

BA Typography & History of Art
For students entering Part 1 in 2008/9

UCAS code: WV23

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	Art & design, History
Faculty:	Faculty of Arts and Humanities
Programme length:	3 years
Date of specification:	26/Sep/2008
Programme Director:	Mr Eric Kindel
Programme Advisor:	Mr Eric Kindel
Board of Studies:	Typography and Graphic Communication
Accreditation:	Not appropriate

Summary of programme aims

The Typography element aims to provide a grounding in the practice of the subject, informed by theory and history. It provides a supporting learning environment in which students develop a range of intellectual, visual, technical and social skills.

The History of Art element aims to provide a framework for examining changing categories of art, architecture and visual artefacts in different places and times. It will develop advanced skills in analysing visual culture and embed the examination of its production and reception within distinct cultural and social contexts. It will foster a critical understanding of the relationship between contemporary conceptions of art, architecture, visual artefacts and culture, and those held elsewhere in other periods, promoting a conception of history of art as a dynamic discipline encompassing divergent, sometimes conflicting, approaches and views.

Transferable skills

During the course of their studies at Reading, all students will be expected to enhance their academic and personal transferable skills in line with the University's Strategy for Learning and Teaching. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to develop such skills, in particular relating to communication, interpersonal skills, learning skills, numeracy, self-management, use of IT and problem-solving, and will have been encouraged to further develop and enhance the full set of skills through a variety of opportunities available outside their curriculum.

Programme content

The following profile lists the compulsory and optional modules. Students must choose modules to make 120 credits in each Part in consultation with an adviser. In Part 1, up to 40 credits can be taken in modules available elsewhere in the University, described in the Faculty Part 1 handbook. In Parts 2 and 3, up to 20 credits can be taken from modules available elsewhere in the University.

In Typography, Part 1 introduces the history, theory and practice of typography and graphic communication, with the option of an introduction to relevant digital technology and structured and analytical approaches to design. In Part 2, compulsory modules in theory and history may be combined with the development of skills in typographic detailing. In Part 3, some specialisation is developed through a choice of options which may be theoretical, historical or practical and the opportunity to research a dissertation topic.

Part 1 History of Art and Architecture provides different introductions to aspects of the study of history of art and architecture. A compulsory core module introduces students to art historical skills, categories and methods. Other optional modules allow students to orientate themselves in different ways in relationship to the subject - through the study and critique of a canon of western art, or in terms of art as part of the history of visual artefacts and their makers. In Part 2, through a compulsory core module, students engage with material on the historiography of history of art and its objects of study, directly extending the work of Part 1. A compulsory module held at a study centre abroad allows works of art and architecture to be studied at first hand and as part of a specific cultural and social formation. An optional module in one selected period, approach or distinctive media provides a focus on broad aspects of visual culture. Of the 120 credits in Part 2, 5 are taken up by Career Management Skills. In Part 3, students select three optional modules. These modules involve more intensive and specialised study, and introduce areas of innovation and scholarship both within the discipline and in its interdisciplinary aspects.

Part 1 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
TY1HG	Introduction to the History of Graphic Communication	20	C
HA1AB	History of Art and Architecture Workshop	20	C
TY1PT1	Introduction to Typographic Theory and Practice	20	C

Optional module in Typography (20 credits) TY1DDM Introduction to digital design methods

Part 2 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
TY2GC	History of graphic communication	20	I
TY2TT	Theory of Typographic and Graphic Language	20	I
RD2CMS	Career Management Skills	5	I
HA2ST	Study Trip Abroad	20	I
HA2DD	Distance and difference: perspectives on art, architecture and visual culture	20	I

Part 3 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

Progression requirements

To proceed to Part 2, a student requires 40 credits within Typography and at least 40 credits in History of Art and Architecture. They must obtain at least 40% in TY1HG, TY1PT1, and HA1AB; achieve an overall average of 40% in 120 credits taken in the examination; achieve a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 1.

To proceed from Part 2 to Part 3, all students should have acquired 120 credits with an overall average of 40%. 100 of these credits should be within Typography and History of Art, with at least 40 credits in each subject. In Typography they must obtain an average of 40% across TY2TT and TY2GC and in History of Art and Architecture at least 40% in HA2ST. They must achieve a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 2.

