

COLÁISTE NÁISÚNTA EALAÍNE IS DEARTHATHA
NATIONAL COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN
A Recognised College of the National University of Ireland
Coláiste Aitheanta d'Ollscoil na hÉireann

DEPARTMENT OF FINE PRINT
QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Recommendation (or group of recommendations) in Peer Review Group Report	Department Response/Action to recommendation	Faculty Response/Action to recommendation	Responsibility	Timeframe/ Status (from – to)	Issues for Decision by An Bord (if applicable)
1. Drawing workshops are already provided and the PRG commends the foresight of the Department, however the PRG feels that demands of this type from students come and go as fashion dictates and the Department should review the curriculum on an on-going basis.	Drawing workshops exist within and across the Fine Art Faculty twice weekly. There is a strong drawing emphasis within the content of modules and projects as the Department views drawing in its widest sense as a fundamental academic requirement. An annual drawing workshop at the Royal College of Surgeons is hosted by Fine Print. The Department is continuously reviewing the curriculum and the QA exercise and Modularisation encourage this ongoing review.	The Faculty supports the drawing workshops but questions whether one Department should cover the cost – this will be divided between the Departments in the future.	Department	In place and ongoing	N/A
2. New technology has been well-provided for but wet photography is too specialised and “old-fashioned” a technique to be invested in to the detriment of other photo-mechanical methods.	Digital/media and new technologies skilling are built into yr 2 studio modules. Small yr 2 groups are now introduced to the print media lab, during the first term. The need for Fine Print students and indeed all Fine Art students to understand/explore “wet photography” has been identified by student feedback. In previous years students were able to participate in an elective in photography. This is no longer possible and the Department views this as unsatisfactory. We do not agree that it is old fashioned or too specialised. Student demand shows that there is a fundamental need to provide this. Faculty discussion needs to take place on this issue.	The NCAD Photography Committee is currently looking at the photography issue College-wide. Interested Departments will explore delivery of photography modules	Department, Faculty and Photography Committee	Decision will be reached by December 2006	N/A

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3. The PRG commends the Health & Safety manual provided to the students, however the manual should be supported by further workshops in Health & Safety on an on-going basis so that students are well-versed in Health & Safety matters and the possibilities of using the workshops outside of College hours in the future is then open to them.	Each student is now given an H&S sheet and required to sign off on having read and understood and abide by contents and good workshop practice. H&S is now built into the curriculum and encouraged within everyday workshop practice. After Autumn term and having completed skill modules, yr 2 students are deemed academically fit to utilise the print workshop after timetabled hours. Access after hours for yrs 3 + 4 is accepted.	Faculty supports this development	Department	In place	N/A
4. Discussion regarding the start of Year 4 identified problems with students working strategies. Some students seem to be unfocussed and indecisive regarding the beginning of their final year. Student contracts as a requirement were sometimes difficult to resolve/complete.	Current yr 3 students will be required to have work contracts available for group discussion during first week of Autumn term Oct 2006. They will be informed of this requirement in May 2006 assessments period and are expected to work during the summer break to plan for yr 4. Research strategies will be identified and all final year students will present a focussed and coherent set of aims and objectives for discussion.	At the May assessments, 3 rd year students will submit proposals for 4 th Year. Faculty has agreed that the term 'contract' will be changed to 'proposal'	Yr 4 coordinator	May 2006 for October 2006.	N/A
5. <i>Some confusion can exist where individual students are given a variety of tutorial views.</i> We must make the diverse views of staff a positive and challenging experience for students. We will create the opportunity for individual students to be discussed within a group scenario. We will provide a chart of tutorial contact so that staff and students can see a record of meetings and enable a more efficient timetable and record to be kept.	<p>a) Yr 4 already has group discussion on individual work practices. To be extended to yr 3 2006. Chart now in place to record personal tutorial contact in yr 4. More efficient spread chart to be designed to record student/staff contact. HOD at end of each term analyses chart contents to provide term record of student/ staff contact.</p> <p>b) Yr 2 now holds staff/student group discussions on Spring term project. The department believes that a range of views is academically challenging and necessary for students.</p> <p>c) The Department urgently requires a Seminar Room. It is difficult to timetable group/year events without such a facility.</p>	<p>a & b) Agreed as good practice</p> <p>c) Faculty support the requirement and undertakes to produce a document in argument for a Fine Print seminar room.</p>	<p>a) & b) Department.</p> <p>c)Head of Department/ Head of Faculty</p>	<p>a) In place and to be extended to yr 3 in academic year 2006/2007.</p> <p>b) Implemented March 2006</p> <p>c) October 2007</p>	c) Space/funding required for Seminar Room

