National College of Art and Design
A Recognised College of University College Dublin

Visual Arts Practice
AD094

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATIONS

Programme title	Visual Arts Practice	**School**	School of Education
Resulting awards	University Certificate in Visual Arts Practice	**Head of School**	Professor Dervil Jordan
Level	Level 7 on the National Framework of Qualifications	**ECTS credits**[1]	30 credits
University award	University Certificate	**Programme type**	Undergraduate level 7 certificate delivered part-time over one to three years
Programme Co-ordinator	Nuala Hunt	**External Examiner**	Tbc
Programme team	Nuala Hunt and panel of expert lecturers		

1. Programme Aims and Objectives

The Visual Arts Practice programme provides mature students with an opportunity to experience the potential of visual arts practice through sustained engagement with materials, techniques, processes and disciplinary contexts. Students are encouraged to draw on their experiences to generate ideas and become involved with developments in contemporary visual arts.

The aims of the programme are to:

- Explore ideas and apply problem solving approaches to visual arts and design,
- Demonstrate experimentation with materials,
- Acquire knowledge and skills in a disciplinary domain,
- Examine theories and ideas underpinning contemporary visual arts practice.

The objectives of the programme are to:

- Encourage students to explore ideas and processes as part of an evolving practice,
- Develop appropriate research skills and apply to practice,
- Examine ideas and theories and relate these to an emergent practice,
- Develop a reflexive approach to project work,
- Plan and carry out a project,
- Communicate effectively ideas underpinning your studio work.

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

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2. Programme Outcomes

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

- Explore a range of materials and techniques and apply to practice,
- Research and select appropriate materials for project work,
- Demonstrate a research methodology and apply to practice,
- Translate ideas from notebooks into project proposals,
- Apply conceptual skills in the realisation of projects,
- Present a coherent body of work for display,
- Critically analyse key concepts and ideas in visual culture,
- Locate an emerging practice in the context of contemporary visual arts practice.

Graduating students will be able to work independently, participate in group exhibitions and organise small group shows. They will be able to communicate the ideas informing their work effectively to peers and locate their emerging practice within contemporary visual arts practice.

3. Admission Requirements

The programme is open to mature students who have turned 23 on or before 1 January of the year in which they wish to commence study on the programme, and who have experience in art, design, or photography either from completing a summer or short course at NCAD, or completing a module on the Visual Arts Practice programme as audit only, or have similar experience. Leaving Certificate or FETAC or equivalent is a requirement for entry.

To apply for entry to the programme, applicants must complete a written application form. Applicants must also demonstrate that they will be able to manage the academic writing elements of the programme.

Applicants may also submit a portfolio to have previous learning or experience recognised (RPL) to fulfil entry criteria. Students can also apply for recognition of prior learning for any of the modules, to a maximum of 10 credits of the programme.

4. Further Educational Opportunities

Students who successfully complete the Visual Arts Practice programme can apply for entry to the part-time Diploma in Art & Design. Successful completion of the Diploma allows graduates to apply for Higher Diploma in Art & Design (planned for 2019), which in turn provides an opportunity for successful students to apply for entry to Stage 3 of NCAD BA in Fine Arts.

5. Teaching and Learning Methodologies

Small group critiques, individual presentations, peer learning and group display of final project work, feature within the programme. Teaching and learning strategies include; lectures, demonstrations,

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seminars, as well as group discussion. Studio critiques and student presentations will encourage dialogue, peer learning and active participation amongst students.

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

6. Methods of Assessment

The programme uses both summative and formative assessment throughout each module, to ensure students are well informed of their progress. Summative assessment contributes to final results of a module, whereas formative assessment provides more immediate advice on student's progress, and identifies where students need to focus more effort.

Assessments are scheduled throughout each module, to ensure workload is spread evenly across the programme. Each assessment is focused on the achievement of the module learning outcomes. Students will receive verbal and written feedback and their work will be graded using NCAD's grade descriptors. Results are communicated to students as an alpha grade (A+ to D- are passing grades).

Assessment tasks vary, depending on the module. Studio practice modules involve; projects, drawings, animation, video, paintings, artefacts, sculpture, installation, group critiques and student-led presentations. Final assessment includes displaying studio project works. Assessments in the Visual Culture module will include a review of an exhibition or other art event, and a written assignment.

7. Programme Review and Evaluation

It is important to NCAD that students inform the development of teaching and learning at NCAD. We encourage all students to communicate their concerns and their observations about their study to members of staff so that any changes can be made in a timely manner.

About two-thirds of the way through the trimester, a student forum will be convened to gather students' comments about their study and the delivery of the programme. In addition, at the end of the spring trimester, 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.

In addition, you are invited to discuss your experience on the module 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.

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8. Modular Provision

Students complete *CEAD1001 Theories and Concepts in Critical Cultures* and *CEAD1002 Professional Practice 1* (5-credit core modules), and select two 10-credit studio-based modules, one from each of the following two groups:

Group 1: Drawing Processes

CEAD1003 Drawing Techniques
CEAD1004 Drawing Print and Mixed Media
CEAD1005 Extending a Visual Language
CEAD1006 Sculpture and Drawing
CEAD1007 Exploring Creative Embroidery

Group 2: Discipline Experience

CEAD1008 Materials, Techniques and Language of Painting
CEAD1009 Painting and Visual Research
CEAD1010 Ceramics
CEAD1011 Printed Textile Design
CEAD1012 Jewellery and Object Design
CEAD1013 Bronze Casting as a Sculptural Process

9. Programme Structure

Autumn Trimester	Spring Trimester
CEAD1001 Theories and Concepts in Critical Cultures 5 credits	CEAD1002 Professional Practice 1 5 credits

Select two from the following optional modules, one from each group
All modules are 10 credits, delivered over two trimesters

Group 1: Drawing Processes	Group 2: Discipline Experience
CEAD1003 Drawing Techniques	CEAD1008 Material, Techniques and Language of Painting
CEAD1004 Drawing Print and Mixed Media	CEAD1009 Painting and Visual Research
CEAD1005 Extending a Visual Language	CEAD1010 Ceramics
CEAD1006 Sculpture and Drawing	CEAD1011 Printed Textile Design
CEAD1007 Exploring Creative Embroidery	CEAD1012 Jewellery and Object Design
	CEAD1013 Bronze Casting as a Sculptural Process

10. Exit Points and Credit Requirements

N/A

11. Final Award Calculation

To qualify for the award of the Certificate in Visual Arts Practice, students must successfully complete the core and optional modules as specified in the programme document to accrue a total of 30 ECTS credits.

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12. Resources

a) Staffing

	Name	Role
Teaching Staff	Felicity Clear, Beth O'Halloran, Bernie Markey, Tadhg McGrath, Vivian Hansbury, Jackie Duignan, Barbara Dunne, Anne-Marie Keaveney, Fiona Loughnane, Brigitta Seck, Rosemary Cullen, Mel Bradley, Mary Burke, Ken Donfield, Erika Marks,	Programme lecturers, Module co-ordinators
Admin Staff	Fiona Cleary	Student Services
Technical Support Staff	Triona Glennon, Jason Crowley	Technical support in printed textiles and casting

b) Space

Drawing/Painting studio, class room based spaces and seminar rooms

c) Facilities

Print room- jewellery workshop, lecture theatre, library, plaster room

For further information on this programme contact cead@staff.ncad.ie

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