

University Certificate in Jewellery and Object Design AD097

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATIONS

Programme title	Jewellery and Object Design	School	School of Education
Resulting awards	University Certificate in Jewellery and Object Design	Head of School	Professor Dónal O'Donoghue
Level	7	ECTS credits¹	20
University award	University Certificate	Programme type	Part-time
Programme Co-ordinator	Dr Nuala Hunt	External Examiner	tbc
Programme team	Aisling Higgins and expert panel		

1. Programme Aims and Objectives: Purpose, Vision and Values

The University Certificate in Jewellery and Object Design offers students an opportunity to experience the potential of making through sustained engagement with ideas, materials, design processes and technology. Jewellery and Object design shapes contemporary culture, as it reflects developments in society including material, political, social and cultural change. Established jewellery designers such as Gijs Bakker, Emmy van Leersum, Claus Bury and Paul Derrez have informed contemporary designers by investigating the concerns and concepts of the contemporary maker.

This programme introduces students to traditional and contemporary concerns underpinning jewellery design and encourages students to acquire skills, techniques and an understanding of the processes used in the fabrication of metal and jewellery design. Students are encouraged to draw on their experiences and knowledge for inspiration in the design and making of objects. Exploration of precious metals and non-precious materials will feature. Through a combination of guided practical demonstrations, workshops, tutorials and seminars, students will engage in ideas and skills development used in the construction of contemporary jewellery.

The aims of the programme are to:

- Explore ideas and apply problem-solving approaches to designs,
- Demonstrate experimentation with relevant materials and techniques,
- Acquire knowledge and skills applicable to object making for design,
- Increase awareness of design concepts informed by sustainable development goals within a global context.

¹ European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System, where 60 ECTS credits equate to the workload of a full-time academic year

The objectives of the programme are to:

- Explore ideas and design processes within an emergent professional practice,
- Demonstrate appropriate research skills and knowledge applicable to design,
- Examine concepts and relate these to designing objects in a contemporary context,
- Develop a reflexive approach to project work,
- Plan and complete a project brief,
- Communicate effectively ideas underpinning studio work,
- Be aware of developments in technology and the implications for an emergent professional practice in design.

2. Programme Outcomes

Graduating students will be able to work independently, participate in group exhibitions and organise small-scale group shows.

They will be able to communicate the ideas informing their work effectively to peers, and locate their emerging practice within contemporary design.

On successful completion of the programme, students will be able to:

- Explore a range of materials and techniques and apply them to jewellery making,
- Select appropriate materials suited to the design process,
- Demonstrate a research methodology and apply it within a design process,
- Translate ideas from notebooks into project proposals,
- Refine a design and follow it through from conception to production,
- Select and present a coherent body of work for display.

3. Admission Requirements

This programme is suitable for individuals who are mature and 21 years of age at the time of entry.

Students must show basic drawing skills, and an understanding of visual research processes for design. Prior to entry, applicants must be familiar with basic jewellery-making and metalwork techniques, such as piercing, use of pliers, filing, emerying and soldering. To acquire these skills, students should have completed a short course in jewellery-making with CEAD or another further or continuing education provider. A desire to explore materials and ideas within a contemporary context is important for students applying to the programme.

English language competence

Programmes are taught through English at NCAD. All applicants are required to demonstrate a high level of competence in English language to be admitted. Applicants who have not passed English as a subject in the Irish Leaving Certificate Examination must provide evidence of equivalent competence in English language through their school leaving examination, or matriculation

examination, or by achieving the minimum standard in a recognised English language test, such as an IELTS average score of 6.5 over all components and a minimum of 6.0 in each band on the Academic Version. See [NCAD website](#) for full details.

4. Further Educational Opportunities

Students who wish to progress within NCAD are eligible to apply for CEAD1001 Theories and Concepts in Critical Cultures (5 credits) and CEAD1002 Professional Practice 1 (5 credits), both included in the Visual Arts Practice programme. On successful completion of these modules, students would then be eligible to apply for the (parttime) Higher Diploma in Art. Graduates of the Higher Diploma may be eligible to apply for advanced entry to NCAD's BA in Design (fulltime) programme.

5. Teaching and Learning

Group critiques, individual presentations, peer learning and group display of final project work, are a feature of teaching and learning within the programme. Demonstrations, seminars, projects, group discussions, tutorials, peer presentations, and dialogue, form part of the teaching and learning strategies employed. A series of sequential projects will feature within the programme. Students are encouraged to actively engage in dialogue with peers, tutors and visiting lecturers. The teaching strategies support student-centred and problem-solving approaches. The programme includes studio-based learning and supports independent and self-directed learning.

In the early stages of the programme, student presentations, combined with participation in small group critiques, will support students to gain confidence and enhance individual communication skills. Critical and analytical skills will be enhanced as the programme progresses through engagement with research, experimentation and application to practice.

6. Methods of Assessment

Both formative and summative assessment feature within the programme. Assessments are scheduled at the end of the trimester. Students will be advised on their progress and receive written and oral feedback on a continuous basis. Feedback will be provided in a timely manner.

Individual assessment, as well as a group-based exhibition will feature. Students will make individual oral presentations, and participate in studio critiques, and student-led presentations. Students will present a range of studio outcomes including notebooks, drawings, objects, and artefacts. Students will present work for exhibition and dissemination. Final studio assessment includes displaying a coherent body of work which demonstrates; research processes, explores a theme in-depth.

7. Programme Review and Evaluation

A student forum will be convened to gather students' comments about their learning experience and engagement with the programme. In addition, towards the end of final trimester of the academic year, students have the opportunity to complete an online evaluation of their study and experience at NCAD. These evaluation events are important to current and future students, to ensure we can enhance the delivery of programmes at NCAD.

NCAD students also participate in the Irish Survey of Student Engagement, which takes place in the middle of the Spring Trimester. This international project measures students' engagement with their studies.

In addition, you are invited to discuss your experience on the programme with your lecturers at any point during the year. You can also relay your comments to the class student representative who will communicate your comments to the staff.

A major review of this programme will be carried out in 2026.

8. Modular Provision

Module	Credits	Core or Option	Trimester
Year 1			
CEAD1025 Introduction to Design Practice	5	C	1
CEAD1026 Materials & Processes	5	C	1
CEAD1027 Research & Object Design	10	C	2

9. Programme Structure

Year 1: Autumn Trimester	
CEAD1025 Introduction to Design Practice 5 Credits	CEAD1026 Materials & Processes 5 Credits
Year 1: Spring Trimester	
CEAD1027 Research & Object Design 10 Credits	

10. Exit Points and Credit Requirements

Students who successfully complete the three modules in the programme, accruing 20 credits will be considered for the award of the University Certificate in Jewellery and Object Design.

11. Resources

Staffing

Name	Title/Role
Teaching Staff	
Aisling Higgins	Lecturer
Administrative Staff	
Shaunagh McGee	Administrator
Technical Support Staff	
tbc	tbc

Space

Jewellery and Object area

Facilities

Ceramics & Glass & Metals area

**For further information on this programme,
contact CEAD Admissions Administrator: cead@staff.ncad.ie**