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<p>6. The PRG encourages the development of a national/international centre of excellence within Fine Print. The Department is well-placed to become a centre of excellence with collaborations already in place with many Dublin Print Studios and workshops and good facilities within the Department. The Department should research into external funding possibilities to further develop this idea. This could, in the long-run become a “win/win” situation for NCAD and other Art Colleges within Ireland and could attract important artists, curators and critics to the College.</p>	<p>Fine Print staff are highly proactive in research. There needs to be an NCAD-wide discussion on many issues with regard to research/ funding/ reward/ income generation and the creation of discreet centres for interested staff to operate in with research projects. There needs to be an infrastructure in place - gallery/accommodation/funding - to generate visiting artist and project development. Collaboration already exists with other international colleges through joint print projects (06-University of Buffalo NY) and Graphic Studio Dublin. The question of income generation needs to be discussed Faculty-wide.</p>	<p>A Research Committee already exists.</p> <p>The Faculty will set up a Sponsorship committee during the next academic year.</p>	<p>HRPGD/ Faculty/ Department</p>	<p>October 2006</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>7. The PRG encourages the Department to aggressively seek sources of external funding through collaborations with community and business.</p>	<p>As above recommendation NCAD needs to address research and income generation. Faculty-wide discussion needs to take place. The Department is cautious about income generation as there could be an impact on academic issues.</p>	<p>As in item 6, the Faculty will set up a Sponsorship committee during the next academic year.</p>	<p>HRPGD/ Faculty/ Department</p>	<p>September 2006</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>8. Colour is important for lithography and it should be provided free for proof-prints. Colour lithography should be included in the modular programme.</p>	<p>a) There is at present the facility to work with colour in lithography.</p> <p>b) The Department will build into the third year programme (modular rewrite 06-07) a specific project that investigates Science and Implication/ use of Colour within Printmaking-etching/lithography/screen-printing/ Digital.</p>	<p>The Faculty supports these developments.</p>	<p>Department</p>	<p>a) In place</p> <p>b) 06-07 implementation</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>9. The College should provide basic safety equipment for students e.g. chemical gloves, dust-masks for aquatint.</p>	<p>The Department already supplies basic safety equipment.</p> <p>As in point 1.5 an H & S sheet is given to every student using the workshop and they are required to sign off on the contents.</p>	<p>The Faculty supports these developments.</p>	<p>Department</p>	<p>In place for 2005/06 academic year</p>	<p>N/A</p>

