



BA Fine Art
Course Information
(English)

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Fine Art

Awards Available

Bachelor of Arts in Fine Art	3 Year Course
Diploma of Higher Education in Fine Art	2 Year Course
Certificate of Higher Education Fine Art	1 Year Course

Structure of Awards

Certificate of Higher Education in Fine Art is a qualification in its own right and can also count as the first year of a degree programme. Students are normally expected to achieve 60 ECTS = 120 Scotcat credits during the academic year. The academic year is divided into two semesters (See college calendar).

Diploma of Higher Education in Fine Art is a qualification in its own right and can also count as the second year of a degree programme. Students are normally expected to achieve 60 ECTS = 120 Scotcat credits during the academic year. The academic year is divided into two semesters (See college calendar).

Bachelor of Arts in Fine Art Year 3 is the third year of the degree programme. Students are expected to achieve 120 Scotcat credits = 60 ECTS in the course of the academic year. The academic year is divided into two semesters (See college calendar).

Details of subject modules can be found in then following pages.

Teaching Methods

Classes consist of lectures and tutorials and practical sessions. Occasionally lectures may be delivered by videoconferencing.

Assessment Procedures

Certificate: The course is assessed using continuous assessment for each subject + portfolio + essays + presentations.

Diploma: The course is assessed using continuous assessment for each subject + portfolio + essays + presentations.

BA Degree in Fine Art Year 3

Subjects are assessed through: portfolio, thematic study and presentation

Recommended Reading

For information regarding background reading and other course information please contact the Curriculum Leader responsible for Fine Art:

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Coordinators

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Course Information - BA Fine Art modules

Level 1 - Semester 1

Module	Scotcat Credits	ECTS
Mixed Media Drawing	15	7.5
Painting	15	7.5
Spatial Studies	15	7.5
Historical and Critical Studies	15	7.5
Drawing	15	7.5

Level 1 - Semester 2

Module	Scotcat Credits	ECTS
Photography	15	7.5
Contemporary Technology	15	7.5
Printmaking	15	7.5

Your studies at Level 1 facilitate the development of your thinking and your skills through a variety of media as you undertake supervised project work in specialist teaching spaces. Sketchbooks are very important at all Levels, as they are a fundamental part of the creative process. They can be used to solve visual problems, experiment with materials and record ideas. The Historical and Critical Studies component of Level 1 should help you to understand both historical and contemporary contexts of art, informing your own work and the ways in which you think about art.

Level 2 - Semester 1

Module	Scotcat Credits	ECTS
Studio Practice 1	30	15
Critical and Contextual studies	15	7.5
Elective	15	7.5

Level 2 - Semester 2

Module	Scotcat Credits	ECTS
Studio Practice 2	45	22.5
Research Presentation	15	7.5

Specialist workshops

By Level 2 you will be ready to start exploring your own ideas and different ways of making work. You will be provided with a space of your own to work in and you'll receive regular support from Lecturers during Studio Practice time. Level 2 should be a time when you experiment and try new things. You will continue to learn about how different artists work and the ways in which art has changed during Critical and Contextual Studies. In semester 2 you will undertake research in a subject of your choice, related to your own work, which will inform or provide the basis for your Thematic Study in level 3. You will have the opportunity in the first semester to do specialist workshops, allowing you to build up your skills, and in the second semester you will undertake an Elective of your choice from one of the other UHI degrees across the network.

Level 3 - Semester 1

Module	Scotcat Credits	ECTS
Studio Practice 3	30	15
Thematic study	30	15

Level 3 - Semester 2

Module	Scotcat Credits	ECTS
Studio Practice 4	45	22.5
Professional Practice	15	7.5

Specialist workshops

The main event of the final year of the course is the Level 3 degree show. Throughout the year you will be working towards the show, but it is still extremely important that you continue to experiment and take risks throughout the year. By the final year of the course you should be a more independent and personally motivated learner. You will receive less tuition from Lecturers than in earlier levels, however they will still be available for regular support and advice. Especially, but not exclusively, at Level 3 your peer group are an extremely valuable source of advice and inspiration. The Thematic Study is undertaken during semester 1 therefore it is of paramount importance that you do not underestimate the time that it takes to write your text and compile accurate bibliographies and footnotes. During Level 3 you will once again undertake specialist workshops. In the final semester the Professional Practice module aims to help you to prepare for life as a professional artist, addressing such issues as your own marketing materials and self-promotion.

