



PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION FORM

Programme Title:	MA Design History & Material Culture	Programme Type:	Postgraduate, full-time (1 year) or part-time (2 years).
Level (NQAI Framework):	9	Total no. of credits	90
University award	MA		
Programme Leader:	Dr Anna Moran	School	Visual Culture
Programme Team (Modular Coordinators)	Prof. Jessica Hemmings Dr Anna Moran Dr Lisa Godson Hilary O'Kelly Dr Paul Caffrey	Head of School	Prof. Jessica Hemmings
External Examiner and institution	Prof Penny Sparke, Professor of Design History and Director, Modern Interiors Research Centre, Kingston University, London.	Internal Examiner	Prof. Jessica Hemmings
Projected Student Numbers	10-15		

1. Aims and Objectives of the Programme

Introduction

The MA Design History & Material Culture (DHMC), delivered within the School of Visual Culture, builds upon the firm foundations established by the School's extensive undergraduate provision in the areas of design history and material culture, together with the School's newly introduced BA in Visual Culture. The MA DHMC draws on the wide ranging and internationally recognized expertise of its staff members in the areas of architectural history, dress history, contemporary craft practice and Irish material culture.

Established 2001 as the MA History of Design and Applied Arts, the course was reconfigured in 2005 into a 12 month full time / 24 month part time programme with an annual intake to be delivered on 2 days per week (full time) and one day per week (part time). This development was motivated by a need to provide multiple flexible access pathways for students in the form of part time and full time pathways, together with a need to integrate the programme within the emerging framework of taught and research postgraduate structures, in line with College's development strategy.

Named the MA DHMC from October 2006 onwards, the course has continued to attract students from a range of areas including art/design practice, architecture, art history, history, archaeology, sociology and economics. Graduates have gone on to pursue doctoral research, while others have secured positions in the field in the areas of lecturing, curatorship and museum education.

The MA DHMC is mainly comprised of modules delivered specifically for the DHMC programme. However, since 2006 a number of modules have been delivered in conjunction with the MA Art in the Contemporary World. Alongside this, modules have been delivered in partnership with other institutions, for example a material culture and anthropology module delivered in conjunction with the Department of

Anthropology at NUI Maynooth, and a module on objects and museology module delivered in partnership with the National Museum of Ireland.

As part of the 3+2 structure, it is envisaged that various connections and synergies will be created between the MA DHMC and other postgraduate programmes offered by the college, in particular postgraduate provision in the School of Design. The MA DHMC will be presented in a modular format which will facilitate crossovers between this and other programmes. The diagram presented in Section 9 of this form indicates the modules which may be taken by other postgraduate students in the college.

Programme aims

A key rationale of the MA DHMC is to bring scholarly attention to the study of design and material culture in Ireland from c. 1700 to the present day. This programme is unique nationally in addressing this subject area – history of design and material culture – and it is unique internationally in addressing a specifically Irish context. We consider ‘object’ and ‘material culture’ very broadly so they might be objects used in daily life, architecture, publications, sites, locations, landscapes, mass produced or handmade, old or new, little known or very familiar – anything which can be considered materially. Of particular interest are the relationships which exist between people and objects, the practices which surround how they are designed (or not), produced, interacted with, collected or disposed of.

The aims and objectives of the course are:

- To enable students to acquire a systematic knowledge of design history and material culture with particular reference to Irish design and material culture of the modern period, its critical contexts and the research processes appropriate to the study of design history and material culture.
- To enable students to generate original research, using primary sources where possible.
- To provide students with experience and competency in the study of, and the contextualisation of, material culture artefacts.
- To enable students to work authoritatively in theoretical and empirical areas of design history scholarship and material culture studies.
- To induct students into a professionalized research culture by providing students with access to the experience and skills not only of School members but also colleagues working in Ireland and abroad in areas of research, curatorship and production.

2. Programmes Outcomes

Upon completion the student should be able to:

- Demonstrate a systematic knowledge of design history and material culture with particular reference to Irish material and design culture of the modern period, its critical contexts and the research processes appropriate to the study of design history and material culture.
- Demonstrate a range of research competencies in the domain area and be able to generate original research using primary sources where possible.
- Demonstrate competency in the study of, and contextualisation of, material culture artefacts.
- Demonstrate the ability to work authoritatively in theoretical and empirical areas of design history scholarship and material culture studies.