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<p>10. The PRG would like to see the recommendations contained herein addressed, not only by Fine Print, but also by the whole Faculty and encourage a shorter time-frame between the reviews of the Fine Art Faculty so that a Faculty-wide development plan can be introduced and implemented. The PRG are aware of the different ideologies contained within the separate areas of Fine Art that can engender different views but believe that the Faculty should work together to overcome these differences to move forward coherently and collaboratively. What the departments are providing are different instruments for art but the Faculty should have a holistic vision and strategy for the future.</p>	<p>The Department agrees to participate in Faculty wide discussion on forward planning /development plans. We feel it is inevitable and positive that diverse views exist within departments and within the Faculty relating to the range of options offered to students.</p>	<p>The Faculty discusses a wide range of issues at Faculty forum and Faculty Board.</p>	<p>Department and Faculty</p>	<p>In place</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>11. The Fine Print staff displayed an open-minded attitude with regard to postgraduate research students practice within the Faculty and the PRG would encourage other departments within the faculty to engage in a similar manner with the postgraduate research initiative which provides students with valuable development opportunities.</p>	<p>We are encouraged by this observation to our open-minded approach to postgraduate research student practice.</p> <p>We are positive that this open mindedness exists across the Faculty as a whole.</p>	<p>Postgraduate development is an initiative the whole Faculty engages with.</p>	<p>Department/ MFA Committee</p>	<p>In place</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>12. In order to address issues that have arisen through the QA process and outside of the process, the PRG recommends a yearly review of the curriculum by the whole Faculty of Fine Art to agree on further developments and changes to the curriculum.</p>	<p>The Department views an annual review as unnecessary. Issues within QA need time to be implemented and assessed. There exists a timetable for Fine Art departments to be QA reviewed. Fine Print was the first. A review of the whole Faculty will occur at some future date.</p>	<p>There is a quinquennial review of each undergraduate course already in place.</p>	<p>Across NCAD</p>	<p>In place</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>13. It is important for the Department to be a knowledge-bank of print and not look too much at the whims of fashion, but develop a good strategy for what printmaking can provide for art. This strategy must be supported by the Faculty as a whole and communication between the Departments is imperative to develop an art strategy that the whole Faculty can embrace.</p>	<p>We actively avoid fashion dictated academic provision. Whilst it is crucial to maintain an up-to-date academic provision within the curriculum we cannot deliver everything. We are able with the range of expertise currently with Fine Print staff to be up to date within art practice contexts.</p>	<p>Communication already exists within the Faculty on a formal as well as informal level.</p> <p>Staff often interface across departments to assist students.</p>	<p>Department and Faculty</p>	<p>In place</p>	<p>N/A</p>

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<p>14. Students should be encouraged by the Department and Faculty to take part in the Erasmus programme and the Faculty should provide full information to students even at the beginning of Year 2 so that students can prepare themselves for the challenge that Erasmus offers and take part in the educational benefits that Erasmus provides.</p>	<p>a) We would concur that information needs to be in place earlier so that students are totally aware of the Erasmus programme and its potential for them. As Erasmus is Faculty-wide there needs to be a timetabled Erasmus information package designed for students at the earliest opportunity.</p> <p>b) All Fine Print students are encouraged to consider Erasmus. Because of space restrictions we usually accept three students from overseas and a similar number from within the Department going out.</p> <p>c) Each Erasmus student from overseas will now be requested to give a short presentation on their art practice and College of study to our Yr 2 Fine Print students during Spring term.</p>	<p>a) An Erasmus sub-committee will be set up to include 2nd and 3rd year tutors and the Erasmus coordinators. The sub-committee will inform students of their options, coordinate exchanges and review placements.</p>	<p>Faculty and Erasmus coordinators.</p>	<p>a) 2006-07</p> <p>c) Initiated in March 2006</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>15. The relationship between postgraduate research students and the undergraduate cohort could be strongly enhanced by postgraduate studentships, whereby postgraduate students give talks to undergraduates on their practice and techniques. This could be programmed into the new modular structure. This would provide very real benefits to undergraduate students but also provide postgraduate students with important interaction with the Fine Print Department and art pedagogy in general.</p>	<p>a) We will timetable MA/Undergraduate interface for 06-07.</p> <p>b) Perhaps the MA seminar programme could also be opened up to undergraduates so that all department students link within the MA programme.</p>	<p>The Faculty supports this initiative.</p>	<p>a) Department</p> <p>b) Department and Faculty</p>	<p>a) 2006-07</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>16. A thorough review of Research within Fine Art, the establishing of groups/centres within Departments and a Fine Art Research Centre is recommended.</p>	<p>The Department agrees.</p>	<p>Fine Art Faculty agrees.</p>	<p>Faculty</p>	<p>June 2008</p>	<p>N/A</p>

