

Programme Specification

BA (Hons) Fine Art (2020-21)

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

Awarding Institution	University of Southampton
Teaching Institution	University of Southampton
Mode of Study	Full-time
Duration in years	3
Accreditation details	None
Final award	Bachelor of Arts
Name of award	BA (Hons) Fine Art
Interim Exit awards	Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE)
FHEQ level of final award	Level 6
UCAS code	W190
Programme code	8238
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	
Programme Lead	John Gillett (jrg2)

Programme Overview

Brief outline of the programme

The programme offers a welcoming, supportive and student-focused environment in which to study contemporary fine art. It takes an interdisciplinary approach, provides a theoretical framework for critical, contextual thinking, technical skills across a range of media, and transferable skills to support your creative practice. It equips you to develop, articulate and communicate your ideas, and prepares you to operate as an artist, or to seek employment in the creative industries, or undertake postgraduate study.

Your contact hours will vary depending on your module/option choices. Full information about contact hours is provided in individual module profiles.

Learning and teaching

The programme combines studio practice modules which are complemented by theory-based modules, including a career-oriented employability module. Most of your creative endeavour will take place in the studio, exploring materials and realising your ideas. Studio practice is a continuous process of hands-on making and reflection, supported by individual research, technical workshops, tutorials and group critiques. There are specific projects set in Part 1, as well as the programme-wide Shared Drive projects. By the end of Part 1, you will be able to realise practical solutions through self-initiated projects.

The theory based modules involve essay or blog assignments supported by individual research, lectures, seminars and tutorials.

Learning starts with an understanding of the discipline and develops through exploring and testing boundaries. You will learn safe technical proficiency through workshops. In Part One, inductions and demonstrations introduce you to a range of practical skills, then as you progress through the second and third parts of the programme you can select from a range of additional workshops designed to increase your skills. Seminars, individual and group tutorials, group critiques and optional study visits are all designed to develop your thinking skills through discussion. Group critiques and seminars in particular focus on evaluating ways of developing ideas and working methods, in addition to developing your critical and analytical abilities.

Assessment

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Special Features of the programme

The Programme offers a choice of studio for the second and third years. Whilst the choice is not a commitment to specialise in a particular medium, the emphasis in the studios is variously on painting, printmaking, new media (lens-based and digital media and performance) and sculpture.

The first semester of each year includes two Shared Drive projects, where all three year-groups work together towards a large-scale, collective outcome.

The programme includes a range of optional study visits to exhibitions, public art installations and other relevant facilities, in particular trips to London galleries. There is usually an annual, optional overseas study visit, and the opportunity to apply to study abroad for the second semester of the second year, on the Study Exchange for Fine Art module.

We ensure that the students have contact with contemporary practitioners beyond the teaching staff, this maybe through guest lectures or visiting lecturers.

Please note: As a research-led University, we undertake a continuous review of our programmes to ensure quality enhancement and to manage our resources. As a result, this programme may be revised during a student's period of registration; however, any revision will be balanced against the requirement that the student should receive the educational service expected. Please read our [Disclaimer](#) to see why, when and how changes may be made to a student's programme.

Programmes and major changes to programmes are approved through the University's [programme validation process](#) which is described in the University's [Quality handbook](#).

Educational Aims of the Programme

The core modules provide the opportunity to explore and advance knowledge relevant to specialist contexts and theories in fine art. The optional core module you choose enables you to selectively extend your learning and enhance your employability. All modules focus on allowing you to develop specialist knowledge and understanding applicable to future employment in the creative industries.

The aims of the programme are to:

- Enable you to develop your creativity through investigative, analytical and imaginative methods
- Enable you to develop specialist technical skills including digital and technological literacies
- Develop and apply research skills, critical thinking and independent judgement
- Develop innovation through practical intelligence and experimentation
- Enable you to locate your work within theoretical and cultural contexts
- Provide you with advanced communication skills, in a range of formats
- Equip you with professional skills for work as an artist or in other employment, or to pursue further study
- Promote collaboration and ethical and social engagement

Programme Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

On successful completion of this programme you will have knowledge and understanding of:

- A1. The personal, conceptual, social, ethical, and political applications of contemporary art;
- A2. The nature and breadth of professional practice for the contemporary artist;
- A3. Relevant artistic precedent and its bearing upon contemporary art practice;
- A4. The current contexts, debates and theoretical considerations of creative practice
- A5. A broad range of techniques and their creative potential

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

On successful completion of this programme you will be able to:

- B1. Recognise and respond to creative opportunity, with ambition and confidence;
- B2. Research and articulate art-historical and current theoretical contexts for your practice;
- B3. Generate concepts and proposals for artworks, independently and collaboratively;
- B4. Apply critical and evaluative reflection to the development of your ideas
- B5. Challenge technical and conceptual boundaries within contemporary art.

