

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Course Record Information	
Name and level of final & intermediate Awards	BA Hons Mixed Media Fine Art. BA Mixed Media Art (unclassified). Diploma in Higher Education in Mixed Media Fine Art. Certificate in Higher Education in mixed Media Fine Art.
Awarding Body	University of Westminster
Location of Delivery	Harrow Campus
Mode of Study	Full and Part Time
UW Course Code	2907
JACS Code	
UCAS Code	Institution W50 Course WP23
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	<i>Art and design</i>
Professional Body Accreditation	NA
Date of initial course approval/last review	March 2006
Date of Programme Specification	October 2011.

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Criteria for Admission Applicant Profile We are looking for highly motivated people who can demonstrate a creative, conceptual and intellectual engagement with fine art. We are looking individual approaches to studio practice and the ability to apply critical thinking and contextualise this engagement. The academic requirements to be considered for this course are:

Entry Requirements:

Home Students Minimum entry requirements for home students:

- 1) Minimum of 5 GCSEs grade C and above, these must include minimum of grade C English Language and Maths.
- 2) GCE A Level: 2 x A levels grade C – 160 points (minimum) and / or BTEC National Diploma MMP/BTEC National Certificate MM.

Students applying from Access Courses in Art & Design require a Distinction or predicted Distinction.

Students from abroad

Equivalent grades are accepted from overseas applicants – those with an International Baccalaureate.

Applicants with English as a foreign language:

Applicants whose first language is not English or who have not studied their secondary education in English must normally achieve a recognized English qualification. This should be at the equivalent of IELTS 6.0 / TOEFL 550 (paper) / 213 (computer) / 80 (internet). Full details of equivalent scores can be obtained from University of Westminster admissions or marketing office.

Direct Entry into Year 2 (Credit Level 5)

Students wishing to transfer from another institution need to apply through UCAS. Students wishing to transfer from other courses within the University of Westminster need to contact the Course Leader of Mixed Media Fine Art. All students need to have successfully completed Year 1 (credit level 4) of your current degree course, or have completed a Higher National Diploma or Foundation Degree in an Fine Art.. (all direct entry applications are subject to availability).

Accreditation of Prior Learning

Mature applicants (who may not meet the above formal entrance requirements), for entry other than Year 1 (Level 4), and those with appropriate prior experiential learning (e.g. relevant professional experience in Fine Art) can be considered for admission on the basis of Accreditation of Prior (Experiential) Learning (APEL). We will discuss this possibility with appropriate applicants, and will offer guidance through the required formal APEL process.

Your Portfolio – creative practice

We are concerned to see your current practice and encourage you to present work that demonstrates:

- A creative and experimental approach to fine art practice.
- Evidence of self-direction and self-reliance.
- Evidence of a breadth of interest beyond formal study.
- Evidence of a capacity to express ones ideas in writing..
- Awareness and interest in contemporary fine art evidenced by artists, periodicals, reviews, exhibition and gallery visits.

The interview process for home students

Appropriately qualified students will be invited to attend an interview. You need to allow two hours for the interview process. The form of our interview process is that your work will be viewed by a number of staff from the course teaching team, while you are taken on a short tour of the facilities. On returning you will be invited to discuss your folio with one of the course tutors, this interview will last approximately 15 – 20 minutes.

For students applying from abroad

If you meet the academic requirements of the course you will be asked to send an electronic portfolio and you must also include a recent essay.

Applicants with English as a Foreign Language

All applicants whose first language is not English or who have not studied their secondary education in English must normally achieve a recognized English qualification. This should be at the equivalent of IELTS 6.0 / TOEFL 550 (paper) / 213 (computer) / 80 (internet). Full details of equivalent scores can be obtained from the Harrow Campus Admissions & Marketing Office (contact information at the end of this document).

Accreditation of Prior Learning

Mature applicants (who may not meet the above formal entrance requirements), applicants for entry other than at Level 4 (First Year), and those with appropriate prior experiential learning (e.g. relevant professional media experience) can be considered for admission on the basis of Accreditation of Prior (Experiential) Learning (APEL). We will discuss this possibility with appropriate applicants, and will offer guidance through the required formal APEL process. This guidance may include the allocation of a mentor from amongst the staff team, specifically to support an individual through the APEL process.

Admissions and Equal opportunities.

In accordance with the University's Equal Opportunities Policy, applicants are assessed for admission according to the University Admissions Regulations for Taught Courses.

