Contemporary Art and Visual Media

This programme is no longer recruiting.

Final award	BA
Intermediate awards available	Cert HE, Dip HE
UCAS code	WW1G
Details of professional body accreditation	N/A
Relevant QAA Benchmark statements	Art and Design History; Fine Art.
Date specification last up-dated	July 2011

Profile

The summary - UCAS programme profile

BANNER BOX:

Situated in the newest University Campus in London, BA (Hons) Contemporary Art and Visual Media is a unique and innovative programme. It builds on the research excellence and scholarly expertise of the staff team and offers an opportunity for students to gain a breadth of knowledge and understanding of the contemporary art scene.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 240 UCAS tariff points or equivalent

Qualifications should normally be in humanities subjects. We welcome applications from mature students with non-standard qualifications who have a lively interest in the historical and theoretical study of contemporary visual arts.

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

What is Contemporary Art and Visual Media?

Contemporary Art and Visual Media explores works of art, design and visual media considering the context within which they were produced, the methods used to analyse them and the ways in which they were disseminated or displayed.

Contemporary Art and Visual Media at UEL

Contemporary Art and Visual Media is a broad ranging investigation into various contemporary forms of visual culture and their histories.

Programme structure

The BA forms a three year programme. A full-time programme consists of six modules per year, while a part-time student may take 2-4 modules a year. Modules are linked to

programmes that are composed of core modules (which are compulsory) and recommended options. There are opportunities to combine Contemporary Art and Visual Media with many other subjects into joint, major and minor combined degrees. There are also opportunities to transfer within the School of Architecture and the Visual Arts onto other related programmes of study.

Learning environment

Seminar and lecture based, film and media screenings, external study visits to exhibitions, museums, galleries and archives in London, optional overseas study trips, web-based learning.

Assessment

100% course work involving essays, presentations and group activities. Levels 2 and 3 count towards the final award classification.

Work experience/placement opportunities

There is a work placement option in Contemporary Art and Visual Media

Project work

Many modules incorporate project work in the form of individual or group presentations; the critical examination of an arts or media institution, museum, art gallery display or exhibition, or the option in the third level of producing a dissertation.

Added value

Many graduates successfully progress to post-graduate study and/or work in the contemporary art, culture and media industries.

IS THIS THE PROGRAMME FOR ME?

If you are interested in...

Contemporary Art and Visual Media , Visual Culture, Visual Theories, Cinema and/or modern and art, design and fashion.

If you enjoy...

- Stimulating lectures full of visual excitement with enthusiastic specialist staff;
- group interaction and private study in a friendly and supportive learning environment;
- creative and critical writing on contemporary art, design, fashion, media and film.

If you want...

- To study contemporary art, design, media and cinema in depth
- to receive a broad ranging education in contemporary art and visual culture.

Your future career

- Teaching art and visual media;
- writing cultural criticism and journalism;
- programming in cinemas or curating exhibitions;
- working in the contemporary art, creative, cultural or media industries.

How we support you

We are a small field where students are known on first-name terms and we provide extensive tutorial support and encouragement. UEL Learning Resources has an excellent book, DVD and library facilities as well as effective IT back up. UEL also offers extensive support for students with learning difficulties such as dyslexia.

Bonus factors

London provides unparalleled access to all aspects of contemporary art and Visual Media. We have special relationships with London art institutions such as museums, galleries and related specialist institutions (such as the British Film Institute and LUX).

Outcomes

Programme aims and learning outcomes

What is this programme designed to achieve?

This programme is designed to give you the opportunity to:

- develop a wide and detailed knowledge of many forms of Contemporary Art and Visual Media
- become familiar with a range of past and contemporary theories about art, cinema and visual media in general
- study the impact of social, historical and cultural forces on contemporary art, cinema and visual culture

What will you learn?

Knowledge and understanding

- develop a wide and detailed knowledge of many forms of contemporary art and visual media
- become familiar with the historical and contemporary frameworks for discussing and analysing art, design, film and new media

'Thinking' skills

- learn to articulate and structure complex ideas and arguments convincingly
- evaluate sources and ideas critically and make informed decisions about their relevance and worth

Subject-Based Practical skills

- gain sophisticated techniques of observation and visual analysis
- elaborate in an informed and convincing way how contemporary art and visual media have been discussed and theorised by leading historical and contemporary writers

Skills for life and work

- acquire a range of research and analytical skills
- communicate effectively using your research and reading as well as first-hand observation to articulate proposals that are convincing and well informed

Structure

The programme structure

Introduction

All programmes are credit-rated to help you to understand the amount and level of study that is needed.

One credit is equal to 10 hours of directed study time (this includes everything you do e.g. lecture, seminar and private study).

