



**Definitive Programme Document: MA Fine Art  
(Master's Degree)**

Awarding institution	Bath Spa University
Teaching institution	Bath Spa University
School	Bath School of Art and Design
Department	Field of Art
Main campus	Dartmouth Avenue
Other sites of delivery	Sion Hill
Other Schools involved in delivery	N/A
Name of award(s)	MA Fine Art
Qualification (final award)	MA
Intermediate awards available	PgCert, PgDip
Routes available	1 year full time and 2 years part-time
Duration of award	1 year full time
Sandwich period	No
Modes of delivery offered	Campus-based
Regulatory Scheme <sup>1</sup>	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
UCAS code	N/A
Route code (SITS)	MAFA
Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements (including date of publication)	Art and Design (February 2017) Masters Degree Characteristics Statement (2016)
Date of most recent approval	February 2018
Date specification last updated	February 2018

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<sup>1</sup> This should also be read in conjunction with the University's Qualifications Framework

## Programme Overview

The MA Fine Art is a studio-based programme, which encompasses a broad range of contemporary art practices, including painting, sculpture, performance, installation and more. The aim of the course is to participate, examine, and critically engage with the practice of art making, and to encourage creative and relevant responses to contemporary art production that can generate new knowledge and meanings. The course encourages interdisciplinary and materially led approaches to making, based on experimentation, risk taking and personal innovation. The primary emphasis is on how artists define common assumptions surrounding art production and look to ways of transforming it in view of progressing within the field as a whole.

It is designed to stimulate and focus thought and develop practical and critical skills towards a self-directed, independent language in the field of contemporary art. This is supported by disciplined studio practice and research. The course structure consists of 3 studio modules: *Re-establishment of Studio practice*, *Developing Studio Practice* and *Masters Project*. The modules are designed to facilitate critical responses and technical proficiency in identifying appropriate skills and methods applied to the practice of art. The 2 research modules are *Research Methods* in the first trimester for both full time and part time students and *Aspect of Contemporary Art Practice* in the second trimester (1st trimester in the second year for the part-time students).

The course is taught through one to one tutorials, academic and practical workshop, reading groups, seminars and lectures. A strong emphasis is placed on student-centred learning in the form of group critiques (Crits) and collaborative projects that support mutual and individual development. The course is supported by numerous facilities, including workshops and studio spaces, and is taught by nationally and internationally recognised practicing artists, curators and cultural practitioners.

The course is designed to fully support the development of an individual creative potential in an ever-changing and challenging world, with a particular accent on professional practice to help develop and maintain a successful career in cultural practices. Through research, critical scrutiny and rigorous studio practice the course aims to support students to identify and develop their individual positions as artists.

## Programme Aims

- To develop a fully informed understanding of contemporary Art practice and surrounding theoretical debates
- To develop an integrated Art practice that combines practical, critical and research skills
- To establish an individual professional practice in the context of contemporary art and the wider culture
- To enable the identification and development of an individual position as an artist, based on student-centred learning, group critiques, personal tutorials and self directed studies
- To develop consistent engagement with making, based on experimentation and creative risk-taking
- To foster and develop a sound understanding and application of research methodologies relevant to both studio practice and academic research

- To encourage reflective analysis of own practice and collaborative skills in group working situations

### **Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)**

**(NB These ILOs are at level 7 of the FHEQ)**

#### A Subject-specific Skills and Knowledge

- A1 Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of individual artistic and critical concerns as part of your practice and continue to advance this knowledge and understanding
- A2 Critically evaluate different modes of Fine Art production, including experimentation through making, in order to demonstrate successful use of material and technical skills and the application of relevant concepts
- A3 Develop a conceptual understanding of established and critical approaches to Fine Art practice and how these can be utilised to inform your work
- A4 Demonstrate the ability to self-direct and learn independently, and to deal with complex issues using sound and creative judgments to obtain excellence in your practice
- A5 Develop conceptual understanding of the principles and methods of research through a systematic and carefully selected range of primary and secondary references, demonstrating critical awareness and new insights from the forefront of your academic discipline
- A6 Demonstrate ability to display, present and communicate your work skilfully and with authority to specialist and non-specialist audiences, using critical reflection and originality in the application of knowledge gained

#### B Cognitive and Intellectual Skills

- B1 Develop systematic and methodical relationship between theory and practice in order to integrate it and apply it to self directed aims and originality of your research
- B2 Demonstrate analytical and conceptual understanding of the methods of advanced scholarship in your discipline and, where appropriate, propose new hypothesis of its interpretation and critique
- B3 Demonstrate originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquire are used to create and interpret knowledge in your academic discipline
- B4 Generate and continue to advance new and original thinking through focused and autonomous art practice, demonstrating systematic understanding and application of concepts through reflective analysis and problem solving

