

Programme Specification

MA Fine Art (full-time)

PFTZFINARTHM

MA Fine Art (part-time)

PPTZFINARTHM

For students entering in 2027/28

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	MA Fine Art (full-time) - 12 months MA Fine Art (part-time) - 24 months
Accreditation	N/A
Programme Start Dates	September
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	N/A

Programme information and content

MA Fine Art aims to instigate professional excellence through independent practice and critical enquiry. The central aim of the programme is to guide you in refining your artistic practice, extending your knowledge and theoretical understanding. The programme supports you in enhancing your existing skills through critical and theoretical analysis of the debates in contemporary art. On the MA Fine Art you are encouraged to speculate through innovative experimentation. You will be supported in developing and fostering an independent approach to learning. You will be introduced to methods relevant to contemporary art practice in order to equip you with the tools to consolidate and review your position as an artist. The programme places emphasis on student-centred learning and directed research. Key to this is the development of self-reflexivity within your practice and its wider significance within the current cultural field. To this end the programme's learning and teaching is organised in order to facilitate critical understanding and reflection through professional practice and criticism.

Programme Learning Outcomes

-MA Fine Art (full-time)

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	Develop a critical practice that demonstrates knowledge and theoretical understanding of relevant debates in contemporary art and art history.
2	Communicate clearly and effectively a critical position as an artist through individually directed practice and writing.
3	Employ professional skills of exhibition-making, documentation and presentation.

4	Foster an innovative approach to learning through research, practical investigation and speculative experimentation.
5	Produce a portfolio of artwork through self-directed research and practice with an understanding of the wider significance within the cultural field.
6	Master a depth of artistic knowledge with intercultural and global outlook.
7	Sustain critical argument that incorporates evidence and material derived from primary sources, direct experience, and study of works of art.
8	Use appropriate scholarly apparatus for referring to visual and textual sources, evidencing critical evaluation of bibliographical research.

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
FAMCAP	Critical Art Practice	120	M
FAMDIS	Art Dissertation	60	M
Part-time or flexible modular arrangements			
The programme can be taken part-time over two years. In the first year of study, a student would normally be required to complete the module FAMDIS Art Dissertation and in the second year they would complete the module FAMCAP Critical Art Practice.			

Placement opportunities
N/A

Study abroad opportunities
N/A

Optional modules
The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your programme can be found online in the Course Catalogue. 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.

Teaching and learning delivery

Teaching takes place in weekly seminars, tutorials, and a series of lectures delivered by visiting artists. Students are guided in learning through speculative experimentation and testing of ideas as they develop independent work towards exhibition. Guided independent study is supported through studio and workshop resources and 1-1 tutorials. Group seminars provide a supportive and inclusive learning environment for theoretical debate and contextual study. Accessibility is supported through the provision of online resources such as recorded lectures, lectures slides, and a range of 'how to...' documents via our VLE (Blackboard). Collaboration is an important mode of learning within the programme, particularly in the development, organisation and staging of group exhibitions.

Total study hours for the programme is 1800 hours. This includes weekly contact hours with tutors and technical staff in Semester 1 and 2 with dedicated support provided for exhibitions. In addition to the scheduled contact hours, you will be expected to undertake 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. There is a greater emphasis on independent learning in the final months of the programme as you prepare for the graduate exhibition.

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 your module combination. 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 coursework. The emphasis of the assessment is on the exhibitions and the completion of an independent research project. Formative points at the end of each semester enable testing opportunities via interim exhibitions and portfolio submissions that include a portfolio of documentation and written Statement. You will receive mid- semester feedback on written assignments, that will help you work towards your dissertation. You will receive verbal feedback on presentations and work-in-progress during seminars and tutorials throughout the year.

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 Master's 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) no credits with a mark below 40% 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 Where the dissertation is included in the conditions for the award of a Master's degree, 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) no 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
- (ii) No credits with a mark below 40%

Details of the classification method is given in detail in the [Assessment Handbook](#) under:

- Section 19: Awards: Postgraduate Master's, Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate

Please note that there may be a specific version for your year of entry.

Additional costs of the programme
It is advised that students budget approximately £200 for study visits across the year.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. Estimates were calculated in 2026.
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Students may consider purchasing a laptop to help support their learning. Information on recommended device specifications can be found on the DTS Student Hub .
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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.

MA Fine Art (full-time) for students entering in session 2027/28

23 July 2026

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