3. Stage Outcomes

Semester 1:

On completion of the modules delivered in semester 1 the student should be able to:

- Demonstrate competency in the study of objects through completion of an essay based on one object.
- Demonstrate the ability to carry out primary and secondary research, and synthesise different types of sources in the context of object analysis.
- Demonstrate a critical literacy in the discourses of design history and material culture through class discussions and in written assignments.
- Demonstrate skill in preparing, writing and structuring written assignments.
- Demonstrate skill in communicating ideas, concepts and research through the preparation and delivery of a presentation using visual materials.

Semester 2:

On completion of the modules delivered in semester 2 the student should be able to:

- Demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the key theoretical models and research agendas employed in the interpretation of artefacts and systems.
- Produce a thorough research proposal, with a specific consideration of methodological issues.
- Demonstrate advanced critical literacy in the interpretation of design and material culture.
- Further develop competencies in writing about design and material culture, and writing as practice, particularly with reference to the range of different styles of writing which can be employed.
- Demonstrate competencies in delivering presentations through a work-in-progress presentation based on the student's proposed thesis subject.
- Demonstrate experience and competency in the application of interdisciplinary analytic constructs to the historical study of design, production and consumption (through the production of the assessment deliverable).

Semester 3: Dissertation

Upon completion the student should have:

- Completed a self-directed body of research presented as a research thesis.
- Developed and demonstrated competency in key research techniques.
- Demonstrated the ability to integrate a range of theoretical and empirical skills in a cohesive and ambitious project.
- Demonstrated skills, techniques and knowledge developed during semesters 1 and 2.

4. Admission requirements for the programme

BA Hons (2:2) in a related discipline. An appropriate level of professional practice in the subject field will also be taken into consideration.

The application procedure demands that applicants submit a sample of writing, together with a statement of interest in the programme. In addition, some applicants are interviewed.

**5. Further educational opportunities that may arise during or upon completion of the programme
e.g. Transition to Masters level study (+2)**

A number of MA DHMC graduates have proceeded to doctoral study in NCAD and elsewhere. DHMC graduates have been awarded prestigious doctoral funding via the Irish Research Council, together with institutional PhD funding provided by universities such as the Kingston University (UK), NUI Maynooth and University of Ulster.

**6. Major Teaching and Learning Methodologies: please specify the rationale for these.
e.g. Group Critiques in order to develop peer learning, communication skills, critical analysis and self-reflection**

The programme provides a broad research-led approach to the study of design history and material culture. The following teaching and learning methodologies are used:

Seminars: The seminars have a well defined focus, clearly related to the module aims and outcomes. Group discussions develop organically within the seminars, facilitating the development of peer learning, communication skills, critical analysis and self reflection. Seminars are based around key readings which the students read in advance.

Tutorials: The purpose of the tutorial is to provide students with an opportunity to discuss their work and progress with tutors. The aim of tutorials is to help students in the process of making choices and decisions in progressing development of their practical and academic project work. Student initiated projects are shaped, directed and managed through on-going dialogue with the supervisor.

Visiting Lectures: Practitioners and scholars are invited to present work, engage in discussions and debate, and to talk about aspects of research practice with the student cohort.

External Visits and Study Trips: External visits to museums for curator's talks and object handling sessions, together with attendance at conferences / symposia are recurring features of the learning experience.

7. Methods of Assessment: please specify the forms of assessment used on the programme and the rationale for these including how these forms of assessment align to programme outcomes

Class Presentation: Learners make short presentations as a normal part of the modules. For assessment purposes there will normally be a team of two assessors and the class peer group present. As part of the submission the learner is required to make available a copy of their presentation materials to the assessment team. Such presentations allow the student to demonstrate communication skills in relation to discussing design and material culture and the ability to use visual materials in the context of such discussion.

Research Proposal: Research proposals are required to be clearly structured and should include an abstract, a bibliography, and a statement of method. The proposal should include material indicating the research relevance of the topic. The preparation of a research proposal demonstrates an understanding of the research methodologies, the use of appropriate sources and a critical framework pertinent to the subject.

Essay: Essays are required to be clearly structured and should include a bibliography. Essay submission should conform to the standard style sheet requirements of research thesis. Essays should be submitted in hard copy. Written assignments demonstrate the acquisition of research techniques, understanding of

key movements and key concepts, and skills in object analysis. They also expose the student's skills in writing and structuring assignments, using primary and secondary sources, and articulating an argument which is argued throughout the essay.

Major Research : Typically this is a written thesis of 15-20,000 words in length. The dissertation facilitates the demonstration of research skills acquired, the ability to integrate a range of critical and empirical skills in a cohesive project and to demonstrate skills, techniques and knowledge developed during semesters 1 and 2.