#### 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 A2 A3

B1

C1 C3

#### PgDip Intended Learning Outcomes

A1 A2 A3 A4

B1 B2

C1 C2 C3

### Programme content

This programme comprises the following modules

#### Key:

Core = C

Required = R

Optional = O

Not available for this status = N/A

#### Subject offered as single and/or joint programme

[Name of subject] MA Fine Art				Status	
Level	Code	Title	Credits	Single	Joint
7	AR7001	Research Methods	30	Core	N/A
7	MF7002	Re-establishment of Studio Practice	30	Core	N/A
7	MF7003	Developing Studio Practice	30	Core	N/A

7	MF7004	Aspects of Contemporary Art Practice	30	Core	N/A
7	AR7007	Masters Project	60	Core	N/A

Subject offered with pathways

N/A

[Name of subject]				Pathway				
Level	Code	Title	Credits					

**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.

**Work experience and placement opportunities**

Students completing the programme establish themselves as artists or cultural practitioners in the field of contemporary art and disseminate their work widely, aiming for national and international audiences. MA Fine Art graduates have had their work exhibited in private and public galleries on completion of the course, have been awarded national and international artist residencies, been selected for exhibition from open competitions, pursued further research study at PhD level and founded their own galleries. Those graduates in the teaching profession have been able to improve their opportunities for career advancement using skills and knowledge deriving from their experience on the course. The School is strongly committed to supporting student's transition from the world of learning to the world of work. Throughout the programme of study there are many formal and informal opportunities to develop skills that will support future employability. An example is a link with the Hauser and Wirth Gallery, Somerset, and the alumni exchange residency with the CalArts, LA, giving graduates the opportunity to develop their practice and establish international links with artists and institutions nationally and internationally.

**Graduate Attributes**

	Bath Spa Graduates...	In MA Fine Art, 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 modules on the course, 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 art related opportunities and to see complexity, diversity and change as positive aspects of a creative contemporary culture.
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 each discipline; thinking and problem solving through making; collaborating across disciplines and fields; working across materials and contexts
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 an art practice
5	Will be internationally networked: either by studying abroad for part of 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 courses that all 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 2 research-based modules Research Methodologies and Aspect of Contemporary Arts Practice. 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.

## Modifications

### Module-level modifications

Code	Title	Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect


Programme-level modifications

Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect

**Attached as appendices:**

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

Appendix 1. Programme Structure Diagram

MA Fine Art – Full time Course Diagram

<b>TRIMESTER 1</b>	<b>TRIMESTER 2</b>	<b>TRIMESTER 3</b>
<b>PG CERT (60 CREDITS)</b>	<b>PG DIP (120 CREDITS)</b>	<b>MASTERS (180 CREDITS)</b>
AR7001- 30 Research Methods	MF7003-30 Developing Studio Practice	AR7007-60 Masters Project
MF7002- 30 Re-establishment of Studio Practice	MF7004-30 Aspects of Contemporary Art Practice	

MA Fine Art – Part-time Course Diagram

	<b>TRIMESTER 1</b>	<b>TRIMESTER 2</b>	<b>TRIMESTER 3</b>
	PG CERT		
<b>YEAR 1</b>	AR7001-30 Research Methods	MF7002- 30 Re-establishment of Studio Practice	MF7003-30 Developing Studio Practice
	<b>TRIMESTER 1</b>	<b>TRIMESTER 2</b>	<b>TRIMESTER 3</b>
<b>YEAR 2</b>	PG DIP	MASTERS	MASTERS
	MF7004-30 Aspects of Contemporary Art Practice		AR7007- 60 Masters Project

## Appendix 2. Map of Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) against modules

### MA Fine Art, Masters in Fine Art



Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C,R,O) <sup>2</sup>	Intended Learning Outcomes																			
				Subject-specific Skills and Knowledge								Cognitive and Intellectual Skills							Skills for Life and Work				
				A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A8	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7	C1	C2	C3	C4	
7	AR7001-30	Research Methods	C	x									x							x			x
7	MF7002-30	Re-establishment of Studio Practice	C	x	x	x							x							x		x	
7	MF700-30	Developing Studio Practice	C	x	x	x	x						x	x						x	x	x	
7	MF7004-30	Aspects of Contemporary Art	C	x	x	x	x	X					x	x	x					x	x	x	x
7	AR7007-60	Masters Project	C	x	x	x	x	X	x				x	x	x	x				x	x	x	

<sup>2</sup> C = Core; R= Required; O = Optional

### Appendix 3. Map of summative assessment tasks by module

#### MA Fine Art, Masters in Fine Art



Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C,R,O) <sup>3</sup>	Assessment method													
				Coursework						Practical					Written Examination		
				Composition	Presentation	Essay	Journal	Portfolio	Report	Statement	Exhibition	Practical Skills	Presentation	Research Folder	Written Examination	In-class test (seen)	In-class test (unseen)
7	AR7001	Research Methods	C		1x	1x											
7	MF7002	Re-establishing Studio Practice	C							1x	1x			1x			
7	MF7003	Developing Studio Practice	C							1x	1x			1x			
7	MF7004	Aspect of Contemporary Art Practice	C										1x	1x	1x		
7	AR7007	Masters Project	C							1x	1x						

<sup>3</sup> C = Core; R = Required; O = Optional