

**BA ART & PHILOSOPHY**  
**For students entering Part 1 in 2005**

Awarding Institution:	The University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	The University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject benchmarking groups:	Philosophy and Art
Faculty of Arts & Humanities	Programme length: 4 years
Date of specification: July 2007	
Programme Director: Terry Edmond	
Programme Adviser: Dr J.M. Preston	
Board of Studies: Joint Course Liaison Officers from Art & Philosophy	
Accreditation: University of Reading	

**Summary of programme aims**

The programme aims to give a thorough and broadly based training in Philosophy and Fine Art, and gives students ample opportunity to explore areas of overlap between Art and Philosophy.

In Fine Art, the course is arranged to provide a basis for practice as an artist. Students are encouraged to develop a habit of study embracing all the technical resources of the Department at one time or another, which will lead them to take an increasing level of responsibility for their individual programme based on an informed stance.

The Philosophy part of the programme aims to give students an understanding of central philosophical principles, concepts, problems, texts and figures, and to provide a programme of study which introduces progressive intellectual challenges and consolidates previous experience at each new level. To allow students to study in depth some aspects of Philosophy in which they have greater interest and to develop students' aptitude for Philosophy, engender a sense of belonging to a community of inquiry, and encourage intellectual development. Also to prepare students, where appropriate, for possible postgraduate study and provide a supportive learning environment with full access to welfare, pastoral and careers support

**Transferable skills**

The University's Strategy for Teaching and Learning has identified a number of generic transferable skills which all students are expected to have developed by the end of their degree programme. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to enhance their skills relating to career management, communication (both written and oral), information handling, numeracy, problem-solving, team working and use of information technology.

Within the Fine Art programme students will develop visual awareness and dexterity. They will extend their abilities in visual, oral and written communication including the use of presentational aids. Students will learn to set their own goals, identify and independently pursue their aims. Students will develop research skills including the ability to locate and assemble visual and written material, they will engage in evaluative analysis of visual and critical sources. They will acquire basic knowledge of a range of materials, tools, machinery and technological skills. Students will extend their experience of working to a brief, meeting deadlines, planning, team working, problem solving and career management.

Within Philosophy students will be helped to develop skills such as: presenting a coherent talk delivered from notes, producing concise and accurate written reports, the ability to critically discuss particular issues and arguments, and to engage in discussion of each other's responses as well as articulate the student's own views. The Philosophy degree also encourages the ability to handle abstract ideas and utilise problem-solving skills.

## Programme content

The profile which follows states which modules must be taken (the compulsory part), together with one or more lists of modules from which the student must make a selection (the option modules). Students must choose such additional modules as they wish, in consultation with their programme adviser, to make 120 credits in each Part. The number of modules credit for and the level of each module is shown in brackets after its title.

Each Part comprises 120 credits. In Part 1 the remaining credits can be made up from any optional modules and/or from modules elsewhere in the University.

In Art, Part 1 introduces the range of contemporary art practice and a guided introduction to the development of a personal practice across media. Part 2 provides students with the opportunity to identify and investigate particular (individual) interests and concerns through practical engagement in their own studio spaces and to relate their studio work to relevant contemporary issues through the Study Visit abroad, seminars and lecture programmes. Of the 120 credits in Part 2, five are taken up by Career Management Skills. Part 2I provides the opportunity to build on the intellectual and technical skills of the second year through increasingly independent development of work in the studio and through an exploration of the discourse surrounding contemporary art and culture. Part 3H encourages the focused development of an individual body of work in the studio and the location of studio practice in relation to contemporary art and culture.

In Philosophy, Part 1 introduces some major figures from the history of philosophy and introduces students to philosophical examinations of our most fundamental beliefs, for instance about truth and reality, or right and wrong. Part 2 provides students with the opportunity to explore the ideas and approaches emerging in Part 1 in greater depth, including a range of primarily historical courses (e.g. studying Classical Greek thought or the ideas of the British Empiricists) and more topic driven courses (e.g. studying theories of knowledge, or critical thinking and logic). Part 2I encourages increasing specialisation in the subject, allowing students to choose more advanced courses from an extremely wide range of options. In Part 3H, independent research is encouraged through the provision of a dissertation module.