Transferable and Generic Skills

On successful completion of this programme you will be able to:

- C1. Demonstrate clear, lateral and strategic thinking;
- C2. Plan, implement and deliver independent projects;
- C3. Balance ambition with pragmatic management of time and resources;
- C4. Engage in persuasive communication using any appropriate medium;
- C5. Understand and utilise appropriate academic referencing.

Subject Specific Practical Skills

On successful completion of this programme you will be able to:

- D1. Test and evaluate materials and techniques, both analogue and digital;
- D2. Select and combine technical approaches effectively;
- D3. Develop solutions through material engagement;
- D4. Apply informed editorial and curatorial judgement;
- D5. Present outputs effectively in a range of exhibition contexts.

Programme Structure

The programme structure table is below:

Information about pre and co-requisites is included in individual module profiles.

Where optional modules have been specified, the following is an indicative list of available optional modules, which are subject to change each academic year. Please note in some instances modules have limited spaces available.

Part I

Typical course content

The BA Fine Art programme is fundamentally interdisciplinary allowing all Fine Art students to develop their work in whatever medium is appropriate at any point during the three years of the Programme. Students are free to specialise or work across media, as appropriate for their practice.

In each Part of the programme, you will receive positive advice and guidance to help you to make informed decisions about your study choices. Group critiques, tutorials and lectures draw together students working across different media. Studio-based seminars focus on a variety of specialist practices in painting, sculpture, printmaking, installation, performance, lens-based and digital media.

In addition to your individual studio practice, each year all students participate in Shared Drive projects, occasional, short-term, large-scale collaborations with collective outcomes, designed to improve the cohesion of the cohort, increase understanding of large-scale work, and provide experience of teamwork, project management and leadership.

The Fine Art programme is a three-year full-time programme, which consists of Core Modules and, in Part 2, an Optional Core Module. You are able to choose from a list of theoretical and career-focused Optional Core Modules to individually tailor your programme. These are designed to provide you with a choice of learning experiences, reflective practices, and study skills, which will enable you to focus and direct your ideas and career toward further study, employment or self-employment in the creative industries.

Modules in this programme are either 22.5 ECTS (45 CATS), or 7.5 ECTS (15 CATS). The programme is worth 180 ECTS (360 CATS) with each level of study worth 60 ECTS (120 CATS).

Part 1

The Exploring the Discipline module outlines the nature of contemporary art and the relationship between historical antecedents and current practices. It highlights the need for critical evaluation of the work of others and approaches to it, and the role of reflection in creative practice. It covers ethical considerations and introduces a range of study skills. Throughout Part 1, through workshop inductions, you will be introduced to a range of practical skills and media. The Studio Practice 1A (Materials and Techniques) module is designed to give you an early practical grasp of the scope and possibilities of contemporary fine art, the use of materials and techniques in the development of ideas, and the role of intellectual engagement in creative practice. Studio Practice 1B (Research and Skills) adds to the range of materials and techniques with which you are familiar, introduce the role of contextual research in creative practice, and prepares you for the direction of your own practical work in Part 2. Contemporary Issues provides skills necessary for the critical

development of well-informed contemporary art. It explores how practice is informed by context and theory.

You will be offered guidance on your selection of a studio for Part 2 and your choice of career-orientated Optional Core module.

Part I Core (must take and pass) Semester 1

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
ARTD1111	Exploring the Discipline	7.5	Core
ARTD1110	Studio Practice 1A: Materials and Techniques	22.5	Core

Part I core (must take and pass) Semester 2

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
ARTD1113	Contemporary Issues	7.5	Core
ARTD1112	Studio Practice 1B: Research and Skills	22.5	Core

Part II

Part 2

Studio Practice 2A (Experimentation and Reflection) encourages further experimentation; to continue the development of your technical knowledge, raise the level of your research and critical reflection, and enable you to start to define the particular nature of your own practice. Studio Practice 2B (Focus and Ambition) seeks sharper focus, greater ambition, and articulation of a well-defined critical context for your practice. This context is explored in detail via the Framing your Practice module which enables you to look outwards from your developing studio practice to consider critically and analytically your own selection of other relevant cultural or creative outputs and to reflect on how they bear upon the direction of your work. Part 2 also includes your career-oriented Optional Core module and the opportunity to apply to study abroad for the second semester, on the Study Exchange for Fine Art module.