The University will admit students to its courses on the basis of the following principles:

- a) reasonable expectation that the applicant will be able to fulfill the objectives of the course and achieve the standard required for the award;
- b) the University requirements for admission to the course leading to a particular award;
- c) equality of opportunity for all applicants.

Students with disabilities are welcome at the University and there are various ways in which support is provided. Students are actively encouraged to make known their requirements and disability in a timely manner so that the appropriate services and practices can be provided where necessary.

Aims of the course
<p>The course aims to provide an open learning environment in which students can develop an awareness of the diversity of media and practices available in contemporary Mixed Media fine Art.</p> <p>Develop an individual practice within the arena of contemporary fine art mediums/ media appropriate knowledge, understanding, skills and strategies.</p> <p>Relate this practice to a relevant critical framework both contemporary and historical.</p> <p>Acquire the critical rigour to examine and develop their individual practice in the context of this framework.</p> <p>Develop independence and motivation in all areas of their programme.</p> <p>Relate the knowledge, understanding, skills and strategies they have acquired to the requirements of a range of future career options.</p>

Employment and Further Study Opportunities

The markets for Fine Art.

Through the Work Placement Module at Level Five students identify and explore future career options within the contemporary fine art arena, in a number of cases the placement results in employment after graduation. The first destination statistics indicate that students are very resourceful and a large proportion continue to work in the Fine Art arena as artists, curators, writers, critics, exhibition officers, public art, community art, gallery administration and teaching.

Students having developed many transferable skills during their three years of study also work in related fields these include graphic design, website design, theatre design, electronic imaging studios, animation studios, post and pre production companies and art therapy.

Higher study destinations have mainly been to post graduate courses at the Royal College of Art, The Slade, Goldsmiths, Central St Martins, Chelsea and Camberwell.

Today's organisations need graduates with both good degrees and skills relevant to the workplace, i.e., employability skills. The University of Westminster is committed to developing employable graduates by ensuring that:

- Career development skills are embedded in all courses
- Opportunities for part-time work, placements and work-related learning activities are widely available to students
- Staff continue to widen and strengthen the University's links with employers in all sectors, involving them in curriculum design and encouraging their participation in other aspects of the University's career education and guidance provision
- Staff are provided with up-to-date data on labour market trends and employers' requirements which will inform the service delivered to students.

Learning Outcomes.

Learning outcomes are statements on what successful students have achieved as the result of learning. They are threshold statements of achievement and linked to the knowledge, understanding and skills that a student will have gained on successfully completing a course.

Learning Outcomes for Level 4

On the successful completion of level four students will:

Have the knowledge, understanding, skills and strategies to enable them to inform and develop their practice.

Have established an art practice reflecting their interests and abilities appropriate to the first year of degree level study.

Have a general understanding of the theoretical, critical and historical frameworks at a level appropriate to contextualise their work.

Have a level of critical rigour appropriate for the development and evaluation of their work.

Have a level of autonomy appropriate to the first year of degree level study.

Learning Outcomes for Level 5.

On the successful completion of Level Five students will:

Have identified the areas of personal concern relevant to the development of their practice within the arena of contemporary fine art.

Have developed a studio practice appropriate to their interests and abilities, with evidence of self direction.

Have an understanding the specific historical and contemporary contexts for their chosen concerns and practises.

Be able to consider career options and be familiar with professional opportunities beyond undergraduate study.

Be able to demonstrate independence, self awareness, self confidence and self motivation.

Have experience of the processes of curation and exhibition.

Be able to demonstrate critical rigour in the evaluation of their fine art practice.

Learning Outcomes for Level Six.

On the successful completion of Level Six students will:

Have consolidation of their areas of personal concern and identified practice within the context of contemporary fine art.

Have a studio practice appropriate to your interests and abilities, with substantial self direction and autonomy.

Have the ability to investigate an area of theory, history or criticism relevant to their practice, or to other major concerns if appropriate.

Have self confidence and critical rigour in the presentation and evaluation of their studio practice.

Have prepared for future career/ post- graduate study options.

Knowledge and Understanding

Subject Specific Skills.

Students acquire subject specific skills progressively throughout the programme within both the theoretical and practical components of curriculum.

On graduating students will have the following skills:

Problem solving.

Confidence and flexibility in using the appropriate range of skills, practices and media appropriate to contemporary fine art practice.

Autonomy.

The ability to develop their own programme of study and evaluate the outputs using the tutor as a consultant.

