the course has been running.

### **How do we act on student feedback?**

Student feedback is important to the University and student views are taken seriously. Student feedback is gathered in a variety of ways.

- Through Course Committees students have the opportunity to express their voice in the running of their course. Student representatives are elected to the Committee to expressly represent the views of their peers. The University and the Students' Union work together to provide a full induction to the role of the student representatives.
- Each Faculty also has its own Faculty Student Forum with student representatives; this enables wider discussions across the Faculty. Student representatives are also represented on key Faculty and university committees.
- All students are invited to complete a questionnaire before the end of each module. The feedback from this will inform the module leader on the effectiveness of the module and highlight areas that could be enhanced.
- The University also has an annual Student Experience Survey that seeks the opinions of students about their course and University experience. Final year Undergraduate students will be asked to complete the National Student Survey that helps to inform the national university league tables.

**Please note:** This programme specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. This specification should be read in conjunction with the Course Handbook provided to students and Module Handbooks, which provide more detailed information on the specific learning outcomes, content, teaching, learning and assessment methods for each module.

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