8. Modular provision: please list modules available to students indicating which are core and which optional

All modules are core for MA DHMC students. Those followed by an asterisk can be taken by postgraduate students in the Fine Art, Education or Design Schools.

Semester 1: 30 Credits

Identities (Mondays, 12 weeks) (5 credit module)*

Design, Style and Industry (Mondays, 12 weeks) (5 credit module)*

Design and Material Cultures I (Fridays, 12 weeks) (5 credit module)

The Meaning of Things: Interpreting objects and spaces (Fridays, 12 weeks) (5 credit module)

Research Methods (Mondays, 12 weeks) (10 credit module)*

Semester 2: 30 Credits

Design and Material Cultures II (Fridays, 12 weeks] (5 credit module)*

Design, Technology and Society (Fridays, 12 weeks] (10 credit module)*

Material Modernities (Mondays, 12 weeks] (10 credit module)*

Design and Discourse (Mondays, 12 weeks] (5 credit module)

Semester 3: 30 Credits

Major Research Deliverable (30 credit module)

9. Programme Structure: please provide diagram indicating structure and modular content of the programme across its years

Full Time pathway

- There are no options - all full time DHMC students complete each module listed below.
- All modules are 12 weeks long
- Green shaded modules may be taken by MFA students in studio

Semester 1:	Research Methods (10) [Monday]	Identities (5) [Monday]	Design, Style and Industry (5) [Monday]	Design and Material Cultures I (5) [Friday]	The Meaning of Things: Interpreting Objects and Spaces (5) [Friday]
Semester 2	Material Modernities (10) [Monday]	Design and Discourse (5) [Monday]	Design and Material Cultures II (5) [Friday]	Design, Technology and Society (10) [Friday]	
Semester 3:	Dissertation (30)				

Part Time pathway

Semester 1:

Design and Material Cultures I (5)
[Friday]

The Meaning of Things: Interpreting Objects and Spaces (5)
[Friday]

Semester 2:

Design and Material Cultures II (5)
[Friday]

Design, Technology and Society (10)
[Friday]

Year 2

Semester 1:

Research Methods (10)
[Monday]

Identities (5)
[Monday]

Design, Style and Industry (5)
[Monday]

Semester 2:

Material Modernities (10)
[Monday]

Design and Discourse (5)
[Monday]

Semester 3:

Dissertation (30)

10. Please identify exit points, credit requirements at different stages of the programme :		
Postgraduate Diploma offered as exit award after successful completion of 60 credits (semester 1 and 2).		
11. Final Undergraduate Award Calculation - please select one option		
N/A	(1) final year only	
N/A	(2) final and penultimate years, stage-weighted. <i>(Please give details)</i>	
11 a. Final Postgraduate Award Calculation – please select one option		
	(1) final year only	
✓	(2) final and penultimate years The award of MA DHMC, and the final grade achieved by each student, is based on grades gained in assignments set during semesters 1, 2 and 3 (Major Deliverable). In the case of full time students, these are completed in one academic year but part time students attend the modules and complete all the necessary assignments over a two-year period. The weighting attached to the work completed is as follows: Semester 1 (30 Credits): 25% Semester 2 (30 Credits): 25% Semester 3 (30 Credits): 50%	
Special Programme/Module Derogations from University Regulations. <i>Areas requiring derogation include but are not restricted to those indicated below.</i>		
12. Module Derogations - Please identify any area a derogation is being sought from University regulations and explain the academic rationale for the proposed derogation.		
Issue	Derogation required	Academic regulation
<i>Credit value of module is greater than 5 ECTS credits.</i>	<i>Irregular Credit Value</i>	<i>Reg 1.3 An undergraduate module size of 5 ECTS credits is standard across the University.</i>
<i>Rationale: (please identify the module and explain the academic rationale for the proposed derogation)</i>	N/A	
Issue	Derogation required	Academic regulation
<i>The module will take place outside either the Autumn or Spring semester.</i>	Year Long Module OR Module Outside Semester OR	<i>Reg 2.1 The taught programmes of the University will normally be based on two teaching semesters (Autumn and Spring) per academic session. The teaching, learning and assessment activities associated with a module will normally be completed during one formal semester.</i>

	Module in Summer term	
Rationale: <i>(please identify the module and explain the academic rationale for the proposed derogation)</i>	N/A – Reg 2.1. continues “Graduate taught programme research activity and dissertation work need not be constrained by the dates of the formal teaching semesters, but for registration purposes, the credit associated with such activity will be assigned to the relevant semester/term.”	