Subject Description

Level 1 Modules

Drawing (7.5 ECTS = 15 Scotcat Credits)

You will be set several projects which will encourage you to develop your observational skills and your drawing techniques in order to analyse and record visual information. You will also begin to use drawing and workbooks as valuable tools for investigation of materials and ideas. You will research and enquire about the work of other artists which will help you to develop your own approach to drawing. Through the process of drawing you will be encouraged to explore different visual vocabularies and develop and increased awareness of drawing as mark making.

The requirements of this project are:

- a set of lively and investigative workbooks;
- a portfolio of drawings.

Painting (7.5 ECTS = 15 Scotcat Credits)

You will receive instruction on the preparation of a variety of painting supports which will give you good preparation to go on to experiment with different painting media. Through the set project you will investigate the potential of the painted surface and you will also experiment and play with ideas, using your drawings and painted sketches to produce a final piece of work. You will research and enquire about the work of other artists which will help you to develop your own approach to painting.

The requirements of this project are:

- a set of lively and investigative workbooks;
- a portfolio of drawings;
- painted sketches leading up to a final painting .

Mixed Media Drawing and Spatial Studies (7.5 ECTS = 15 Scotcat Credits)

You will be given a set project through which you will be encouraged to extend and expand your understanding of the purpose and function of drawing. You will use a variety of mixed media drawing techniques as tools for thinking but also to engage in a playful manner with a variety of unconventional drawing materials. Workbooks play a central role in this project and you will use mixed media drawing to develop ideas executed in Spatial Studies. Spatial Studies will instruct you in how to work with maquettes (small models). These help you to plan ambitious projects which you may not have the time to complete. The project should help you to think three dimensionally and to develop your aesthetic awareness of the inter-relationship of forms. The project will also equip you with practical skills that you may use later in the course.

The requirements of the project are:

- a set of lively and investigative workbooks;
- a portfolio of drawings;
- a maquette of your final installation/piece.

Photography (7.5 ECTS = 15 Scotcat Credits)

You will be introduced to the use of the 35mm camera and basic black and white processing and printing techniques. In order to get the most out of photography in a short space of time you will be encouraged to use best practice at all times and to respect others whilst working in the darkroom environment. Your own personal ideas will motivate and steer the content of your project but you will be encouraged to consider the way in which the lens interprets the world, to think about whether photographs are really pictures at all and whether photographic images have their own intrinsic visual value. Through research and investigation you will look at the work of photographers and artists in order to develop your own way of thinking about and working with photography. Once again workbooks play an important role in the project. You will use them to record your ideas, to think about composition and to develop your project to a final solution.

The requirements of the photography project are:

- a set of lively investigative workbooks;
- a portfolio of well presented, high quality black and white prints.

Contemporary Technology and Printmaking (7.5 ECTS = 15 Scotcat Credits)

You will be introduced to digital imaging through the use of scanners, digital cameras and Adobe Photoshop. You will be encouraged to think of the layering capabilities of Photoshop and its use as an electronic print medium. Through learning about layering, opacity and transparency, you will be able to grasp the basic concepts of printmaking. You will also be introduced to basic printmaking techniques such as monoprint, linocut and collagraph. Through the medium of printmaking, you will be encouraged to work and think in a textural way, to combine different forms of printed marks in order to produce rich, well-worked imagery.