Summary of teaching and assessment

In Typography there are formal lectures, seminars and practical work in studios and workshops. Modules are assessed by a mixture of essays, reports, seminar presentations, formal examinations and projects. The dissertation involves preparatory skills workshops and individual tutorials with supervisors.

In History of Art and Architecture, teaching is delivered by a mixture of lectures, seminars, and essay tutorials. Modules are assessed by a mixture of coursework and formal examination, with the proportion of coursework (including seminar performance) increasing as the degree progresses. The dissertation in Part 3 comprises a piece of work based on supervised independent study supported by workshops and is assessed entirely by coursework.

The conventions for classification are included in the Programme Handbook but you should note that weighting between Part 2 and Part 3 for classification purposes is 33% and 67%.

Admission requirements

All applicants are considered on their individual merits and these requirements may be varied in some circumstances. No previous experience of History of Art and Architecture is required for admission. Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained grade C or better in English in GCSE and achieved at the UCAS tariff either 300 points (from 3 AL/A2s, preferably not all practical subjects), or 320 points (from 3 AL/A2s and 1 AS), including at least one grade B at AL/A2. Equivalent qualifications may include International Baccalaureate (32 points).

Mature applicants

Applications from mature candidates are welcomed. A mature applicant is more likely to receive an offer of a place if he or she has undertaken recent study, for example 2 or more A levels or an Access course, but each case is assessed on its individual merits. We recommend you contact an admissions tutor as soon as possible to discuss your individual circumstances.

International applicants

Applications from international candidates are welcomed. If you are not offering A levels we advise you to contact either an admissions tutor before applying in order to discuss the acceptability of your qualifications. IELTS Band 7 (or equivalent) will be required for those whose education has not been undertaken in English.

Admissions Tutor: Dr Rob Banham (Typography) and Dr. Simon Lee (History of Art and Architecture)

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 Student Access to Independent Learning (S@il) computer-based teaching and learning facilities. 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 Disability Advisors, Study Advisors, Hall Wardens and the Students' Union.

Induction includes meetings during 'Freshers' Week' with introductions at University and Faculty levels. Support for students in their studies is provided through the University's Personal Academic Record (PAR) scheme, in which students meet their personal tutors regularly to review their progress and help students assess their development.

In Typography, the Department handbook provides extensive information about the programme and the Department. The Department's year tutor system enhances the personal tutor system, with year tutors available to offer advice on the choice of modules within the programme. The emphasis throughout the programme is on individual and small-group learning rather than class teaching. Within the University and the Department there are several important collections which form the bases for seminar presentations, and potential resources for dissertations. The Department has its own computers (Apple Macintoshes) and related hardware (e.g. scanners, laser printers, digital cameras) with a range of professional software relevant to the subject.

In History of Art and Architecture, the Departmental programme Handbooks issued to Part 1 and to degree course students provide extensive information on resources and study skills. Each student is assigned a Course Adviser, normally their academic tutor, to advise on their choice of modules within the programme. Additional support is provided through a subject-specific reading room containing essential course texts, reference works, some current periodicals and photocopying facilities. There is also a slide library containing slides from all periods of art and architecture history which students will consult as part of their studies. It includes resources in video tapes and computers and in digital imaging and e-learning such as BlackBoard. First hand study of works of art is provided through particular classes taught in museums, art galleries or on architectural visits and by a period of study at a centre abroad as well as through the department's own collections, mainly of drawings. Support for students in their studies is provided through the University's Personal Academic Record (PAR) Scheme, in which students meet their personal tutors regularly to review their progress.

Career prospects

A number of specialised careers are open to Typography and History of Art graduates, such as jobs in museums and galleries, auction houses, and increasingly the heritage and leisure industries. Their visual skills also make them attractive to publishers. In addition the skills which Typography and History of Art graduates acquire, such as analytical abilities, problem solving, research skills, independence and adaptability, mean they are sought after for jobs in a wide range of fields, including teaching, social work, accountancy, personnel, banking and commerce, retailing, marketing, IT, civil service and local government. Students may go on to post-graduate study in either Typography or History of Art, at MA and also at PhD level, both at Reading and elsewhere.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements

Students in the Department of History of Art spend a period of study abroad during Part 2 as part of the Socrates scheme.