**Part 1 (three terms) Certificate level** *Credits*    *Level*

### In the Art Department

#### *Compulsory modules*

FA1MP	<i>Multimedia and Painting</i>	40	C
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#### *Optional modules: 20 credits from:*

FA1CS	<i>Contextual studies</i>	20	C
FA1SP	<i>Skills &amp; Processes</i>	20	C

### In the Philosophy Department

#### *Optional modules minimum of 40 credits to be made up from the following*

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
PP1MW	<i>Mind &amp; World</i>	20	C
PP1VV	<i>Values &amp; Virtues</i>	20	C
PP1MR	<i>Metaphysics &amp; Religion</i>	20	C

**Part 2 (three terms)**

**In the Art Department**

*Compulsory modules*

FA2S2	<i>Studio including Career Management Skills</i>	40	I
FA2CS	<i>Contextual Studies</i>	20	I

**In the Philosophy Department**

*Compulsory modules*

PP2MP	Moral Philosophy	20	I
PP2TK	Theory of Knowledge	20	I

Students must also acquire at least 20 credits from the list of options in Philosophy available from the Philosophy BA Programme Coordinator. A list of current options can also be found in the BA Programme Handbook. Part 2 optional modules include Philosophy of Mind, Logic and modules in the history of Philosophy. PS2N45 (History and Philosophy of Science) is also a permissible option.

**Part 2I (three terms)**

*Credits Level*

**In the Art Department**

*Compulsory modules*

FA2IS2	<i>Studio</i>	40	I
FA2ICS	<i>Contextual Studies</i>	20	I
FA3HRS	<i>Research Seminar</i>	20	H

**In the Philosophy Department :**

Students must acquire 40 credits from the list of options in Philosophy available from the Philosophy BA Programme Coordinator. A list of current options can also be found in the BA Programme Handbook. A wide variety of part 3 options will be available each year, reflecting the research interests of teaching staff.

**Part 3H (Finals, three terms)**

**In the Art Department**

*Compulsory modules:*

FA3HS2	<i>Studio</i>	80	H
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**In the Philosophy Department**

*Compulsory modules:*

PP3DIS	<i>Dissertation</i>	40	H
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## **Progression requirements in the Art and Philosophy Departments**

### **To progress from Part 1 to Part 2,**

students must achieve (a) a minimum of 40% in each Fine Art module taken, (b) an average of 40% in the Philosophy modules taken, (c) an overall average of 40% across 120 credits in Part 1, (d) a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 1.

### **To progress to Part 2/2I**

Whether a student can progress to Art and Philosophy at Part 2 or 2I from an earlier stage depends primarily on their performance in the Art and Philosophy module examinations in the previous Part. Students must achieve an overall average of 40% across 120 credits and a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits. In addition, candidates must obtain a mark of at least 40% in each of the Art modules examined and an average of at least 40% in the Philosophy modules examined.

## **Summary of teaching and assessment in the Art and Philosophy Departments**

In Art, at Part 1 teaching is by workshops, tutorials, seminars, lectures and visits to museums and galleries. At Parts 2, 2I and 3H teaching is by tutorials, seminars and lectures. Technical assistance and instruction occurs appropriately at the students request. A study trip abroad takes place in Part 2 and directed visits to museums and galleries take place throughout the programme.

In Part 1 Compulsory module FA1MP, formative assessment takes place at presentations of work when students receive written/verbal feedback. The Part 1 assessment takes place at the end of the module and is by examination in the form of a display of coursework. Part 1 optional modules are assessed by coursework. In Parts 2 and 2I studio modules there are two types of assessment, an Interim and a Part assessment. Interim Assessments are formative and take place mid-module where a diagnostic mark is achieved. The Part Assessment occurs at the end of the module, the results contributing to the Final Degree classification. At Part 3H assessment is by examination in the form of an exhibition. In all studio modules assessment is by coursework selected and presented by the student. Research Seminar and Contextual Studies are assessed by coursework. Full details are given in module descriptions.

In Philosophy, teaching is through seminars, lectures and essay tutorials. Over the programme as a whole, assessment will be conducted through a mixture of assessed essays and formal examination.

The conventions for classification are included in the Programme Handbooks but you should note that weightings in Art for Part 2, Part 2I and Part 3H for classification purposes are:- Part 2 10% (Studio), Part 2I 20% (10% Studio, 10% Research Seminar), Part 3H 70% studio. The Part 2I assessment takes place during the summer term. Due consideration will be given to the timing of and expectations at this assessment point in respect to the students commitment to final examinations in the other subject.