The ability to reflect and respond to feedback effectively.

Critical Awareness.

The ability via the production of a Dissertation to provide an in depth contextual and critical framework and relate their own practice to the wider critical context.

Communication and Presentation.

The consolidation of the ability to communicate in written form and through discussion via a series of assessed presentations of their work using the appropriate technology.

Self Evaluation.

The ability to identify and apply the appropriate criteria, and to write a self evaluation of their work. This process is reflective and forms the central part of the overall discussion and assessment of their work.

Group Work.

The ability to operate effectively and supportively as part of a team in a variety of curatorial and promotional tasks at a professional level.

Key transferable skills/other attributes**Key Skills.**

Throughout the programme students acquire key skills which support their personal development and career management, These skills can be categorised as those which 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. Launchpad and Work Placement, or they are embedded in the course work in both the theory and practice modules and in the workshops and inductions organised for all students.

Teaching Learning and Assessment Methods.

The course implements a range of teaching strategies which follow the University's guidelines in supporting independent learning. The teaching and learning methods encourage students to create an on going body of work characterised by personal commitment and an increasing sense of autonomy.

The programme is not project led, the emphasis is placed on helping and encouraging students to develop their own agenda as they move through the course. Electives and theory modules are seen as complementary to studio practice modules, and students are encouraged to make module choices to support their developing studio practice. The theory modules, electives and the dissertation are important elements in their own right as well as providing a theoretical and critical context to your studio practice.

You will be expected to contextualise your practice in studio seminars and discussions, so areas of theory and practice are mutually supportive on the course.

The course employs a number of different forms of delivery these include: lectures, studio seminars, critiques, presentations, group and individual tutorials, pastoral tutorials and workshops.

Assessment.

The purpose of assessment is to enable students to 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. The Mixed Media Fine Art assessment is designed to accomplish the following:

Demonstrate Learning Outcomes.

To enable students to demonstrate that they have fulfilled the learning outcomes of the BA Hons Mixed Media Fine Art programme.

Feedback.

To provide each student with a clear indication of their individual development and achievement on the course.

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 course via external moderation.

Assessment Methods.

Oral visual presentations to seminar group, to tutor group.

Formal written reports, essays, dissertation.

Proposals, learning contracts.

Informal written material, notebooks, workbooks.

Critical Journals.

Critical Evaluations.

Individual projects, portfolios.

Group projects.

Work Placements.

Presentation of work via exhibition.

Course Structure.

Code.	Title.	Status.	Value
Level 4.			
Semester One.			
MMMA 401	Intro to Mixed media Practice	Core	45
2MMA 401	Sources of Cont practice	Core	15
Semester Two.			
2MMA 407	Fine Art Practice 1	Core	30
2MMA 409	Contexts of Cont Practice	Core	15
2MMA 411	Intro to Photography	Elective	15
MMMA 400	Reconsidering Drawing	Elective	15
(Students can choose between MMMA 400 and 2MMA 411 for their Elective).			
Level 5.			
Semester One.			
2MMA 509	Fine Art practice 2.1	Core	45
MMMA 503	Concepts of Cont Fine Art	Elective	15
2PHO 529	Photo related Theory	Elective	15
(Students can choose between MMMA 503 and 2PHO 529 for their elective).			
Semester Two.			
2MMA 508	Fine Art practice 2.2	Core	30
2MMA 507	Professional Practice	Core	15
2MMA 501	Cont art Idea & form	Core	15
Level 6.			
Semester One.			
2MMA 601	Fine Art Practice	Core	30
2MMA 602	Dissertation	Core	30
2MMA 605	Launchpad	Core	15
Semester two.			
2MMA 606	Fine Art Practice 3.2	Core	45

The dissertation 2MMA 602 runs across semesters one and two.

Academic Regulations

The BA (Hons) **Mixed Media Fine Art** and its intermediate awards operate in accordance with the University's Academic Regulations and the *Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland* published by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) in 2008.

All students should make sure that they access a copy of the current edition of the general University handbook called **Essential Westminster 2011/12** which is available at westminster.ac.uk/essential-westminster. The following regulations should be read in conjunction with the *Modular Framework for Undergraduate Courses* and relevant sections of the current *Handbook of Academic Regulations*.

A *pass* in a module is achieved when the overall mark is greater than or equal to 40%; with at least 30% in the final assessment and any qualifying marks and/or sets achieved as detailed in the module handbook.