Programme Outcomes

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

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

Principles of typographic design
Elements of graphic language and their interrelationships
Methods of interpreting visual artefacts and comprehending their functions and meaning
History of typography and graphic communication a broad range of art, architecture and visual culture from the Middle Ages to the present day both in the West and in comparison to selected cultures in other times and places
key issues and current priorities in art and architectural history including conflicting interpretations and specific methods of analysis germane to the historiography of the subject
The design process and relevant working methods and tools

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

The teaching of typography has three aspects: theory, history and practice. Theory and history inform practice and practical experience enables discussion of theoretical issues and historical examples. Theory and history are mainly taught through lectures and seminars. Practical projects provide an insight into design process and methods. In History of Art Part 1, basic knowledge is provided through formal lectures, supported by set tasks for practising the elementary analysis of visual artefacts. Specialist knowledge and deeper understanding is fostered in the guided selection of period options at Part 2, where the teaching is seminar and discussion based. Feedback is provided through written responses to seminar participation and in formative assessed work. In later parts of the programme, and beginning at Part 2, students will take increasing responsibility for their own learning, fostered through the guided selection of increasingly specialised options and independent study, including a dissertation.

Assessment

Most knowledge is tested through a combination of coursework and examinations. A dissertation and oral presentation also contribute. Practical work in typography is assessed by projects.

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills - able to:

Assemble and review literature
Organise material and articulate in written form
Use documentary and visual resources as evidence
Analyse visual artefacts and specifically examples of graphic language
Structure, analyse and solve problems
Plan, conduct, and write up a piece of basic experimental research
Transfer appropriate skills and methods from one topic within the subject to another

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Self-directed study in close consultation with a supervisor develop research skills. The ability to organise and structure arguments is emphasised throughout but particularly in the dissertation. Lectures and seminars promote analysis and interpretation of graphic language and visual artefacts. In the History of Art component, such skills are additionally fostered through opportunities to study visual artefacts at first hand in the study trip abroad. Projects provide the opportunity to analyse and solve design problems and analyse examples of graphic language through critiques. The skills required for basic experimental research are taught through practicals and fieldwork. The ability to transfer knowledge from one area of the programme to another is evidence of high level performance.

Assessment

The dissertation is the primary vehicle for assessing students' research skills and transfer of knowledge.

Coursework essays and examinations provide additional forms of assessment in modules taken earlier in the programme, which include analysis of visual artefacts. Assessment of practical work incorporates problem solving. Coursework assesses the implementation and reporting of basic research.

C. Practical skills - able to:

- Assess requirements of project brief
- Explore alternative approaches to a problem
- Plan practical design work
- Develop and carry out individual research programmes and strategies
- Identify, locate, record and recall key features of visual sources
- Engage in group discussion and debate

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Practical skills are taught within the practical modules in Typography. Some lectures (e.g. on typographic theory) feed into the development of practical skills by examining a range of design outcomes. Group discussion and debate is featured throughout the programme. Conducting independent research, identifying and interpreting visual artefacts and sources, and recall of key features is taught from Part 1.

Assessment

Projects completed in practical modules assess 1-3. Coursework, the dissertation and written examinations assess 4 and 5.

D. Transferable skills - able to:

- Solve problems
- Articulate ideas effectively in speech and writing
- Describe evidence from visual sources in oral and written forms
- Manage time
- Work as a team member
- Handle a variety of information sources
- Use basic statistical techniques
- Plan career

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

The use of IT is embedded throughout the programme. Presentations within seminars and written coursework develop communication skills. Practical work involves problem solving, managing time, working within teams. Seminars can also involve team work. Time management is necessary for submitting coursework. Lectures, seminars and self-directed study provide experience of information handling. Library and internet skills are acquired through various coursework and in particular through the dissertation in Part 3. Experimental research projects introduce basic statistical techniques. A series of briefings, exercises and self-directed study cover career development skills.

Assessment

Coursework is used to assess 1-3, 6-8. Some skills are not directly assessed, but they contribute to effective outcomes of projects, and enhance performance in modules.

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 process or external sources, such as professional bodies, requires a change to be made. In such circumstances, a revised specification will be issued.