MA by Research in Typography and Graphic Communication (full-time)
For students entering in 2015/6

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	
Faculty:	Arts, Humanities and Social Science Faculty
Programme length:	12 months
Date of specification:	25/Aug/2015
Programme Director:	
Programme Advisor:	
Board of Studies:	Typography and Graphic Communication Board of
Taught Postgraduate Studies	
Accreditation:	

Summary of programme aims

This programme aims to provide students who may be considering undertaking a higher degree by research in typography and graphic communication (and who may have graduated from related or other disciplines) with a broad historical and theoretical perspective, and specialist knowledge in particular areas such as printing and design history, and empirical and theoretical approaches to typography. The programme also aims to foster an independent approach to learning. Its research module aims to introduce methods relevant to either historical or theoretical approaches to the subject.

Transferable skills

The programme encourages the development of the following transferable skills:
- Research
- Critical analysis and coherent argument
- Writing
- Oral presentation
- Planning and executing a research project
- Data handling

Programme content

Credits Level

Code	Title	Credits	Level
	Compulsory modules (180 credits)		
TYMRM	Research methods	30	7
TYMDR	Directed reading	30	7
TYMDIS	Dissertation	100	7
TYMRP	Self-directed research project	20	7

Part-time or modular arrangements

This programme can be followed part-time, over 24 months.

Progression requirements

n/a

Summary of Teaching and Assessment

Teaching will be by means of lectures, seminars and workshops, artefact-based sessions in libraries or museums, and self-directed study. Assessment will be based on the dissertation, essays, and other assignments.

Mark Interpretation

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

Failing categories

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

For Masters Degrees
To pass the MRes students must gain an average mark of 50 or more overall and a mark of 50 or above in module TYMDS (dissertation). 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 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 Diplomas
To pass the Postgraduate Diploma students must gain an average mark of 50 or more. 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 the award of 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.

Admission requirements
Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained a good undergraduate degree. In some cases, professional experience will be taken into consideration.

Admissions Tutor: Dr Mary Dyson

Support for students and their learning
University support for students and their learning falls into two categories.   Learning support is provided by a wide array of services across the University, including: the University Library, the Careers, Placement and Experience Centre (CPEC), In-sessional English Support Programme, the Study Advice and Mathematics Support Centre teams, IT Services and 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, School Senior Tutors, the Students' Union, the Medical Practice and advisers in the Student Services Centre. The Student Services Centre is housed in the Carrington Building and offers advice on accommodation, careers, disability, finance, and wellbeing, academic issues (eg problems with module selection) and exam related queries. Students can get key information and guidance from the team of Helpdesk Advisers, or make an appointment with a specialist adviser; Student Services also offer drop-in sessions and runs workshops and seminars on a range of topics. For more information see www.reading.ac.uk/student

Departmental support includes an induction programme, a copy of the Handbook for taught postgraduate programmes, access to computers and the department-wide wireless network with colour printers, working space, photocopiers, and special collections of books, ephemera, printing equipment and other research materials in the Department and in the University Library, and easy access to libraries in London, Oxford and within the M25 Consortium.

Career prospects
The programme is excellent preparation for further study at PhD level. It is also of use for teachers of higher education in the field, and for practising designers who want to broaden their theoretical and historical understanding.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements
There are no formal arrangements.

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:

1. Research skills appropriate to the further study of the history and practice of design (especially information design, book design and type design)
2. The literature of a specific area encompassed by typography and graphic communication, for example the history of printing and book design; theoretical and empirical approaches to typography, etc.
3. Skills necessary for further study, professional practice and lifelong learning.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Lectures, seminars, and artefact-based sessions, demonstrations, independent reading, and self-directed study.

Assessment
Written essays, project report, and dissertation

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills - *able to:*

1. Formulate research topics that are original and of sufficiently limited scope to be investigated and completed in the time allotted.
2. Locate, assess and evaluate by demonstration of critical judgement both primary and secondary sources, as part of the response to specific research questions.
3. Develop methods of systematic visual observation of primary sources, informed by knowledge of, for example, printing processes, and the cultural contexts and uses of the finished artefacts.
4. Produce logical, structured and analytical written explanations of research questions, the evidence used, the methods employed, and how the evidence supports the arguments formulated in response to a research topic.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Research methods module of lectures/seminars, workshops and case studies, together with independent study directed by tutorial advice and oral and written feedback.

Assessment
Written essays, project report and dissertation

C. Practical skills - *able to:*

1. Use basic word-processing software for the presentation of written work
2. Use database software for research purposes
3. Design experiments, questionnaires, surveys, etc.
4. Use statistical techniques
5. Understand issues surrounding the handling of displays of artefacts

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Lectures, seminars, artefact-based sessions, demonstrations and independent reading.

Assessment
Written essays, project report, and dissertation

D. Transferable skills - *able to:*

1. Take personal initiative and undertake independent study with limited tutorial guidance
2. Solve problems by the formulation and application of appropriate methods
3. Seek out evidence systematically and construct

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Lectures, seminars, student presentations, artefact-based sessions, demonstrations and independent reading

Assessment
Written essays, project report, and dissertation

logical arguments
4. Communicate effectively both orally and in writing
5. Manage time and meet deadlines
6. Make constructive use of feedback

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.