Credits are assigned to one of 5 levels:

- 0 - equivalent in standard to GCE 'A' level and is intended to prepare students for year one of an undergraduate degree programme
- 1 - equivalent in standard to the first year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme
- 2 - equivalent in standard to the second year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme
- 3 - equivalent in standard to the third year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme
- M - equivalent in standard to a Masters degree

Credit rating

The overall credit-rating of this programme is 360 credits.

Typical duration

The typical duration of this programme is three years full-time or five years part-time. It is possible to move from full-time to part-time study and vice-versa to accommodate any external factors such as financial constraints or domestic commitments. Many of our students make use of this flexibility and this may impact on the overall duration of their study period.

How the teaching year is divided

The teaching year begins in September and ends in June. It is also possible to commence in semester B in February. A typical full-time student will study the equivalent of 120 credits over the year. A typical part-time student will study for one day and one evening per week and will complete 60-80 credits.

What you will study when

This programme is part of a modular degree scheme. A typical full-time student will take six 20 credit modules per year. An honours degree student will complete six modules at level one, six at level 2 and six at level 3.
It is possible to bring together modules from one subject with modules from another to produce a combined programme. Subjects are offered in a variety of combinations:

- Single - 120 credits at levels one, two and three with minimum of 40 credits drawn from University wide options
- Major - 80 credits at levels one, two and three with a minimum of 20 credits drawn from University wide options
- Joint - 60 credits at levels one, two and three with a minimum of 20 credits drawn from University wide options
- Minor - 40 credits at levels one, two and three.

Modules are defined as:

- Core - Must be taken
- Option - Select from a range of identified modules within the field
- University wide option - Select from a wide range of modules across the University

The following are the core and optional requirements for the single, major, joint and minor routes for this programme.

LEVEL	TITLE	CREDITS	STATUS SINGLE	STATUS MAJOR	STATUS JOINT	STATUS MINOR
1	Art and Ideas: History Survey 1	40	Core	Core «	Core«	Core«
1	Art and Ideas: History Survey 2	40	Core	Core «	Core «	Core «
1	Skills for Academic Learning	20	Core	Core	Core ««	
1	Function and Style in Design	20	Option	Option	Option	
1	Fashion: A Cultural Context	20	Option	Option	Option	
2	State of the Arts 1	20	Core	Core	Core	Core
2	State of the Arts 2	20	Core	Core	Core ««	Option
2	Art and the Unconscious	20	Option	Option	Option	Option
2	Photography 1: Historical	20	Option	Option	Option	Option
2	Experimental Cinema	20	Option	Option	Option	Option
2	Fashion and the Visual Media	20	Option	Option	Option	Option

2	Animation	20	Option	Option	Option	Option
2	Photography 2: Contemporary	20	Option	Option	Option	Option
2	Sculpture and Installation	20	Option	Option	Option	Option
2	The Pleasure of the Text	20	Option	Option	Option	Option
2	Pattern and Ornament	20	Option	Option	Option	Option
2	Visual Communication and Cultural Meaning	20	Option	Option	Option	Option
2	Critical Concepts	20	Option	Option	Option	Option
3	Methodologies and Theories of Visual Media	20	Core	Core	Core ««	Core
3	Thesis	40	Core	Option	Option	
3	European Art Cinema	20	Option	Option	Option	Option
3	Photography and Print Media	20	Option	Option	Option	Option
3	The Aesthetics of 'Low Art'	20	Option	Option	Option	Option
3	Practical Theory [Placement]	20	Option	Option	Option	Option
3	Visual Dialogues	20	Option	Option	Option	Option
3	The Graphic Act	20	Option	Option	Option	Option
3	Contemporary Practice	20	Option	Option	Option	Option

« Students enrolled on a Major, Joint or Minor route must choose either Art and Ideas:
History Survey 1 or Art and Ideas: History Survey 2.
««Core module if Skills module not taken in other programme.

Requirements for gaining an award

In order to gain an honours degree you will need to obtain 360 credits including:

- A minimum of 120 credits at level one or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level two or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level three or higher

In order to gain an ordinary degree you will need to obtain a minimum of 300 credits including:

- A minimum of 120 credits at level one or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level two or higher
- A minimum of 60 credits at level three or higher

In order to gain a Diploma of Higher Education you will need to obtain at least 240 credits including a minimum of 120 credits at level one or higher and 120 credits at level two or higher
In order to gain a Certificate of Higher Education you will need to obtain 120 credits at level one or higher.
In order to gain a Foundation Degree you will need to obtain a minimum of 240 credits including:

- A minimum of 120 credits at level one or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level two or higher

(A foundation degree is linked to a named Honours degree onto which a student may progress after successful completion of the Foundation degree.)

