MA in History of Art and Architecture
For students entering in 2006

Awarding Institution: The University of Reading
Teaching Institution: The University of Reading
Faculty of Arts and Humanities
Programme length: 12 months full-time/24 months part-time
Programme Director: Paul Davies   Date of Specification: October 2006
Board of Studies: History of Art and Architecture
Accreditation: not applicable

Summary of programme aims
The programme aims to provide students with an understanding and knowledge of different critical approaches to the History of Art and Architecture. It will provide a grounding in art-historical research methods, in preparation for a higher degree by research. It will enhance students' existing skills in visual analysis, and broaden their knowledge and understanding of the subject and its methods. It will provide a thorough basis in current theoretical debates in the subject. The programme also aims to develop abilities in evaluating critically primary and secondary source material.

Transferable skills
The programme will develop students' skills in bibliographical research and evaluation. It will help them to develop further IT skills including public access databases and other WWW resources. It will enhance their presentational skills including the selective and evaluative use of visual material. The dissertation element will foster research skills, and train both their ability to structure and summarise complex subject matter, to evaluate evidence and to present informed ideas in a coherent and precise manner.

Programme content
The MA programme in History of Art and Architecture consists of five components: a two-term core module 'Debates and Approaches in the History of Art and Architecture' (HAMCM; autumn and spring), a one-term Research Methods module (HAMRM; autumn), a one-term Forms of Art-Historical Writing module (HAMAH; autumn), a one-term Independent Research module (HAMIR; spring), and a two-term Dissertation module (HAMDI; spring and summer). The dissertation is planned in consultation with the student's supervisor and is submitted for assessment in September.

Mod Code	*Module Title*	*Credits*	*Level*
Compulsory Modules			
HAMCM	Debates and Approaches in the History of Art and Architecture	40	M
HAMRM	Research Methods	10	M
HAMAH	Forms of Art-Historical Writing	10	M
HAMIR	Independent Research	30	M
HAMDI	Dissertation	90	M

Part-time/Modular arrangements
The programme can be followed part-time over a period of 24 months. During the first year students are required to complete the core module 'Debates and Approaches in the History of Art and Architecture' (HAMCM) the Research Methods module (HAMRM) and the Forms

of Art-Historical Writing module (HAMAH). In their second year part-time students complete the Independent Research module (HAMIR) and the Dissertation module (HAMDI).

The programme can also be followed over a period of three years under modular arrangements. In the first year students are required to complete the core module 'Debates and Approaches in the History of Art and Architecture' (HAMCM) and the Research Methods module (HAMRM); in the second they are required to complete the Independent Essay module (HAMAH) and the Independent Research module (HAMIR); in the third they write the dissertation (HAMDI).

Progression requirements
Part-time students much complete modules HAMCM, HAMRM and HAMAH before progressing to the dissertation (HAMDI).

Summary of teaching and assessment
The programme is taught by a mixture of seminars with student presentations and structured discussion, individual tutorials, training sessions in the library, and study visits to research resources.

All the modules are assessed by coursework. The pass mark for **all** modules is 50%. Failed coursework has to be resubmitted at the latest by 1 September. A failed dissertation has to be re-submitted within one year.

The University of Reading's Masters classification is as follows:

Mark Interpretation
70%-100%   Distinction
60%-69%   Merit
50%-59%   Good standard (Pass

Failing categories
40%-49%   Work below the threshold standard
0%-39%   Unsatisfactory work

For Masters degrees
To pass the MA students must gain an average mark of 50 or more overall and have no mark below 40 in modules HAMCM and HAMDI. In addition the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits and for all modules marked below 50 must be less than 60 credits.*

Students who gain an average of 70 or more overall including a mark of 60 or more for the dissertation and have no mark below 40 will be eligible for a Distinction. Those gaining an average mark of 60 or more overall including a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation and have no mark below 40 will be eligible for a Merit.

For Postgraduate Diploma
To pass the Postgraduate Diploma students must gain an average mark of 50 or more and have no mark below 40 in module HAMCM. In addition the total credit value of all modules

marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits and for all modules marked below 50 must be less than 60 credits.*

Students who gain an average mark of 70 or more and have no mark below 40 will be eligible for a Distinction. Those gaining an average mark of 60 or more and have no mark below 40 will be eligible for a Merit.

For Postgraduate Certificate
To pass the Postgraduate Certificate students must gain an average mark of 50 or more and have no mark below 40 in module HAMCM. In addition the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 10 credits.*

*The provision to permit a candidate to be passed overall with a profile containing marks below 40 in made subject to the condition that there is evidence that the candidate applied him or herself to the work of those modules with reasonable diligence and has not been absent from the examination without reasonable cause.

Admission requirements
Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained a 2:1 degree, or equivalent.

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 Student Access to Independent Learning (S@IL) computer-based teaching and learning facilities. There are language laboratory facilities both for those students studying for a language degree and for those taking modules offered by Institution-wide Language Programme. Student guidance and welfare support are provided by Programme Directors, the Careers Advisory Service, the University's Special Needs Advisor, Study Advisors, Hall Wardens, and the Student's Union.