Issue	Derogation required	Academic regulation
No electives places are available	No Elective Places	Reg 3.9.4 All undergraduate modules must offer a number of elective places to students from programmes other than the programme(s) for which the module may be core.
Rationale: <i>(please identify the module and explain the academic rationale for the proposed derogation)</i>	Exempt 2015 – 2016: Reg. 3.9.4 continues “Modules off-campus are exempt from the requirement to offer elective places.”	

13. Programme Derogations - Please identify any area a derogation is being sought from University regulations and explain the academic rationale for the proposed derogation.

Issue	Derogation required	Academic regulation
Timing of Exam Boards (e.g. no assessment of students at end of Semester 1)	Irregular Timing of Exams and Exam Boards	Reg 2.1 The taught programmes of the University will normally be based on two teaching semesters (Autumn and Spring) per academic session. The teaching, learning and assessment activities associated with a module will normally be completed during one formal semester. and 4.1 Assessments for a module should be completed during or as soon as practicable after completion of the module. and 5.9 Resit assessments may be offered during the summer term in exceptional circumstances and with the approval of the relevant University Programme Board.

Rationale: *(please explain the academic rationale for the proposed derogation)*

N/A

Issue	Derogation required	Academic regulation
Programme to have restricted or no elective places made available OR an elective pattern that differs from the norm.	Alternative Elective Provision	Reg 3.9.4 The University requires that each undergraduate bachelors degree programme specifies credits to a minimum of 30 ECTS as electives across the duration of the programme.

<i>Rationale: (please explain the academic rationale for the proposed derogation)</i>	Exempt 2015 – 2016. “Modules off-campus are exempt from the requirement to offer elective places.
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Issue	Derogation required	Academic regulation
<i>Honours Classification that differs from the norm</i>	<i>Honours Classification</i>	<i>Reg 6.3 The relevant Programme Examination Board will classify the overall awards within all of the University’s programmes according the bands set down by the Academic Regulations.</i>
<i>Rationale: (please explain the academic rationale for the proposed derogation)</i>	N/A	
15. Programme Review and Evaluation		
<p>a) Please Provide details of local programme and modular review processes:</p> <p>The programme is subject to NCAD annual internal reviews, and rigorous external review through external examiners and external programme, School and institutional review.</p>		
<p>b) Please provide details of central quality review processes including dates of projected review.</p> <p>To ensure that NCAD courses meet academic internal and external requirements and are responding to change, The NCAD Quality Assurance Framework concentrates on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Programmatic reviews <i>and</i> 2. Institutional review <p>All NCAD programmes are reviewed internally and annually through staff meetings, end of year meetings and student feedback.</p> <p>Postgraduate and end of year surveys of students are centrally reported in June/July of each year.</p>		
16. Resources		

	Name	Teaching hours per	Admin hours
Teaching Staff:	Dr Anna Moran	4	6
	Dr Lisa Godson	2	0
	Hilary O'Kelly	2	0
	Prof. Jessica Hemmings	2	0
	Dr Paul Caffrey	2	0
	PT - 20 th C graphic design history	12 (per annum)	0
	PT - 19 th C graphic design history	6 (per annum)	0
	PT - history of technology	12 (per annum)	0
	PT - history of interiors	4 (per annum)	0
		NOTE: The teaching hours of each lecturer vary from semester to	
Admin Staff:	Neasa Travers		4
Technical support	John O'Donnell		As required

b) Space: Please provide details of both department and central areas used in delivery of the programme (please append a timetable for the programme with room numbers identified)

The MA DHMC seminars take place in classrooms or lecture theatres which are fitted with IT projection facilities. While timetables and allocated rooms are subject to change every academic year, seminars on Monday mornings and Friday afternoons usually take place in HC 203, while Monday afternoon and Friday morning seminars take place in the Sybil Connolly Room.

The programme also draws heavily on relationships with the National Museum of Ireland at Collins Barracks, where a number of seminars take place, and other museums / archives where students consult objects and other primary sources at first hand.

c) Facilities: What specific facilities are used and required by the programme? Please provide details of studio, IT and other infrastructural facilities needed to deliver the programme.

Alongside the classrooms and lecture theatres mentioned above, the students draw on the NCAD library and its electronic resources, the NIVAL archive held at NCAD as well as other libraries listed in the ALCID network, of which NCAD is part.