Condoned Credit at Level 3 and Level 4

A student may be awarded condoned credit at Levels 3 and 4 only, where he/she has achieved:

- a) an overall module mark of greater than or equal to 30% but less than 40%;
- b) an overall mark of 40% or greater but not reached the required qualifying mark(s) and/or qualifying set(s) as detailed in the module handbook; and
- c) attempted all referred assessment as offered by the Assessment Board.

Where a student, following a referral opportunity, is awarded condoned credit, the recorded module mark will be capped at 39%. Condoned credit will count towards any credit limits for specified awards. Where a student is awarded condoned credit in a module but subsequently achieves an overall pass within a retake module, credit may contribute only once to an award.

Progression

To progress from Level 3 to Level 4 and from Level 4 to Level 5 in full time study, a student must achieve an average of 40% across 120 credits; to progress from Level 5 to Level 6 full-time study, a student must pass at least 165 credits, including 75 credits at Level 5.

Award

To qualify for the award of **Mixed Media Fine Art**, a student must:

- a) obtained at least 360 credits including:
 - passed 75 credits at Level 4 or higher and achieved at least a condoned credit in each of the remaining modules worth 45 credits at Level 4; and
 - passed a minimum of 120 Credits at Level 5 or higher; and
 - passed a minimum of 120 credits at Level 6 or higher.
- b) attempted modules with a maximum value of 330 credits at Levels 5 and 6; and
- c) satisfied the requirements contained within any course specific regulations for the relevant course Scheme.

The class of the Honours degree awarded is decided by two criteria: the average of the best 105 credits passed at Level 6 being in the range of the class to be awarded, and the average of the next best 105 credits passed at Levels 5 and 6 provided the next best 105 credits passed are no more than one classification below this.

Student Support and Guidance.**Student Support & Guidance**

Prior to commencing the course students will be sent an induction package including all information on enrolment, a summer brief, and a timetable for induction and some information on basic equipment and materials you will need for coursework.

On arrival, a School induction programme will introduce students to the campus on which they will be studying, the Library and IT facilities and to the Campus Administration.

Students will then meet the course leader and staff team and receive a course handbook.

During the induction week students will have the opportunity to meet their peers, settle into their studio accommodation, learn about the course programme and locate where they need to be for their studies and teaching for the semester. Students are allocated a personal tutor who can provide advice and guidance on academic matters and the student services facility on site can also provide advice, support and information for any students with personal difficulties. It is advisable if you are moving to Harrow from another borough that you register with a GP and dentist.

General Learning Resources.

Learning support includes the Library which, across its four sites, holds printed collections of 412,000 books, 1,600 journal subscriptions and substantial audio visual collections.

Access to over 6,500 electronic resources (databases, e-journals, e-books, exam papers and links to recommended websites) is facilitated through infoLinX, the library portal.

There are over 3,500 computers spread over the four University campuses available for students use. The University uses a Virtual Learning Environment called Blackboard where students can access course materials and communicate with staff and other students via message boards.

Course Specific Learning Resources and Equipment.

The course provides students with dedicated studio space, storage, computers, equipment and facilities. Students have access to a range of well equipped facility centres for digital media – software training, printing and scanning, video editing, animation, 3D workshops, printmaking studios, photography studios and darkrooms.

Student Support .

At University level, Services for Students provide advice and guidance on accommodation, financial and legal matters, personal counselling, health and disability issues, careers and the chaplaincy providing multi-faith guidance. The International Education Office provides particular support for international students. The University of Westminster Students' Union also provides a range of facilities to support all students during their time at the University.

Personal Tutoring.

In the induction week you will be allocated a personal tutor, this tutor will be one of the course members of staff and their role is to support you with your academic study programme, personal development planning, pastoral advice and professional guidance. Your personal tutor is the first person you contact if you have difficulties and you can normally expect to have two personal tutorials per year outside of the normal academic teaching.

Reference Points for the course

Internally

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.

Internal.

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

Quality Assurance and Enhancement

Course Management

The Course Leader has overall management and administrative responsibility of the course programme answering to the Head of Department for Art & Design. 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 also 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.

Course approval, monitoring and review

The course was initially approved by a University Validation Panel in **1993**. 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 which 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 are part of the Schools' quality assurance evidence base.

For more information about this course:

Admissions Tutor: Ben Joiner

Joinerb@westminster.ac.uk

020 7911 5000 ext 4014.

Course Administrator.

Catherine Rooke

rookc@westminster.ac.uk

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.