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17. More “common elements” across Departments is recommended, Joint projects, regular joint seminars and a programmed access for all interested students to regularly operate within other departments.	The nature of a modular structure (yr 2 + yr 3 rewrites) encourages choice. How common elements are addressed after year 2 needs to be discussed at Faculty level. However there needs to be careful consideration given to the implementation of pre-requisites to ensure academic coherence and to address H & S matters and sound workshop practice.	Joint elective modules are now in place in 2 nd and 3 rd year.	Department and Faculty	2006-07	N/A
18. A strategy on income generation should be devised within Fine Art linked to research/entrepreneurial activities.	Discussion Faculty-wide needs to occur. NCAD policy on income generation needs to be in place. The Department is cautious with regard to income generation as academic issues we feel should take priority.	Fine Art Faculty is developing external collaborations with a view to income generation. See items 6 & 7.			N/A
19. The PRG recommends using all available means to publish the research profiles of Fine Art staff - website, and hard copy circulation, regular strategic and minuted meetings within the Faculty and across other Faculties.	The newly upgraded website now publishes all news and research by staff in Fine Print and profiles for Fine Print staff are complete and on the website.	Faculty welcomes the upgraded website.	Department	Complete and updated regularly	N/A
20. The Faculty should also consider strengthening external collaborations with communities, education and business and disseminate the information gained through these collaborations.	Community active projects exist now within the Faculty, Fine Print students participate in year 3.	Faculty actively seeks and participates in external collaborations.	Department and Faculty	Ongoing	N/A
21. The PRG recognises the budgetary limitations of the Faculty in appointing a full-time I.T. technician. The PRG recommends utilising the Staff Development Fund to upgrade the I.T. skills of existing staff.	A p/t IT technical advisor is now in place 3 hours timetabled per week. All staff wish to upgrade IT skills on a continuing basis.	Faculty supports staff development and agrees to staff upgrading their skills through the Staff Development initiative.	Department	Current	N/A

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22. The need to academically link the MA and BA (Hons) programmes with Joint seminars and a far greater set of mechanisms to allow for the cross fertilisation of the two awards. At QA meetings, a two-pathways BA was suggested - Specialist/Interdisciplinary, (interdisciplinary Years 2 & 3, specialist Year 4). Further discussion with Faculty can develop this idea.	QA identified the need to look at pathway strategies at post graduate level. Through the existing course structure and future rewrites with modularisation, undergraduate pathways might be considered.	Faculty will schedule discussions on inter-disciplinary (5 th pathway) MFA's.		Discussion to take place in 2006/07	N/A
23. The PRG recognises the space limitations in Fine Print and recommends a Faculty-wide review of available space with a view to re-organising existing space to address any inequities between students in the Faculty. Fine Print could also review the students' individual space – a more open-plan studio for all years might allow more space for each student with, for example, “working walls” for the students to use which could be taken down or moved as wished to allow for a more flexible studio space.	Space is currently a major concern. Our numbers are stable and our space provision within Fine Art (including workshop) is inequitable. We believe we have less space than most departments within the Faculty. Students request individual studio spaces-they would not support open plan studio provision. The workshop currently operates two walls as showing space - the corridor wall space is a possible addition should the College agree. A new gallery provision within NCAD would also provide much needed showing space.	Faculty will carry out a review of space	Head of Faculty	Academic year 2006/2007	N/A
24. A seminar room should be available and accessible on a scheduled basis for the whole Faculty.	The Fine Print department feel that a seminar room is urgently required. There is a Fine Art Seminar room but it is heavily booked.	See item 5, point c).	Department and Faculty	October 2007	Space/funding required for Seminar Room
25. The PRG recommends the consideration of an Artist in Residence programme for the Faculty. An Artist in Residence programme would provide a different point of view and a point of contact between the external world and the academic world to the benefit of students. The visiting lecturer's programme should be further developed to include professional practitioners working within the art world. The programme could then be opened up to all college students and could encourage collaboration between faculties.	Department would wish to invite artists to work in the studios and to add to the curriculum. At present there is no infrastructure in place to deliver an artist-in-residence provision. A possible open and competitive residency programme could be implemented. All our invited guest lecturers are professional practitioners. We are now more actively participating in the list for Thursday lecture invites.	The Faculty is currently discussing the feasibility of an artist-in-residence programme. NCAD needs to address Studio and accommodation provision/ Exhibition Space.	Faculty and NCAD	Academic year 2006/2007	Resources required for an exhibition space.

