

Programme Specification

BA Fine Art

For students entering Part 1 in September 2023

UCAS Code: W101

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This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	3 years
Length of Programme with placement/year abroad	BA Fine Art with Placement Experience - 4 years (internal transfer only) BA Fine Art with Year Abroad - 4 years (internal transfer only)
Accreditation	N/A

Programme information and content

The programme aims to provide you with tools to develop individual creative enquiry informed by an understanding of art history, theory and contemporary practice. The learning experience is intensified through small group teaching, collaborative projects, exhibition opportunities, workshops and individual tutorials. The programme fosters investigative, critically reflective and independent learning through the study, debate and practice of contemporary art in historical, theoretical, social and cultural contexts. It is structured to enable you to develop critical practice in a supportive environment that enables the intellectual and technical production of art. It aims to provide the space to explore creative enquiry, written modes of research, reflection and professional practice skills that form the basis for students' future careers. The programme aims to provide you with an awareness of the significance of the discourses of art, as well as an understanding of how to locate your own work within the wider cultural field. The programme prepares you for the workplace in a diversity of modes; our graduates are equipped to sustain practices as artists, curators and writers. In addition recent graduates have found employment in museum and gallery education, art therapy, journalism and publishing, post production, theatre and television. The programme is excellent preparation for further study at postgraduate level. Graduates have found that the specific and transferable skills developed by the programme enable them to enter professions across the cultural field.

Part 1:	Introduces you to opportunities to identify and investigate particular concerns through developing independent studio practice informed by relevant historical and contemporary precedents explored in seminars, lectures and study visits.
Part 2:	Provides you with the opportunity to build on the intellectual and technical skills of Part 2 through increasingly independent studio practice and its relation to art

	history and theory. Part 2 offers opportunities for study abroad and work-based learning.
Part 3:	Gives you the opportunity to engage in sustained and focused studio practice with an emphasis on independent research and enquiry culminating in a dissertation and exhibition.

Module information

Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

Part 1 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
FA1SAA	Fine Art Studio	60	4

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of Art and up to 20 credits of modules from elsewhere in the University.

Students with English as a second language who enter the programme with IELTS (or equivalent) below 7.0 will be required to take an additional non-credit-bearing language course provided via the Academic English Programme.

Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
FA2SA	Fine Art Studio including CMS	80	5

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of Art.

Up to 20 credits may be substituted for modules available elsewhere in the University, subject to the approval of the Programme Director.

Modules during a placement year or study year (if applicable):

Students on one of the 4 year programmes will take one 120 credit module in either Work Experience or Study Abroad.

Students may be permitted to undertake a placement year or a study abroad year between Part 2 and Part 3 of the programme. In such cases students will transfer to a 4-year programme. The placement or study abroad year should not normally be shorter than nine months full-time.

If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

Part 3 Modules:

Students must select one studio module and one dissertation module to total 120 credits

Optional modules:

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your Programme is set out in the Further Programme Information. Details of optional modules for each part, including any Additional Costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Additional costs of the programme

During your programme of study you will incur some additional costs.

For textbooks and similar learning resources, we recommend that you budget between £40- to £100 for the programme. Many books are available second-hand, which will reduce costs. A range of resources to support your curriculum, including textbooks and electronic resources, are available through the library. Printing and photocopying facilities are available on campus at a cost of £0.05 per page.

The Department of Art houses its own art supplies shop that provides a range of materials at subsidised prices. Equipment and software for video and digital media practices are all available to hire at no cost through our student media resource. Due to the individual nature of studio practice, the cost of materials throughout your programme will vary depending on your choice of media. At Part 1 most materials are provided by the department except where students wish to use specialist or unusual materials of their choice. In subsequent years we would suggest an approximate budget of £200 per year to cover basics. For the final year exhibition you may wish to invest more in materials. This is not a necessary requirement and advice should be sought from the module convenor. However a reasonable budgetary expectation would be an additional £200. In addition, it is recommended that you budget approximately £100 per year for optional exhibition and museum trips.

