



Definitive Programme Document

MA Curatorial Practice

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|---|---|
| Awarding institution | Bath Spa University |
| Teaching institution | Bath Spa University |
| School | Bath School of Art and Design |
| Department | Art |
| Main campus | Sion Hill |
| Other sites of delivery | N/A |
| Other Schools involved in delivery | N/A |
| | |
| Name of award(s) | MA Curatorial Practice |
| Qualification (final award) | MA |
| Intermediate awards available | PgCert, PgDip |
| Routes available | Single |
| Duration of award | 1 year full-time / 2 years part-time |
| Sandwich period | No |
| Modes of delivery offered | campus-based |
| Regulatory Scheme ¹ | Taught Postgraduate Framework |
| | |
| Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body accreditation | N/A |
| Date of most recent PSRB approval (month and year) | N/A |
| Renewal of PSRB approval due (month and year) | N/a |
| | |
| JACS code | W200 |
| Route code (SITS) | MACP |
| Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements (including date of publication) | Art & Design, (February 2017). Masters Degree Characteristics Statement (2016) |
| Date of most recent approval | February 2013 |
| Date specification last updated | April 2018 |

¹ This should also be read in conjunction with the University's Qualifications Framework

Programme Overview

MA Curatorial Practice combines theory, history and discussion of current practice with hands-on experience of curating and presenting work in public contexts. The programme explores curating as a contemporary practice and approaches a wide range of curatorial strategies from process-based and participatory models of exhibition making to the practice of curating as the basis for interdisciplinary research that connects art with other fields. The changing role of the curator extends concepts of the curatorial beyond traditional collection-based and exhibition venues to engage new audiences, situations and sites of encounter, ranging from art interventions in public space and projects in unexpected places to digital and web-based platforms. The programme provides space for students to engage the multiple perspectives that constitute understanding and experience of the curatorial within an expanded field of art, visual and material culture.

Our flexible and interdisciplinary approach provides opportunities for students from diverse backgrounds to develop roles within curatorial and professional practice, engage critical and creative thinking and address new challenges. Masters students in Curatorial Practice work alongside the studio-based programmes of study in Art and Design. Delivered by experts in the field alongside working curators, students benefit from well-established collaborative relationships with a range of public and private galleries, museums, collectors, heritage sites, public art projects alongside individual artists and curators. The programme is designed for students who wish to broaden their knowledge and experience of gallery practice, participatory and pedagogical models of curating, as well as critical understanding of musicological disciplines and the changing nature of the museum. Practical experience in skills and competencies such as understanding governance, proposal writing, contracts and leadership are embedded in the course.

Students consider fundamental questions of contemporary curating, and explore the factors that shape the answers to them. What do curators do? What are their responsibilities? What opportunities can they develop and use, and how does context influence their role?

Programme Aims:

1. To advance a theoretically-informed and historical understanding of the concepts and processes that underpin contemporary curatorial discourse and exhibition practice.
2. To extend student's critical analysis of current debates and the changing politics of curating, informed by research and practice at the forefront of the curatorial field.
3. To foster a culture of experimentation, innovative thinking, risk-taking and creative problem solving in approaches to curatorial practice.
4. To promote investigation and develop a capacity for self-criticism and sound evaluation of the work of others.
5. To provide professional and academic opportunities for the development of individual responses to theoretical and practical aspects of curating.

6. To foster interdisciplinarity and collaboration in the field of art and curatorial studies through a flexible programme of study.
7. To embed staff research activities from the curatorial field into teaching and learning and extend opportunities for professional practice.
8. To build collaborative relationships and partnerships with a range of regional art institutions and organisations to enhance student's work-based learning and professional practice skills.
9. To encourage innovation and experimentation with models of curation as practice-led research tools for teaching and learning

Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)
(NB These ILOs are at level 7 of the FHEQ)

A Subject-specific Skills and Knowledge

- A1 comprehensive and systematic knowledge of the relevant roles and responsibilities that constitute professional curating and exhibition practice.
- A2 a critical and contextual analysis of the concepts of curating and modes of display in their relevant historical, theoretical and cultural settings.
- A3 a conceptual understanding of research tools, skills and methods in design and development of a curatorial research enquiry.
- A4. an independent position in the design and conduct of research that demonstrates critical awareness of current problems and new insights in the field of curatorial practice
- A5 ability to solve problems in curatorial practice through the application of knowledge, creativity and conceptual thinking
- A6 self-direction and originality in the research and production of an independent curatorial project in a public context

B Cognitive and Intellectual Skills

- B1 Demonstrate a practical knowledge of established methods of research and enquiry in the field and how these are used to create and interpret knowledge.
- B2 Demonstrate originality and creativity in applying techniques and imaginative approaches to project needs and outcomes.
- B3 An ability to draw meaningful conclusions from research data and apply learning to the specific contexts of curatorial practice.
- B4. Evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in curatorial practice.