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<p>26. The PRG agrees that further discussion is required between the Faculty of Fine Art and Visual Culture to resolve the increasing division between theory and practice and to combine the two elements of the programme. The history of Printmaking is provided by the tutors in the Department to the benefit of the students and should continue in this manner. A more formal and structured method of communication needs to be implemented between Fine Print and Visual Culture to address the many issues that have arisen through the QA process. Communication methods need to be further formalised between staff/students, staff/staff, Department/Faculty and Management/Department. It is important that all areas of the College are aware of what is being discussed and implemented across College.</p>	<p>The Department wishes for the History of Printmaking to be part of the Visual Culture curriculum. The importance of an historical context for printmaking must be acknowledged. Whilst the Department strives to relate/integrate historical contexts within the studio teaching, this theory to practice interface must be developed also within Visual Culture.</p> <p>A discussion took place between the Head of Visual Culture and the Head of Fine Print on 4/4/06. The relevant sections of the QuIP had previous to the meeting been forwarded to Visual Culture for their views regarding discrete History of Printmaking curriculum content to be incorporated. Generally staff consensus was positive with the following outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Visual Culture curriculum is under continuous review and recommendations within Fine Print QA document relating to printmaking might be incorporated as part of review process. • It was recommended that a Visual Culture staff representative be present at Fine Art Faculty Forums to enable communication between faculties to be strengthened. • The academic status of students within Fine Print relating to Visual Culture will be passed to the Head of Fine Print on a more regular basis. • Copies of marks will now be regularly sent to Fine Print. The thesis status of Fine Print students will be regularly given to the Head of Fine Print. 	<p>The Faculty welcomes Visual Culture's participation to Faculty Forum (1st stage).</p>	<p>Head of Faculty/Head of Department</p>	<p>Academic year 2006/2007</p>	<p>N/A</p>

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<p>27. The Visual Culture thesis requirement is one that cannot be resolved by the PRG; however the Faculty is encouraged to continue discussions with Visual Culture for a resolution. It would possibly be easier for the students if they could agree an abstract and supervisor with Visual Culture by the end of Year 3 so they could work on the Thesis during the summer and have less time and energy taken out of their final year studio work. Consideration could also be given to reducing the Thesis element for students undertaking the 80/20 course. The Graduation Show is important, not only to the students, but also for the reputation of the College as a whole. This is therefore an important issue to resolve.</p>	<p>The Department would welcome discussion at Faculty level to address the issue of studio implications of Thesis commitment.</p> <p>At the meeting referred to in the above recommendation, the following was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular Visual Culture/Faculty meetings need to be in place to identify problems. • Discussion on Thesis highlighted perceived concerns. College wide discussion should follow regarding weightings for thesis component of degree. • One suggestion was that the Thesis subject might reflect more on the studio concerns (issues relating to print process might be encouraged). • There already exists a comprehensive Thesis preparation timetable from Feb – May for 3rd years. The timetabled content from Introduction to Thesis title/proposal/tutorial demands a Thesis proposal decision be completed by May in year 3. • With the introduction of modularisation in third year, a half-module will be introduced for the Thesis proposal, preparation & research and one credit will be awarded. • The Thesis and concerns identified need further college wide discussion. 	<p>Further discussion with Visual Culture regarding the thesis requirement will take place.</p>	<p>Head of Faculty</p>	<p>Academic year 2006/2007</p>	<p>N/A</p>