### Weighted Finals in Philosophy:

To reflect the notion of progression through the programme, Part 2I Philosophy examinations will have a greater impact on a student's Final Degree Classification, with Part 2 Philosophy examinations contributing 33% of the Final grade and Part 3H examinations contributing 67%.

Assessment criteria for each of the Parts are given in the appropriate Departmental Handbook.

## **Admission requirements**

Applications from mature and international students are welcome. We recommend you contact our Admissions Tutor or departmental secretary to discuss your individual circumstances and/or arrange a visit to the department. All home students are interviewed with their portfolio of practical work.

Standard offer:

UCAS tariff Minimum 300 points for 3 A levels, 320 points for 3 A levels plus 1 AS level

International Baccalaureate 31 points

Irish Highers BBBC

Admissions tutor: Stephen Buckley

## **Support for students and their learning**

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support includes IT Services, which has several hundred computers and the University Library, which across its three sites holds over a million volumes, subscribes to around 4,000 current periodicals, has a range of electronic sources of information and houses the Learning Resource Centre with some 200 workstations. There are language laboratory facilities both for those students studying on a language degree and for those taking modules offered by the Institution-wide Language Programme. Student guidance and welfare support is provided by Personal Tutors, the Careers Advisory Service, the University's Special Needs Advisor, Study Advisors, Hall Wardens and the Students' Union.

Support for students in their studies is provided through the University's Personal Academic Record Scheme (PARS), in which students meet their personal tutors regularly to review their progress.

There are Programme Advisers to offer advice on the choice of modules within the programme.

In Art at Part 1 a studio space is shared. In Parts 2, 2I and 3H individual studio space is provided for every student. In addition, several bookable spaces are available for installation and time based work. There are sculpture, wood and print workshops, two darkrooms with equipment for black and white processing and there are in-house computer resources. The department is equipped for digital, video and Super 8 film and editing. There are directed visits to museums and galleries and a study trip abroad that takes place in Part 2.

In Philosophy, information and guidance is offered through the Part 1 Handbook, and the B.A Course Handbook (covering Parts 2, 2I and 3H). There is also a Part 1 co-ordinator and an Honours Course co-ordinator who can be consulted on module choices within each part of the programme.

## **Career prospects**

In addition to working as artists, graduates with a Fine Art component to their degree, have found employment in theatre, television, community services, art therapy, art writing, journalism, publishing, post production, curating, gallery and museum administration, and even popular music. A number of students proceed to postgraduate study, or teacher training.

Philosophy (like many other academic disciplines) is not a directly vocational subject such as law or medicine. But a training in Philosophy develops the ability to think clearly and reason logically, to expound and evaluate arguments, to organise ideas, to be aware of the logical and practical implications of our assertions, to be alert to alternative explanations and solutions, to reject facile assumptions and search for coherent principles of thought and action. The structured development of student's presentation skills and of the clarity and precision of their written work are also invaluable in any area of work. So, philosophical training is highly prized by employers in every area of business and professional life, where these vitally important general transferable skills are at a premium. We include among our former graduates those who have gone on to follow careers in business and management, social work, the probation service, the armed forces, the police, insurance, banking, librarianship, the Civil Service, journalism and accountancy.

### **Opportunities for study abroad**

There is an Art study visit abroad in Part 2. There are opportunities to study in North America under the student exchange scheme at Rutgers University and Ottawa University and an Erasmus exchange with L'Ecole des Beaux Arts, Dijon. Individual student interest in work experience and public exhibition of work is supported through staff advice and contacts.