If you partake in Study Abroad you should expect to pay for services which you would normally expect to pay for at Reading e.g. housing, food, travel, social activities, etc. Additional costs will vary depending on the host institution and location. Please see the Erasmus and Study abroad website for further details.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations.

The estimates were calculated in 2022.

Placement opportunities

Placements:

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a credit-bearing placement as part of your Programme. This will form all or part of an optional module. You will be required to find and secure a placement opportunity, with the support of the University.

Study Abroad:

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a Study Abroad placement during your Programme. This is subject to you meeting academic conditions detailed in the Programme Handbook, including obtaining the relevant permissions from your School, and the availability of a suitable Study Abroad placement. If you undertake a Study Abroad placement, further arrangements will be discussed and agreed with you.

Teaching and learning delivery:

You will be taught through seminars, lectures, group workshops, technical inductions and one-to-one tutorials. Academic guidance is further given through oral and written feedback. In addition there are directed study visits to museums and galleries.

Teaching in Art is accommodated through our extensive provision of studio space alongside resources for exhibition and presentation. The teaching of practical skills is embedded into the structure, content and delivery of the programme and supported by our range of workshop facilities. These include studio workshops for construction, printing and casting; darkrooms for photography and digital workshops including facilities for film and video editing, imaging, sound and web building tools as well as a dedicated Audio Visual Room, a whitespace and sound recording booth. Our department reading room provides immediate access to key journals and publications in addition to the extensive collection housed within the library. Specialist subject librarians are available to advise and guide students to library resources.

Whilst studying Art you will be inducted and introduced to approaches and methods of independent practice and encouraged to work in a range of studio disciplines, focusing intentions as the programme develops. Modes of collaboration, both in practice and/or presentations, are introduced in Part 1 and fostered throughout the programme. Through the taught component you are exposed to the language, vocabulary and debates that forge contemporary art. Visiting lectures provide a context within which your knowledge and understanding of professional practice is extended.

Total study hours for each Part of your programme will be 1200 hours. The contact hours for your programme will depend upon your module combination; an average for a typical set of modules on this programme is Part 1 - 816 hours, Part 2 - 552 hours, Part 3 - 512 hours. In addition to your scheduled contact hours, you will be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details

N/A

Assessment

The programme will be assessed through studio presentations, essays, coursework and dissertation. In studio modules there is formative and self-assessment with written feedback at an interim point in the year. Summative assessment at the end of the Part is through presentation and documentation.

Progression

The University-wide rules relating to 'threshold performance' as follows

Part 1

- (i) obtain an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (ii) obtain a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 100 credits taken in Part 1.

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must achieve a threshold performance; and

- (iii) obtain a mark of at least 40% in the compulsory studio module in Art at Part 1 (FA1SAA).

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 1 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Part 2

To gain a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to:

- (i) obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken at Part 2; and
- (ii) obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits;
- (iii) obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits, except that a mark below 30% may be condoned in no more than 20 credits of modules owned by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3 in the **3 year programme**, a student must achieve a threshold performance

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3 in the **4 year programme**, a student must achieve a threshold performance and obtain a pass in the professional/workplacement or study abroad year. Students who fail the professional/placement year transfer to the non-placement year version of the programme.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 2 qualifies a student for a Diploma of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Classification

Bachelors' degrees

The University's honours classification scheme is based on the following:

Mark	Interpretation
70% - 100%	First class
60% - 69%	Upper Second class
50% - 59%	Lower Second class
40% - 49%	Third class
35% - 39%	Below Honours Standard
0% - 34%	Fail

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is:

Three year programmes:

Part 2: one-third

Part 3: two-thirds

Four year programmes, including professional/workplacement or study abroad:

Part 2: one-third

Placement/Study Abroad Year abroad not included in the classification

Part 3: two-thirds

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

BA Fine Art for students entering Part 1 in session 2023/24

10 October 2022

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