The requirements of this project are:

- a set of investigative workbooks
- a portfolio of printmaking and digital prints
- 'recipe books' of techniques learned

Historical and Critical Studies (7.5 ECTS = 15 Scotcat Credits)

Through this module you will develop your visual, critical, historical and cultural awareness. You will be introduced to a variety of artists both historical and contemporary, through a thematically linked series of lectures and discussions. You will be introduced to basic essay techniques such as bibliographies and citations, in order to write successful responses to set questions. In the second semester you will undertake an illustrated oral presentation which you will deliver to your peer group. Looking at and talking about the art of others will help you to understand the different contexts of art which in turn will help you to start contextualising your own work.

The requirements for this module are:

- two 1,000 word essays in response to given questions with illustrations, accurate bibliography and citations;
- one 15 minute illustrated oral presentation on the work of an artist of your choice.

Level 2 Modules

Critical and Contextual Studies (7.5 ECTS = 15 Scotcat Credits)

You will be encouraged to take increasing responsibility for self-directed learning, to communicate ideas with confidence and authority, to be responsive to the ideas of others and to improve your performance through self-evaluation. A range of topics central to contemporary art practice will be discussed in a seminar environment. Working in small groups you will present a paper to your peer group, field questions and defend your judgements. You will also produce an illustrated essay on the seminar paper of one of the other groups.

The requirements for this module are:

- a seminar paper to be delivered to your peer group;
- an illustrated essay of 2,000 words with accurate bibliography and citations.

Studio Practice (37.5 ECTS = 75 Scotcat Credits)

This is the time in your week where you will develop your own work with tutorial guidance from staff. These are not structured classes, rather they allow you to discuss your work on a one-to-one basis with tutors who will support and challenge you in the production of your own work. You may see a tutor on a weekly basis or alternatively you might see them less regularly. However, it is important that you stay in touch with your tutors in order to keep them informed of your progress. If you are experiencing difficulties in your practice, make an appointment to see your tutor at the earliest available opportunity. Working through problems is what making visual work can be all about and your tutors are here to help you. They might not provide you with **the** answer but you will receive suggestions and ideas to take your work forward. Studio Practice should help you to become more reflective about your own work. Experimentation with ideas and materials and visual research through the use of sketchbooks is critical.

The requirements for Studio Practice 1 & 2 are:

- a set of investigative workbooks which develop your own practice;
- a portfolio of drawings and studies;
- a body of work executed in the media of your choice.

Specialist workshops

You will have the chance to acquire a variety of skills which you can apply to your practice through a selection of specialist workshops. These workshops will extend and enhance skills already acquired and will also give you the chance to learn new processes and skills. The workshops are mandatory in the sense that you will be required to undertake 4 days (4 x 6 hours) of workshop activity per semester at each level, each year. The specialist workshops are optional in the sense that you can choose the workshops you wish to undertake from a range made available to you. Unfortunately, the provision of workshops is dependent upon numbers, therefore you may not be given your first choice of workshop. However, we do endeavour to accommodate choice where possible. The specialist workshops are unassessed, giving you the freedom to try out new techniques and media and to experiment with new processes. The work undertaken in special workshops can be assessed in the context of Studio Practice. Groups are of mixed level which increases the interaction between Levels 2 and 3.

Research Presentation (7.5 ECTS = 15 Scotcat Credits)

Through this module you will be introduced to basic research methods. You will be encouraged to use hardcopy and digital learning resources in the preparation of research for your Thematic Study in Level 3. You will develop your capacity for independent learning and your analytical skills will be used. You will be encouraged to begin evaluating the material are researching. Your critical and visual awareness will be deepened and you will gain confidence through your research which is thematically connected to your fine art practice.

The requirements for this module are:

- a research plan produced for your Thematic Study;
- a research timetable;
- a piece of preliminary writing outlining your research.

Elective (7.5 ECTS = 15 Scotcat Credits)

These are chosen by you from the range available across the UHI network. As each module has different requirements it is advisable to check this at the point of selection. The form that the teaching, learning and assessment will take will be made available to you then.