In addition to university-wide provision, the History of Art Department has a slide library of 80,000 images, a collection of c. 300 drawings and a dedicated postgraduate study room with internet-linked computers.

Career prospects
Students with a postgraduate degree in History of Art and Architecture can find work, for example,
- in curatorial or educational positions in museums, galleries, and other art collections
- in curatorial and archival positions in archives and collections of art and architectural historical resources
- in journalism for print media, radio, and TV
- in publishing
- in private art galleries, auction houses, and commercial picture libraries
- in the heritage and leisure industry
- in the field of conservation of built heritage

The strong emphasis of the programme on analytical abilities, problem solving, and an awareness of the importance of visual images mean that an MA in the History of Art and

Architecture qualifies students for a job in a wide range of fields including teaching, marketing, IT, civil service, and local government. A number of students go on further post-graduate studies at PhD level, both at Reading University and elsewhere.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements
Not applicable

Educational aims of the programme
Upon completion of the MA programme students will have broadened and strengthened their understanding and knowledge of critical approaches to the History of Art and Architecture in a systematic way. They will be able to demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of research methods and techniques used by historians of art and architecture. Students will be able to demonstrate a conceptual understanding of using various methods and research techniques in the process of interpreting data, and to use them effectively in their own work. They will be familiar with current issues debated within the discipline as well as be familiar with recent developments and advanced scholarship in their chosen subject area. Students will be able to apply knowledge and advanced scholarship in an original manner to their own research. They will be able to evaluate critically art and architectural historical research and scholarship as well as research methodologies in order to propose, where appropriate, new hypotheses.

Programme Outcomes
Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:	**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**
(a) key and current methodology in the history of art and architecture. (b) current debates in the discipline (c) technical language of the subject (d) specialist knowledge of key periods issues and areas in the history of art	Students will be taught by means of seminars with student presentations and structured discussion, individual tutorials, training sessions in the library, and study visits to research resources. Students will be familiarised with art historical methods and current debates in the discipline principally in the core module. Students will gain specialist knowledge in the Independent Essay and Independent Research modules supported by tutorials. In writing their dissertations students will take substantial responsibility for their own learning. Feedback is provided through tutorials, seminars and written comments on assessed work. **Assessment** Students' knowledge is tested through a combination of coursework and dissertation. Their knowledge of the approaches used by art and architectural historians is tested by written essays for the core module. Their specialist knowledge and ability to use appropriate technical language will be assessed by essays, a portfolio and a dissertation.

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills:
  (a) analyse and interpret visual data in a theoretically aware manner
  (b) demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of research methods and techniques used by historians of art and architecture.
  (c) demonstrate how to use various methods and research techniques in the process of interpreting data, and to use them effectively in their own work.
  (d) use the scholarly literature to develop their own research.
  (e) evaluate critically art and architectural historical research and research methods and their applicability to different research problems and questions
  (f) structure complex arguments

Teaching/learning methods and strategies
These intellectual skills will be taught in the core module in which students will be given a wide-ranging grounding in the theoretical and practical dimensions of the practice of art and architectural history. These skills will be further developed first in the Research Methods module and then in the Independent Essay and Independent Research modules. These skills will be taught by means of seminars with student presentations and structured discussions, individual tutorials, training sessions in the library, and study visits to research resources. Students will have developed core intellectual skills as they begin to develop their dissertations.

Assessment
All these intellectual skills are assessed throughout the programme in both assessed essays and the dissertation.

C. Practical skills:
1. identify, locate and use visual sources.
2. identify, find and use written sources.
3. memorise and be able to recall key features of visual sources, in different and disparate locations.
4. memorise and to recall written arguments.
5. identify appropriate resources, including the internet, for the study of works of art.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies
Students will be familiarised with relevant archives, museums, galleries and library collections (including internet based resources) in the core module and Research Methods module and will be taught how to use these resources effectively. Students will develop these skills throughout the programme, but will gain greatest experience in the options and dissertation modules.

Assessment
1,2,3 and 4 are assessed throughout the programme in coursework. The other skill, that of identifying appropriate resources (5) is not formally assessed but its effective use will enhance performance in the modules undertaken.

D. Transferable skills:
1. amass evidence derived from visual and textual sources
2. evaluate evidence using reasoned arguments.
3. structure complex arguments
4. articulate their own thoughts in a coherent fashion
5. give oral presentations with visual aids
6. put together a bibliography
7. manage time
8. use IT (e.g. public access databases) and other scholarly resources

Teaching/learning methods and strategies
The intellectual skills represented by 1,2,3 and 4 are taught in all components of the course, with 3 and 4 being of special importance for the dissertation module. Among the other skills that of giving an oral presentation with visual aids (5) will be acquired in the core module and option modules. Bibliographical skills and the use of information technology (6 and 8) will be developed throughout the course but especially in the Research Methods and dissertation modules. Time management skills (7) will be especially important for the dissertation module.

Assessment
1,2,3 and 4 are assessed throughout the programme in coursework. The other skills 5,6,7 and 8 are not formally assessed but their effective use will enhance performance in the modules undertaken.