### **Educational aims of the programme**

The programme aims to:

- provide the practical and intellectual framework for each student to develop a personal visual practice.
- encourage the development of creative and practical skills.
- promote a questioning attitude to their own work
- develop students' confidence in their ability to learn effectively both independently and in co-operation with others
- provide the opportunity to identify and examine relevant critical debates
- make connections between students' own work and critical discourses
- facilitate the acquisition of knowledge, experience and attitudes necessary for students' professional development as artists, lifelong learning and the diversity of employment opportunities
- to give students an understanding of central philosophical principles, concepts, problems, texts and figures
- to enable Joint Honours students to study Philosophy alongside another discipline
- to provide a programme of study which introduces progressive intellectual challenges and consolidates previous experiences at each new level
- to require students to study in more depth some aspects of Philosophy in which they have a greater interest
- to develop students' aptitude for Philosophy, engender a sense of belonging to a community of enquiry, encourage intellectual development and prepare students, where appropriate, for possible postgraduate study
- to provide a supportive learning environment with full access to welfare, pastoral and careers support

**Programme Outcomes**

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities and other attributes in the following areas:

***Knowledge and Understanding***

**In Art**

**A. Knowledge and understanding of:**

1. relevant practical processes
2. the technical language of the subject.
3. the necessary negotiation between intention and realisation of works of art
4. key issues and artists, movements and current urgencies relevant to their own practice

**In Art**

**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

I and 2 -In Part 1 all students engage in both painting and sculpture / media. There are optional introductory modules in skills and processes and contextual studies which introduce students to processes and vocabulary of the subject. Work is directed through tutorials and group tutorials. Specialist knowledge and deeper understanding is fostered in Part 2, 2I, and 3H where studio teaching and oral feedback is through tutorials, studio seminars, presentations and technical demonstration and exemplified in research seminars contextual studies and talks by visiting artists. 3.- is exemplified in talks by visiting artists and through lectures. It is developed in students own practice through tutorials and studio seminars. 4.- is of particular focus in research seminars fostered through guided selection of subject for research and independent study.

*Assessment*

At Part 1 knowledge is examined through a display of studio-work with an accompanying statement /notebook in the students absence and in contextual studies through coursework. In parts 2 and 2I knowledge is tested through individual displays of studio work together with a written statement and dialogue with tutors. Research seminars and contextual studies are assessed through coursework.

***Knowledge and Understanding***

**In Philosophy**

**A. Knowledge and understanding of:**

- Key historical aspects of Philosophy
- An appreciation of philosophical ideas and approaches
- Awareness of philosophical terms and concepts
- Awareness of current research in the field and its direction.

**In Philosophy**

**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

Lectures; supervisor-led small group discussions; seminar groups with facilitator.

*Assessment*

Guidance on student progress is given by feedback on coursework essays and seminar presentations; while the module grade is determined by the results of written unseen exams.

*Skills and other attributes*

**In Art**

**B. Intellectual skills – able to:**

1. analyse the visual world
2. engage in creative and speculative propositions
3. initiate, evaluate and progress intentions
4. convey ideas through visual and written means and resources
5. plan, organise and present an independent enquiry

**In Art**

**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

1. - Is exemplified through lectures, seminars, tutorials and studio seminars throughout the programme and the Part 2 compulsory study visit abroad. 2. - Lectures and seminars explore examples of creative and speculative thought, this is also an intrinsic part of all tutorials and studio seminars. 3.- Tutorials in Parts 1 and 2 focus on the initiation and progression of work, in Parts 2I and 3H the emphasis is upon the evaluation and progression of intentions. Lectures by visiting artists exemplify differing approaches. 4.- Tutorials and studio seminars explore the clarity of ideas in students' work throughout the programme. Documentary presentations of work in Part 3H extend abilities in oral presentation and the use of presentational aids. Written skills are developed through studio statements, research seminars and contextual studies, including use of the internet and the library. 5.- Is emphasised throughout the programme in tutorials and particularly in Part 3H through the final exhibition.

*Assessment*

1, 2, 3 and 4 are constantly assessed in all parts of the programme through coursework, 5.- is particularly emphasised in Part 3H through the Final exhibition.

*Skills and other attributes*

**In Philosophy**

**B. Intellectual skills – able to:**

- critically read, comprehend and evaluate a large range of philosophical texts
- synthesise information from a range of sources, providing a coherent overview of positions in logical space
- analyse the logical construction of arguments
- produce and defend positions in response to critical pressure

**In Philosophy**

**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

As above, plus: self-directed learning facilitated through the use of research-based teaching materials and methods, and logical exercises.

*Assessment*

Guidance on student progress is given by feedback on coursework essays and seminar presentations, plus discussion in supervisor-led small groups and seminars. Logical exercises will also be evaluated in the Logic & Critical Thinking module. The module grade is determined by the results of written unseen exams.