Level 3 Modules

Thematic Study (15 ECTS = 30 Scotcat Credits)

You will extend your research undertaken in Level 2 by continuing to work through the summer recess so that you are ready to commence your final research and writing of the Thematic Study in semester 1 of Level 3. Your Thematic Study should be connected with your own practice and should provide the theoretical framework for the further development of your work. The study should be written simply and clearly so your ideas can be easily conveyed. You should include high quality illustrations, accurate bibliographies and citation. The study should be well presented and you should be aware that your Thematic Study will be kept in the Learning Resource Centre for reference purposes.

The requirements of the Thematic Study are:

- a word processed text of 5,000 words with illustrations, accurate bibliography and citations;
- all bibliographies, footnotes etcetera should follow the recognised academic conventions.

Studio Practice (37.5 ECTS = 75 Scotcat Credits)

This is the time in your week where you will develop your own work with tutorial guidance from staff. These are not structured classes, rather they allow you to discuss your work on a one-to-one basis with tutors who will support and challenge you in the production of your own work. You may see a tutor on a weekly basis or alternatively you might see them less regularly. However, it is important that you stay in touch with your tutors in order to keep them informed of your progress. If you are experiencing difficulties in your practice, make an appointment to see your tutor at the earliest available opportunity. Working through problems is what making visual work can be all about and your tutors are here to help you. They might not provide you with **the** answer but you will receive suggestions and ideas to take your work forward. Studio Practice should help you to become more reflective about your own work. Experimentation with ideas and materials and visual research through the use of sketchbooks is critical. During semester 2 you will be working towards your final degree show. Although this is a time of consolidation, it is also important to continue to experiment and try new things throughout the year.

The requirements for Studio Practice 3 & 4 are:

- a set of investigative workbooks which develop your own practice;
- a portfolio of drawings and studies;
- a body of work executed in the media of your choice;
- a final degree show at the end of semester 2.

Specialist Workshops

You will have the chance to acquire a variety of skills which you can apply to your practice through a selection of specialist workshops. These workshops will extend and enhance skills already acquired and will also give you the chance to learn new processes and skills. The workshops are mandatory in the sense that you will be required to undertake 4 days (4 x 6 hours) of workshop activity per semester at each level, each year. The specialist workshops are optional in the sense that you can choose the workshops you wish to undertake from a range made available to you. Unfortunately, the provision of workshops is dependent upon numbers, therefore you may not be given your first choice of workshop. However, we do endeavour to accommodate choice where possible. The specialist workshops are unassessed, giving you the freedom to try out new techniques and media and to experiment with new processes. The work undertaken in special workshops can be assessed in the context of Studio Practice. Groups are of mixed level which increases the interaction between Levels 2 and 3.

Professional Practice (7.5 ECTS = 15 Scotcat Credits)

Throughout this module you will be introduced to issues which the artist encounters in their professional life, such as health and safety, the need for good quality slides, Curriculum Vitae, artists statements and different ways of applying for exhibitions/competitions. The presentation of work is considered and you will be involved in a solo show plus a group show in preparation for your final degree show. You will research relevant outlets for your artwork and will compile a reference folder of your findings. You will also work on the production of self-promotional materials for degree show and beyond.

The requirements for this module are:

- a solo show and a group show;
- a portfolio of self-promotional material including slides, business cards (alternative), CV;
- a dossier of exhibiting opportunities (both local and national).

(1) **Course unit code:**

Refer to the ECTS information Package

(2) **Duration of course unit:**

Y = 1 full academic year

1S = 1 semester 2S = 2 semesters

1T = 1 term/trimester 2T = 2 terms/trimesters

(3) **Description of the institutional grading system:**

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(4) **ECTS grading scale:**

ECTS Grade	% of successful students normally achieving the grade	Definition (only of failing grades)
A	10	
B	25	
C	30	
D	25	
E	10	
FX	-	FAIL – some more work required before the credit can be awarded
F	-	FAIL – considerable further work is required

(5) **ECTS credits:**

1 full academic year = 60 credits

1 semester = 30 credits

1 term/trimester = 20 credits