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<p>28. Fine Print staff seem eager to develop the postgraduate side of the Department. The PRG feel that Fine Print must develop a coherent postgraduate strategy in collaboration with the Fine Art Faculty, the Design Faculty and the Head of Research and Postgraduate Development. Talks have already commenced regarding Postgraduate Taught Courses in collaboration with Visual Communication and the Faculty of Education and the PRG strongly recommends that these talks continue in order to develop original, contemporary and meaningful courses.</p>	<p>a) The Department recommends a pathway strategy to allow Fine Print students at postgraduate level to pursue print specific as well as wider concerns within the MA programme.</p> <p>b) The Department also recommends “team interview “and perhaps “team reviews” to allow for overall MA cohort interaction.</p> <p>c) The Department would encourage discussion regarding interfaculty postgraduate cooperation. This already exists with Visual Communication where an MA student is regularly utilising expertise within Fine Print.</p>	<p>a) Faculty opinion is divided and further discussion will take place</p> <p>b) Faculty opinion is divided on this recommendation and further discussion must take place to reach agreement.</p> <p>c) Faculty supports this initiative</p>	<p>a) Head of Department/ Head of Faculty/Head of Research</p> <p>b) Head of Department</p> <p>c) Head of Faculty</p>	<p>a, b, c) Agreement to be reached by May 2007</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>29. The provision of an NCAD exhibition space and a Student Exhibition space</p>	<p>The Department fully concurs.</p>	<p>The College development plan includes provision of an exhibition space.</p>	<p>NCAD management</p>		<p>Space and funding issues</p>
<p>30. The PRG commends the idea of establishing common interest groups and the sharing of academic interests across NCAD.</p>	<p>The Department would encourage the setting up of “research centres”/ “common interest groups” within the Faculty.</p>	<p>Faculty and HIRPGD to discuss and implement.</p>	<p>Head of Faculty/Head of Department/ Head of Research</p>	<p>Discussion will take place over 2007 - 2008</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>31. The provision of a separate “Machine/Equipment” maintenance budget.</p>	<p>The Department has experienced ongoing problems with machine/plant breakdown. The unpredictability of these occurrences puts an unsatisfactory strain on the consumables budget.</p> <p>We would recommend a separate budget allocation to address inevitable machinery/resource repair or replacement.</p> <p>There will be issues with the Acid Room (upgrade urgently needed), Screen Dryer unit (overhaul or replacement) and possible press breakdown that cannot be addressed from our reduced consumables allocation.</p>	<p>Faculty agrees and will discuss with College management.</p>	<p>Department and College management</p>	<p>Term 1 of academic year 2006/2007</p>	<p>We will submit bids under Quality Improvement to address these issues</p>

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32. The PRG recognises and commends the dedication of the technical assistant in supporting the increased student cohort but also realises that funding may not be available to appoint a further technical assistant. The Fine Print team have a responsibility to ensure that the workload does not overburden the technical assistant to the detriment of the students.	The Department recognises the work done by the Fine Print Technician. The Department seeks parity with other workshop areas and requests an additional part-time post to address current Technician workload.	Faculty agrees.	Head of Faculty	Long-term	Will need approval of An Bord
33. The PRG found a lack of transparency in the budget allocation which should be addressed by management and the Faculty. In order to plan and improve, staff need to know what money is available for the academic year and at any given time throughout the year, and where it has been allocated e.g. staff, materials, capital.	<p>a) There is a new Budget allocation process now in place whereby budgets are allocated directly to Departments rather than the Faculty. The lack of transparency is now addressed through the new procedures initiated in 2006.</p> <p>Monthly statements will be provided to departments.</p> <p>b) However because the Fine Print department is by its nature “consumable intensive” there needs to be a transparent and appropriate transfer of funds generated by the voucher system back to the Department.</p>	<p>a) The new process is working well.</p> <p>b)The voucher system will remain in place with generated funding issuing to the Department</p>	<p>Head of Department</p> <p>b) Head of Faculty</p>	<p>a) Implemented</p> <p>b) April 2006</p>	N/A