**In Art**

- C. Practical skills** – able to:
1. Learn and work within practical processes with due regard to health and safety implications
  2. Judge appropriate media and materials for the task and develop skills through practice and research
  3. Have basic knowledge relating to a range of tools, materials, processes and common IT skills.
  4. Identify and locate relevant resources e.g. galleries, texts, internet sites.

**In Art**

**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**  
 1.- Is introduced through technical demonstration and tutorials in Part 1 then developed through increasingly independent work in the rest of the programme. 2.- Through technical demonstration, tutorials, studio seminars, lectures by visiting artists and first hand study of works of art and the Part 2 study visit abroad. 3.- Through induction to workshops in Part 1 and technical demonstration throughout the programme. IT skills developed through technical demonstration, the research seminars and contextual studies and in the Part 3H documentary presentation. 4.- Through tutorials, Part 2 study visit abroad, research seminar and contextual studies.

*Assessment*

Basic knowledge relating to a range of tools, materials and processes is explicitly assessed in Part 1 ‘Skills and Processes’, 1-3 are assessed constantly throughout the programme through presentation of studio work. IT skills are not explicitly assessed but are necessary for the successful completion of the course particularly in research seminars, contextual studies and career management.

**In Philosophy**

- C. Practical skills** – able to:
- present a coherent talk delivered from notes
  - produce concise and accurate written reports
  - critically discuss particular issues and arguments, and to engage in discussion of each other’s responses as well as articulate their own.
  - utilise problem-solving skills

**In Philosophy**

**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**  
 Lectures; supervisor-led small group discussions; seminar groups with facilitator.

*Assessment*

Guidance on student progress is given by feedback on coursework essays and seminar presentations; while the module grade is determined by the results of written unseen exams, or assessed coursework where relevant.

**In Art**

**D. Transferable skills – able to:**

1. Work with visual awareness and dexterity.
2. Engage in creative and speculative propositions.
3. Initiate, evaluate and progress work independently.
4. Give oral and visual presentations.
5. Use a range of tools and machinery.
6. Use IT (word processing and the internet).
7. Work as a part of a team.
8. Manage time effectively and meet deadlines
9. Plan their career.

**In Art**

**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

1 and 5 are embedded throughout the programme, introduced through both compulsory and optional modules in Part 1 then extended through tutorials, studio seminars and technical demonstration in Parts 2, 2I, and 3H. 2. and 3.- Embedded throughout the course through tutorials, studio seminars, research seminars and contextual studies and in the documentary presentation as students take increasing responsibility for their own learning. 4. - Embedded throughout the programme, of particular focus in Part 2 and Part 2I presentations, in Part 3H documentary presentations and Final exhibition, exemplified through contextual studies and visiting lecturers. 6. - Use of word processing and the internet is embedded in research seminars and contextual studies. 7. - Plays a key role in Part 2 on the compulsory study visit abroad and in Part 3H in planning and preparation for final exhibitions. 8.- Time management is essential for the effective completion of the programme. 9. - Career planning is introduced in Part 2, emphasised in Part 2I and of particular focus in Part 3H.

*Assessment*

1-3 are assessed throughout in coursework. 4.- Visual presentations are assessed throughout the programme, oral presentations are assessed in Parts 2 and 2I, documentary presentations in Part 3F are not explicitly assessed. 5.- Assessed in Part 1 optional module 'Skills and Processes', in Parts 2, 2I, and 3H this is not assessed directly but effective use of appropriate equipment will enhance performance. 6, 7 and 8 are not assessed directly but their effective use will enhance performance. 9.- Is assessed in Part 2.

**In Philosophy**

**D. Transferable skills – able to:**

- manage time effectively and prioritise workloads
- communicate effectively with a wide range of individuals using a wide range of means
- evaluate his/her own performance, and recognise the steps required for improvement.
- Utilise problem-solving skills in a variety of theoretical and more practical situations.
- use some IT skills, e.g. word processing and e-mail

**In Philosophy**

**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

Lectures; supervisor-led small group discussions; seminar groups with facilitator.

*Assessment*

Coursework; written unseen exams; seminar presentations.

**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 he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the module description and in the programme handbook. The University reserves the right to modify this specification in unforeseen circumstances, or where the process of academic development and feedback from students, quality assurance processes or external sources, such as professional bodies, requires a change to be made. In such circumstances, a revised specification will be issued.**