As part of your studies in Part 2, Semester 1, you will be able to select one of six optional core modules, each designed to provide you with an opportunity to broaden your studies and engage with peers from other art and design subjects in an interdisciplinary environment.

The module choices will provide you with the creative freedom to explore areas outside of your main specialism.

Business Skills for the Creative Industries will introduce you to a range of creative techniques and design thinking skills to help you develop a business idea within the creative industries. As part of this module you will have the opportunity to gain knowledge of business start-up ideas and develop the skills required to produce and present an effective business plan.

Creative Writing will introduce you to a range of diverse non-academic writing styles, from journalism to more 'creative' forms such as prose fiction, memoir, poetry and scriptwriting, developing skills in handling writing voice and in understanding the process of effective communications both in the creative industries and the wider public arena.

Creative Futures focuses on the capacity of creative practices to influence new scenarios and creative futures. You will have the opportunity to understand creative practices as part of an ethical and participatory framework. The module will explore democratic forms of innovation through citizen participation, including collaborative and environmental practices, activism, social innovation and economic sustainability.

Image & Branding will promote your understanding of key concepts around brand signature and visual aspects of branding. The module provides you with an opportunity to analyse case studies to build your knowledge in relation to brand signature design and explore debates and trends impacting brand aesthetics.

Visual Culture will introduce some of the core theoretical issues that underpin the production of visual culture, questioning the role of images in the construction of identity and the ways in which we understand the world around us. The module engages you in various themes around visual production and sub-cultures, using the premise that- as future artists, designers or workers in the creative industries- you will be future producers of visual culture or even visual counter-cultures.

Sight & Sound will introduce you to the language of cinema. Using key texts and self-generated or found visual samples as a basis for learning, Sight and Sound will explore film genres for you to understand the usefulness of cinematic studies as a way of strengthening your academic and practice based portfolio. The optional core module choice will allow you to take increasing responsibility for the direction of your studies in preparation for your final year.

The Exchange module is based on exchange agreements with institutions in the EU established under the Socrates-Erasmus Exchange study programme and bilateral exchange agreements in Canada and elsewhere. You will need to be able to articulate why you wish to travel abroad as part of your study and what you are seeking to achieve. Whilst on exchange you will have input from academics and professionals at the host institution. You will be expected to work to the schedule and standards prevailing in your host institution. The work you do abroad will be equivalent to that undertaken by fellow students remaining in the UK and will be assessed, on your return, against the criteria used at WSA. In addition to the work you do on the Exchange module, you will be required to complete the assignment for the Framing your Practice module, for which you will receive guidance in advance of your departure and via Blackboard and email. Your Student Exchange will be supported by a programme Exchange Coordinator and a dedicated handbook.

Part II core (must take and pass) Semester 1

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
ARTD2121	Studio Practice 2A (Experimentation and Reflection)	22.5	Core

Part II Core (must take and pass) Semester 2

In Part 2 Students may opt to take part in a study exchange to another institution. If confirmed students will be transferred from ARTD2110 Specialist Practice 2b module to ARTD2111 Study Exchange for Fine Art

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
ARTD2112	Framing Your Practice	7.5	Core
ARTD2110	Studio Practice 2B (Focus and Ambition)	22.5	Core
ARTD2111	Study Exchange for Fine Art	22.5	Core

Part II Optional/Core (must choose one and pass) Semester 1

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
ARTD2117	Business Skills for the Creative Industries	7.5	Optional/Core
ARTD2118	Creative Futures	7.5	Optional/Core
ARTD2125	Creative Writing	7.5	Optional/Core
ARTD2119	Image and Branding	7.5	Optional/Core
ARTD2126	Sight and Sound	7.5	Optional/Core
ARTD2120	Visual Culture	7.5	Optional/Core

