Programme Specification

MRes Typeface Design (part-time, distance learning)   PPTZTYPDESDS

For students entering in 2024/25

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	MRes Typeface Design (part-time, distance learning) - 2 years
Accreditation	N/A
Programme Start Dates	September
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	N/A

Programme information and content

The programme aims to provide higher academic skills to design professionals who are considering teaching careers, and early career educators and researchers who need to develop their academic portfolios. It provides a broad foundation in the history and theory of typeface design, and the research and critical skills required for an academic career in typographic design. The programme particularly explores the generation of scholarship within a practice-based discipline, and aims to equip its graduates with the skills to contribute to the body of literature in typeface design. The programme places particular emphasis on fostering an independent approach to learning, and provides a space for exploring nascent areas in the discipline of typeface design, such as typographic innovation in global writing systems; the translation of historical and legacy implementations to contemporary digital technology; the tension between modernity and traditionalism in typeface design; the application of western theoretical models on global writing systems, and so on.

The programme combines independent study and individual feedback, with intensive residential periods which focus on specific skills and outcomes. The structure enables students to position their research along a spectrum of salient topics, ranging from historical questions to theoretical models to practice-informed discourse. This flexibility allows students from varied educational and professional backgrounds, at various stages in their careers, to tailor their experience to the subjects that are most relevant to their objectives.

By being offered only in part-time mode, the programme is specifically designed for flexible, independent learning so that students can accommodate this within existing commitments. The flexible approach to the intensive periods allows a realistic extraction from other obligations, to develop skills that require in person experience.

Programme Learning Outcomes - MRes Typeface Design (part-time, distance learning)

During the course of the Programme, you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and attributes (known as learning outcomes) For this programme, these are:

	Learning outcomes
1	Identify and engage critically with current discourse in typographic design.
2	Draw on broad historical and theoretical perspectives in selected areas of typographic design to formulate well-argued research questions.
3	Identify research methods appropriate for and relevant to their topic.
4	Critically evaluate competing interpretations, policies, and practices.
5	Identify, describe, organise, and interrogate primary sources and archival material relating to typographic design and production.
6	Connect discourse in related fields to research in typography and graphic communication.
7	Recognise the influence of different technologies on design, production, distribution, and evaluation of documents.
8	Articulate arguments clearly and effectively in writing, making judicious use of illustrations.

You will be expected to engage in learning activities to achieve these Programme learning outcomes. Assessment of your modules will reflect these learning outcomes and test how far you have met the requirements for your degree.

To pass the Programme, you will be required to meet the progression or accreditation and award criteria set out below.

Module information

The programme comprises 180 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

Compulsory modules

Module	Name	Credits	Level
TGMDIS	Dissertation	100	M
TGMRA	Archives and Design Practice	40	M
TGMRS	Discourse in Typeface Design	40	M

All modules are compulsory for this programme.

Part-time or flexible modular arrangements

The programme can be taken part-time over two years. In the first year of study, a student will normally be required to complete modules TGMRS, and module TGMRA over the first year and into the summer period. In the second year of study, students will complete the module TGMDIS. The programme may not be completed over more than two years.

Placement opportunities

N/A

Study abroad opportunities

N/A

Optional modules

There are no optional modules in this programme.

Teaching and learning delivery

Teaching takes place in two modes, distance learning during most of the duration of the two years, and intensive in-person during the residential periods. During the distance-learning periods teaching takes place though online discussion and collaboration tools, as required depending on the nature of work. Students can join in hybrid sessions for other PGT programmes synchronously (such as selected lectures, visiting staff, PhD seminars, visitor lectures) as well as receive feedback asynchronously, through written feedback on their work. During the residential periods students engage in intensive work and interaction with a range of staff, depending on the stage of their registration. Early residential periods focus on research methods and critical skills; the middle period coincides with the intensive summer course hosted in the Department of Typography & Graphic Communication; the later residential periods focus on archival work and feedback relating to the dissertation topic.