Degree Classification

Where a student is eligible for an Honours degree, and has gained a minimum of 240 UEL credits at level 2 or level 3 on the programme, including a minimum of 120 UEL credits at level 3, the award classification is determined by calculating:

$$\text{The arithmetic mean of the best 100 credits at level 3} \times 2/3 + \text{The arithmetic mean of the next best 100 credits at levels 2 and/or 3} \times 1/3$$

and applying the mark obtained as a percentage, with all decimals points rounded up to the nearest whole number, to the following classification

70% - 100%	First Class Honours
60% - 69%	Second Class Honours, First Division
50% - 59%	Second Class Honours, Second Division
40% - 49%	Third Class Honours
0% - 39%	Not passed

Assessment

Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching and learning

Knowledge and understanding is developed through

- Lectures, seminars and tutorials
- Independent study and research
- Study visits to art institutions, galleries, exhibitions and museums and film screenings

'Thinking' skills are developed through

- Classroom discussions and group presentations
- Research and writing assignments and essays
- Reading and critical analysis

Practical skills are developed through

- Class exercises and pairwork/ groupwork
- Written assignments and essays
- Presentations and study visits

General skills are developed through

- Assignments, projects and essays
- Collaborative presentations

Assessment

Knowledge is assessed by

- Essays and written assignments
- Individual and group presentations
- Examinations
- Discussions

Thinking skills are assessed by

- Essays and written assignments
- Group analysis and discussions
- Research studies
- Examinations
- Tutorials

Practical skills are assessed by

- Presentations
- Study visits to art exhibitions, museums, galleries and archives
- Screenings
- Group projects

Skills for life and work (general skills) are assessed by

- Essays and written work
- Group activities and pairwork/group work
- Presentations

Quality

How we assure the quality of this programme

Before this programme started

Before the programme started, the following was checked:

- there would be enough qualified staff to teach the programme;
- adequate resources would be in place;
- the overall aims and objectives were appropriate;
- the content of the programme met national benchmark requirements;
- the programme met any professional/statutory body requirements;

- the proposal met other internal quality criteria covering a range of issues such as admissions policy, teaching, learning and assessment strategy and student support mechanisms.

This is done through a process of programme approval which involves consulting academic experts including some subject specialists from other institutions.

How we monitor the quality of this programme

The quality of this programme is monitored each year through evaluating:

- external examiner reports (considering quality and standards);
- statistical information (considering issues such as the pass rate);
- student feedback.

Drawing on this and other information, programme teams undertake the annual Review and Enhancement Process which is co-ordinated at School level and includes student participation. The process is monitored by the University's Quality Standing Committee. Once every six years an in-depth review of the whole field is undertaken by a panel that includes at least two external subject specialists. The panel considers documents, looks at student work, speaks to current and former students and speaks to staff before drawing its conclusions. The result is a report highlighting good practice and identifying areas where action is needed.

The role of the programme committee

This programme has a programme committee comprising all relevant teaching staff, student representatives and others who make a contribution towards the effective operation of the programme (e.g. library/technician staff). The committee has responsibilities for the quality of the programme. It provides input into the operation of the Review and Enhancement Process and proposes changes to improve quality. The programme committee plays a critical role in the University's quality assurance procedures.

The role of external examiners

The standard of this programme is monitored by at least one external examiner. External examiners have two primary responsibilities:

- To ensure the standard of the programme;
- To ensure that justice is done to individual students.

External examiners fulfil these responsibilities in a variety of ways including:

- Approving exam papers/assignments;
- Attending assessment boards;
- Reviewing samples of student work and moderating marks;
- Ensuring that regulations are followed;
- Providing feedback through an annual report that enables us to make improvements for the future.

Listening to the views of students

The following methods for gaining student feedback are used on this programme:

- Anonymous Module evaluations distributed at the end of each semester in all Visual Theories modules and also available at any time
- Student representation on programme committees (meeting at least 4 times a year)
- Student representation on School Board (meeting 3 times a year)
- Informal feedback to tutors at start / middle / end of module
- Tutorials

Students are notified of the action taken through:

- circulating the minutes of the programme committee or School Board to members
- placing the minutes of programme committee on Visual Theories notice board
- placing summaries of anonymous feedback forms and responses/ actions taken on Visual Theories notice boards
- providing details on the programme notice board

Listening to the views of others

The following methods are used for gaining the views of other interested parties:

- Informal requests for feedback from former students
- External Examiners reports
- Placements Officer

Further Information

Alternative locations for studying this programme

Location	Which elements?	Taught by UEL staff	Taught by local staff	Method of Delivery
-	-	-	-	-

Where you can find further information

Further information about this programme is available from:

- The UEL web site
- The student handbook
- Module study guides
- UEL Manual of General Regulations and Policies http://www.uel.ac.uk/qa/
- UEL Quality Manual http://www.uel.ac.uk/qa /
- Regulations for the Academic Framework http://www.uel.ac.uk/academicframework/