Part III

Studio Practice 3A (Organisation and Connection) looks for continued experimentation within an increasingly defined practice which is starting to yield ambitious, professionally organised and audience-oriented outcomes. In 3B, the Final Major Project (Fine Art), you will bring together your practical learning in a single, self-directed, fully-resolved exhibition outcome which is well-presented and articulated. The Project Development Essay module paves the way for this through the identification of key points of reference and focused critical reflection which inform a conceptual framework for the project. Semester 1 of Part 3 also includes Professional Engagement, a module which prepares you for professional practice and employment beyond the Programme

Part III Core (must take and pass) Semester 1

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
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ARTD3068	Professional Engagement	7.5	Core
ARTD3067	Studio Practice 3A (Organisation and Connection)	22.5	Core

Part III Core (must take and pass) Semester 2

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
ARTD3076	Final Major Project (Fine Art)	22.5	Core
ARTD3069	Framing your Project	7.5	Core

Progression Requirements

The programme follows the University's regulations for [*Progression, Determination and Classification of Results : Undergraduate and Integrated Masters Programmes*](#) and [*Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Postgraduate Master's Programmes*](#) as set out in the University Calendar: <http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/sectionIV/sectIV-index.html>

Support for student learning

There are facilities and services to support your learning some of which are accessible to students across the University and some of which will be geared more particularly to students in your particular Faculty or discipline area.

The University provides:

- library resources, including e-books, on-line journals and databases, which are comprehensive and up-to-date; together with assistance from Library staff to enable you to make the best use of these resources
- high speed access to online electronic learning resources on the Internet from dedicated PC Workstations onsite and from your own devices; laptops, smartphones and tablet PCs via the Eduroam wireless network. There is a wide range of application software available from the Student Public Workstations.
- computer accounts which will connect you to a number of learning technologies for example, the Blackboard virtual learning environment (which facilitates online learning and access to specific learning resources)
- standard ICT tools such as Email, secure filestore and calendars.
- access to key information through the MySouthampton Student Mobile Portal which delivers timetables, Module information, Locations, Tutor details, Library account, bus timetables etc. while you are on the move.
- IT support through a comprehensive website, telephone and online ticketed support and a dedicated helpdesk in the Hartley Library.
- Enabling Services offering support services and resources via a triage model to access crisis management, mental health support and counselling. Support includes daily Drop In at Highfield campus at 13.00 – 15.00 (Monday, Wednesday and Friday out of term-time) or via on-line chat on weekdays from 14.00 – 16.00. Arrangements can also be made for meetings via Skype.
- assessment and support (including specialist IT support) facilities if you have a disability, long term health problem or Specific Learning Difficulty (e.g. dyslexia).
- the Student Services Centre (SSC) to assist you with a range of general enquiries including financial matters, accommodation, exams, graduation, student visas, ID cards
- Career and Employability services, advising on job search, applications, interviews, paid work, volunteering and internship opportunities and getting the most out of your extra-curricular activities alongside your degree programme when writing your CV
- Other support that includes health services (GPs), chaplaincy (for all faiths) and 'out of hours' support for students in Halls and in the local community, (18.00-08.00)
- A Centre for Language Study, providing assistance in the development of English language and study skills for non-native speakers.

The Students' Union provides

- an academic student representation system, consisting of Course Representatives, Academic Presidents, Faculty Officers and the Vice-President Education; SUSU provides training and support for all these representatives, whose role is to represent students' views to the University.
- opportunities for extracurricular activities and volunteering
- an Advice Centre offering free and confidential advice including support if you need to make an academic appeal
- Support for student peer-to-peer groups, such as Nightline.

- Programme documents via the SUSSED University intranet
- Personal Academic Tutors
- Technical demonstrations
- Study skills hub
- Specialist workshop activity support
- Lectures by visiting artists ("Talking Heads")
- Module and Project briefings
- WSA Library. Facilities include:
- Books and Exhibition Catalogues
- Journals & Magazines
- Film and TV Collection
- Artists' Book Collection
- Special Collections
- Reserve Collection
- BoB National
- Library induction tours
- The Winchester Gallery exhibits in-house, national and international visual art and craft exhibitions.
- Computing and Digital facilities at WSA include dedicated Mac Suites with Apple Mac Computers and a range of Digital Software, large-scale specialist printers, laser cutter, and 3D printers.
- Lynda.com is an online digital support platform that students can access via their UoS email username and password.
- Digital facilities are also available on the Highfield campus.