B5. Identify and evaluate appropriate methodologies and apply an ethical approach to the research and practice of curating

C Skills for Life and Work

- C1 Autonomous learning (including time management) that demonstrates the exercise of initiative, personal responsibility and decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations and the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development
- C2 Team working skills necessary to succeed in the global workplace, with an ability both to work in and lead teams effectively, as well as the ability to act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level
- C3 Communication skills that show the ability to communicate clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences knowledge at, or informed by, the forefront of the academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice, and the conclusions drawn from dealing with complex issues systematically
- C4 IT skills and digital literacy that demonstrate the ability to develop new skills to a high level and to approach complex issues systematically and creatively

Intermediate awards

PgCert Intended Learning Outcomes

A1, A5, B1, B2, C1, C3, C4

PgDip Intended Learning Outcomes

A1, A2, A3, A4, A6, B1, B2, B3, C1, C3, C4

Programme content

This programme comprises the following modules

Key:

Core = C

Required = R

Optional = O

Not available for this status = N/A

If a particular status is greyed out, it is not offered for this programme.

Subject offered as single and/or joint programme

| MA Curatorial Practice | | | | Status | |
|------------------------|-----------|---------------------|---------|--------|-------|
| Level | Code | Title | Credits | Single | Joint |
| 7 | AR7002-30 | Role of the Curator | 30 | C | |
| 7 | AR7001-30 | Research Methods | 30 | C | |
| 7 | AR7004-30 | Reaching Audiences | 30 | C | |

| | | | | | |
|---|-----------|--------------------------------------|----|---|--|
| 7 | AR7003-30 | Collections and Collecting | 30 | C | |
| 7 | AR7100-60 | Masters Project: Curatorial Practice | 60 | C | |

Assessment methods

A range of summative assessment tasks will be used to test the Intended Learning Outcomes in each module. These are indicated in the attached assessment map which shows which tasks are used in which modules.

Students will be supported in their development towards summative assessment by appropriate formative exercises.

Please note: if you choose an optional module from outside this programme, you may be required to undertake a summative assessment task that does not appear in the assessment grid here in order to pass that module.

Work experience and placement opportunities

Our core seminar-based teaching and learning programme is balanced by collaborative relationships with a range of museums and galleries of national and international significance. Throughout the course students are able to undertake placement opportunities and gain professional experience in a variety of locations that include: the Holburne Museum, Victoria Art Gallery and 44AD, Bath; Hauser & Wirth Somerset; Arnolfini and Spike Island in Bristol; Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery; Salisbury Arts Centre; and National Museum Wales' sites in Cardiff.

Curatorial Practice students consistently benefit from work based learning and experience in a broad variety of settings, examples include: volunteering and opportunities to curate exhibitions at *44AD* (Reaching Audiences module); Student residency programme at *Sydney Nolan Trust* involved in archive, conservation and education programme (Collections and Collecting module); archive cataloguing and transcribing interviews at *Arnolfini* (Collections and Collecting module); archiving and conservation of Bath Spa University collection at *Corsham Court* (Role of the Curator);

Graduate Attributes

| | Bath Spa Graduates... | In MA Curatorial Practice, this means... |
|---|--|--|
| 1 | Will be employable: equipped with the skills necessary to flourish in the global workplace, able to work in and lead teams | By embedding professional practice into course modules, encouraging effective communication and collaboration at all points. |
| 2 | Will be able to understand and manage complexity, diversity and change | By having a curriculum that enables students to apply their creative and technical skills to diverse curatorial related opportunities and to see complexity, diversity and change as positive aspects of a culture of contemporary curating. |