The distance-learning periods focus on developing knowledge and a critical approach across a range of areas in typeface design: the relationship of lettering, calligraphy, and epigraphy to typefaces; type making paradigms across technologies; typefaces as independent digital products; rationalism in typeface design; the emergence of typeface design as a knowledge discipline; typeface design as an open-ended system; tool-, shape-, and pattern-based letterform theories; issues around fonts as infrastructure; and the evaluation and validation of typeface performance.

The middle residential period in particular focuses on archives and collections as a research tool informing design practice, and as a catalyst for reframing existing historical narratives in typeface design. Identifying the provenance of material, placing it in technological, social, and cultural contexts, and cross-referencing primary with secondary material is a key learning experience for this period. Students are guided to develop critical interrogation skills across sets of objects, at specific levels of contextualization. Residential periods place emphasis on developing criteria for qualitative evaluation of primary material, as well as developing terminological and qualitative skills in handling research material.

Throughout the two years, students are expected to take a lead in shaping the focus of their research, with sensitivity to the salient topics for their specific professional environment, and with awareness of the availability of primary resources in their main location of work.

In addition to regular and visiting members of staff, PhD students, visiting lecturers and researchers contribute with sessions or lectures on specific topics.

Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

The scheduled teaching and learning activity hours and amount of technology enhanced learning activity for your programme will depend upon the precise combination of elements undertaken within modules. On average, the total overall study time will be 1800 hours with 360 contact hours. In addition, you will undertake some self-scheduled teaching and learning activities, designed by and/or involving staff, which give some flexibility for you to

choose when to complete them. You will also be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module study hours including 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 a combination of written assignments, including coursework and a dissertation. Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

Progression

N/A

Classification

The University's taught postgraduate marks classification is as follows:

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 Degree

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Master's degree:

Award of a Master's degree

(i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 180 credits
(ii) a mark of 50% or more in at least 120 credits
(iii) not more than 20 credits with a mark below 40%
(iv) a mark of 50% or more for the Dissertation

In addition to the threshold conditions for the award of a Master's degree, the following **further** conditions must be satisfied for a classification of Distinction or Merit:

Distinction
An overall weighted average of 70% or more over 180 credits

OR
an overall weighted average of 68% or more over 180 credits and marks of 70% in at least 90 credits
AND
A mark of at least 60% in the dissertation
AND
No marks below 40%.

Merit
An overall weighted average of 60% or more over 180 credits
OR
an overall average of 58% or more over 180 credits and marks of 60% in at least 90 credits
AND
No marks below 40.

For Postgraduate Diploma

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma:

Award of a Postgraduate Diploma

(i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 120 credits
(ii) a mark of 50% or more in at least 80 credits
(iii) not more than 20 credits with a mark below 40%

In addition to the threshold conditions for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma, the following further conditions must be satisfied for a classification of Distinction or Merit:

Distinction
An overall weighted average of 70% or more over 120 credits
OR
an overall weighted average of 68% or more over 120 credits and marks of 70% in at least 60 credits
AND
No marks below 40.

Merit
An overall weighted average of 60% or more over 120 credits
OR
an overall average of 58% or more over 120 credits and marks of 60% in at least 60 credits
AND
No marks below 40.

For Postgraduate Certificate

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Postgraduate Certificate:

Award of a Postgraduate Certificate
(i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 60 credits

Additional costs of the programme

Students are expected to have their own laptops with the relevant software licenses for the assignments they are working on. Printing facilities are available in the Department, and printout expenses will be incurred.

A series of optional field trips may be offered, which may imply travel, accommodation, and subsistence costs. Field trips may range from evening or day trips to London for specific events like lectures and library visits, or trips to relevant conferences in the UK and abroad.

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 2023.

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.

MRes Typeface Design (part-time, distance learning) for students entering in session 2024/25
4 August 2023
© **The University of Reading 2023**