Methods for evaluating the quality of teaching and learning

You will have the opportunity to have your say on the quality of the programme in the following ways:

- Completing student evaluation questionnaires for each module of the programme
- Acting as a student representative on various committees, e.g. Staff: Student Liaison Committees, Faculty Programmes Committee OR providing comments to your student representative to feedback on your behalf.
- Taking part in programme validation meetings by joining a panel of students to meet with the Faculty Scrutiny Group

The ways in which the quality of your programme is checked, both inside and outside the University, are:

- Regular module and programme reports which are monitored by the Faculty
- Programme validation, normally every five years.
- External examiners, who produce an annual report
- A national Research Assessment Exercise (our research activity contributes directly to the quality of your learning experience)
- Review by the Quality Assurance Agency

Further details on the University's quality assurance processes are given in the [Quality Handbook](#).

Career Opportunities

The programme is directed towards enabling practice in contemporary fine art and many graduates succeed in establishing a regular practice for themselves, either as their main occupation or as the key component of a portfolio of activities. Others find employment in related branches of the creative industries, in particular in museums and public galleries; the private (commercial) gallery sector; in publishing; teaching; art therapy; film and television; and the music industry.

External Examiner(s) for the programme

Name: Mr Emrys Williams - Parc Menai Coleg Menai

Students must not contact External Examiner(s) directly, and external examiners have been advised to refer any such communications back to the University. Students should raise any general queries about the assessment and examination process for the programme with their Course Representative, for consideration through Staff: Student Liaison Committee in the first instance, and Student representatives on Staff: Student Liaison Committees will have the opportunity to consider external examiners' reports as part of the University's quality assurance process.

External examiners do not have a direct role in determining results for individual students, and students wishing to discuss their own performance in assessment should contact their Personal Academic Tutor in the first instance.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information can be found in the programme handbook.

Appendix 1:

Students are responsible for meeting the cost of essential textbooks, and of producing such essays, assignments, laboratory reports and dissertations as are required to fulfil the academic requirements for each programme of study. In addition to this, students registered for this programme also have to pay for:

Additional Costs

Type	Details
Stationery	You will be expected to provide your own day-to-day stationery items, e.g. pens, pencils, notebooks, etc.).
Textbooks	Where a module specifies core texts and reading lists these should generally be available in the library. However due to demand, students may prefer to buy their own copies. These can be purchased from any source. Some modules suggest reading texts as optional background reading. The library may hold copies of such texts, or alternatively you may wish to purchase your own copies. Although not essential reading, you may benefit from the additional reading materials for the module.
Placements (including Study Abroad Programmes)	Costs associated with the Study Exchanges will vary depending upon your chosen destination and other variables, i.e. travel, accommodation and subsistence
Other	The Student's Union provide a free shuttle bus service which runs every hour between the Winchester Campus and the Highfield Campus. Students are responsible for all other daily travel expenses.
Optional Visits (e.g. museums, galleries)	Some modules may include optional visits to a museum, galleries, etc. You will normally be expected to cover the cost of travel and admission, unless otherwise specified in the module profile. National An optional trip associated with a module would be typically to London by train (off peak) and cost around £25 return per student with a student rail card. International A typical trip on the programme would be to Europe which would cost in the region of £400
Accommodation and Travel	Costs associated with the Study Exchanges will vary depending upon your chosen destination and other variables, i.e. travel, accommodation and subsistence
Art Equipment and Materials: Drawing paper; painting materials; sketchbooks	Some protective equipment as well as art/design material is supplied by the University. Students will work with various materials as suited to their individual projects. These materials will be sourced and purchased by the students themselves.
Printing and Photocopying Costs	Where possible, coursework such as essays; projects; dissertations is likely to be submitted on line. However, there are some items where it is not possible to submit on line and students will be asked to provide a printed copy. A list of the University printing costs can be found here: http://www.southampton.ac.uk/isolutions/students/printing/

In some cases you'll be able to choose modules (which may have different costs associated with that module) which will change the overall cost of a programme to you. Details of such costs will be listed in the Module Profile. Please also ensure you read the section on additional costs in the University's Fees, Charges and Expenses Regulations in the University Calendar available at www.calendar.soton.ac.uk.