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|---|--|--|
| 3 | Will be creative: able to innovate and to solve problems by working across disciplines as professional or artistic practitioners | By encouraging experimentation and taking creative risks throughout the course; thinking and problem solving through making; collaborating across disciplines and fields; working across materials and contexts and methods of display |
| 4 | Will be digitally literate: able to work at the interface of creativity and technology | By immersing students in software driven ways of planning and creating; developing students' skills in specialist digital presentation and making processes; utilising and driving digital platforms to promote, converse and explore curatorial practice |
| 5 | Will be internationally networked: either by studying abroad for part of the their programme, or studying alongside students from overseas | By offering study abroad opportunities; international field trips; studying alongside overseas students; encouraging student participation in international research projects and visits to major biennials and exhibitions. |
| 6 | Will be creative thinkers, doers and makers | By ensuring that creative practice and confident attitudes to experimentation are expectations of all students; encouraging and delivering innovation and managing creative risk, ; having practice-based modules that have 'thinking through making' at their heart |
| 7 | Will be critical thinkers: able to express their ideas in written and oral form, and possessing information literacy | By having all modules contain elements of research at PG levels via Historical and Critical Studies as a key component across all UK courses and Research Methods at PG. By embedding theory with practice within studio teaching and developing written analytical skills; visual and written opportunities for discussion and presentation |
| 8 | Will be ethically aware: prepared for citizenship in a local, national and global context | By exploring wider ethical issues that have impact at all levels; exercising responsibility and consideration of others; taking part in international opportunities and projects; embedding sustainability and ethics into projects. |

ModificationsModule-level modifications

| Code | Title | Nature of modification | Date(s) of approval and approving bodies | Date modification comes into effect |
|------|-------|------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
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Programme-level modifications

| Nature of modification | Date(s) of approval and approving bodies | Date modification comes into effect |
|------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
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Attached as appendices:

1. Programme structure diagram
2. Map of module outcomes to level/programme outcomes
3. Assessment map
4. Module descriptors

BSAD PG Course Diagram MA Curatorial Practice

2018/19

Full-time 1 year (MACP)

| Trimester 1 | Trimester 2 | Trimester 3 |
|----------------------------------|---|--|
| Research Methods AR7001-30 | Reaching Audiences AR7004-30 | Masters Project: Curatorial Practice AR7100-60 |
| Role of the Curator AR7002-30 | Collections and Collecting AR7003-30 | |

Part-time Option 1 (MACP)

| Trimester 1 (Year 1) | Trimester 2 (Year 1) | Trimester 3 (Year 1) |
|----------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| Role of the Curator AR7002-30 | Collections and Collecting AR7003-30 | |

| Trimester 1 (Year 2) | Trimester 2 (Year 2) | Trimester 3 |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Research Methods AR7001-30 | Reaching Audiences AR7004-30 | Masters Project: Curatorial Practice AR7100-60 |

**Appendix 2 Map of Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) against modules
MA Curatorial Practice**



| Level | Module Code | Module Title | Status (C,R,O) ² | Intended Learning Outcomes | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|-------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|----|--------------------------|----|----|----|
| | | | | Subject-specific Skills and Knowledge | | | | | | Cognitive and Intellectual Skills | | | | | Skills for Life and Work | | | |
| | | | | A1 | A2 | A3 | A4 | A5 | A6 | B1 | B2 | B3 | B4 | B5 | C1 | C2 | C3 | C4 |
| 7 | AR7002 | Role of Curator | C | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 7 | AR7004 | Collections and Collecting | C | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 7 | AR7003 | Reaching Audiences | C | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 7 | AR7001 | Research Methods | C | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 7 | AR7100 | Masters Project: Curatorial Practice | C, O | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

² C = Core; R = Required; O = Optional

**Appendix 3 Assessment Map
MA Curatorial Practice**



| Level | Module Code | Module Title | Status (C,R,O) ³ | Assessment method | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|-------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------------|-------|------------------------|-----------------|--------|-------------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| | | | | Coursework | | | | | | Practical | | | Written Examination | | | |
| | | | | Composition | Dissertation | Essay | Annotated Bibliography | Research Poster | Report | Practical Project | Practical skills | Presentation | Set exercises | Written Examination | In-class test (seen) | In-class test (unseen) |
| 7 | AR7001 | Research Methods | C | | | 1x | X | 1x | | | | 1x | | | | |
| 7 | AR7002 | Role of Curator | C | | | 1x | | | | | | 1x | | | | |
| 7 | AR7003 | Collections and Collecting | C | | | 1x | | | | | | 1x | | | | |
| 7 | AR7004 | Reaching Audiences | C | | | | | | 1x | 1x | | | | | | |
| 7 | AR7100 | Masters Project: Curatorial Practice: | | | | 1x | | | 1x | | | | | | | |
| 7 | AR7100 | Masters Project: Curatorial Practice | | | | | | | 1x | 1x | | | | | | |

³ C = Core; R = Required; R* = Required*; O = Optional