

Applied Art Research and Discovery

FA2008

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

ECTS credits¹	20	Programme	BA Applied Art
NQF level	8	School	School of Fine Art
Stage	2	Module Co-ordinator	Dr Helen McAllister
Trimester	Autumn	Module Team	Applied Materials staff
Contact	Head of Department, Dr Helen McAllister: mcallsiterh@staff.ncad.ie		
Responsibility	The NCAD Academic Council and the School of Fine Art Culture Board have responsibility for this module.		

1. Introduction

Research and Discovery

This module is grounded in discipline practices and helps students to consider and frame ideas and work in relation to the discipline field and the wider context. In this module students will develop skills and abilities to generate and translate ideas for the emergent practice. The Module equips students with a range of important skills to support sustained studio practice (research generation, time management, practical and technical skill-sets). The module helps students gain confidence in critical decision making in relation to when, where and how to use various processes and skills. This module supports and is aligned to future sequential modules in Trimester 2 that informs an emerging 'maker' practice.

The aims of this module are to:

- Demonstrate the importance of generating primary Research.
- Demonstrate initiative and self-reliance.
- Engage in articulation of materials used, their 'materiality' and of processes relevant to theme, concept and idea.
- Engage with exploring, experimentation and 'testing' of processes utilised appropriate to the project aims.
- Underpin research with idea development and evaluation, presented in a cohesive 'narrative' of the process-driven methodology.

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

2. What will I learn?

On successful completion of this module students will be able to:

1. **RESEARCH:** Demonstrate the methodical approach whereby physical primary visual research underpins the process-driven making ethos of Applied Materials.
2. **PRODUCE:** Demonstrate a breadth and depth of experimentation, 'testing' of the potentials and properties of relevant materials and processes.
3. **EVALUATE** the discoveries of the visual research (which may take varied forms) and critically align with the 'materiality' of materials and processes utilised.
4. **COMMUNICATE:** Evidence the ability to imagine, envisage and produce an outcome that communicates intentions and concepts to an audience.

Module content

Research - This module introduces the student to the fundamentals of research. The research title or theme is the starting point to build a narrative around visual imagery that informs and influences the directions for the module. The research allows for individual interpretation and identifies interests and preferences with materials and processes.

Sampling and Experimentation - First trimester of 2nd year up-loads skills and processes - some identified as 'have to know', other skills allow for subsequent in-depth investigation reflecting individual interests. Like all forms of research - are constantly added too and augmented. This module balances the research theme or idea imperative with that of finding appropriate skills to answer the brief.

Depending on the Pathway - the sampling, experimentation and testing of the skill-set may form 'quick response' assignments that introduces different processes. In each case the skill being introduced is **responding to** and **influenced** by the initial research theme or title. This allows students to discover different materials and approaches can change the 'read' of the theme, often the unpredicted outcome is more successful which might not have surfaced otherwise.

Resolved - The emphasis in trimester 1, is 'how to research' and what we mean by the term 'process-driven'. Emphasis is on sampling, experimentation and risk-taking importance in the 'maker' process. Nevertheless, students are encouraged to produce or fabricate a final outcome. The envisaging, planning and problem-solving of the work should be made evident as part of the Research Notebook.

3. How will I learn?

In this module, you will learn through:

- Attending the course - how to time management – peer engagement.
- How to take an idea through process driven reiterations to final outcomes.
- Contextual exposure to on and off college events, exhibition, lectures and possible field trips.
- Tutorial dialogue with staff, feedback from Work-in-Progress Reviews, seminars, peer-sharing.

Learning tool	Hours
Lectures, seminars and demonstration	150
Autonomous Student Learning	250
Total Workload	400

4. What learning supports are provided?

The module is delivered by attendance in studio and workshop under tutorial guidance. Because of the up-loading of skills, this is an intensive Trimester, that takes students to time manage and keep up-to-date with the 'quick response' assignments of demos and workshops (these cannot be (easily) repeated if missed).

There is a mid-trimester Work-in-Progress Review – where any 'concerns' can be noted and remediated. If additional learning supports are required, this can be provided.

5. Am I eligible to take this module?

Module Requisites and Incompatibles

Pre-requisites	To study this module, students must have successfully completed Year 1 (total 60 credits) at NCAD, or have demonstrable equivalent study or experience.
Co-requisites	None
Incompatibles	None
Prior learning	Where a student can demonstrate that they have achieved at least 80% of the learning outcomes of this module, by academic certified achievement, or through quantifiable and documented experience, they can apply to the School for that prior learning to be recognised. Applications must be received prior to the commencement of delivery of the module.
Recommended	None

6. How will I be assessed?

All required elements (listed with brief issued at start of module) to be presented for assessment at the end of trimester 1 = 20 credit module.

All work pertinent to the project is to be labelled and presented in a cohesive 'professional' manner.

Assessment tool	% of final grade	Timing
Research Notebook	20%	At the end of the trimester
Sampling / Experimentation / Testing	60%	
Envisaged / problem-solved / Produce outcome	20%	
Total	100%	

Assessment tool	Learning outcomes assessed
Research Notebook	All assessment tools assess all learning outcomes.
Sampling / Experimentation / Testing	
Envisaged / problem-solved / Produce outcome	

7. Feedback, results and grading

Feedback

Feedback is given in written form after any Work-in-Progress Reviews.

Grading

Students' assessments will be graded using the [NCAD Grade Descriptors](#).

Grading of this module is amalgamated with the three other Year 2 modules to produce a Grade Point Average (GPA) at the end of the year.

8. What happens if I fail?

Opportunities will be provided during or at the end of Trimester 2 to a student who has not passed the module. Students who are unsuccessful at the end of trimester 2 and after attempting the resit opportunities may be given the opportunity to resit at the end of trimester 3. This will involve a resit fee. At this point, a student failing substantially would be required to repeat (and attend) one or both trimesters in the following year, and pay the required registration fee.

9. When and where is this module offered?

This module is delivered in Trimester 1, in the Applied Materials Studios, depending on a student's pathway.

10. How will I have the chance to evaluate the module?

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.

Student Forum

About two-thirds of the way through the year, a student forum will be convened to gather students' comments about their study and the delivery of the programme.

Student Evaluation Survey

In addition, at the end of Trimester 2, students have the opportunity to complete an online evaluation of their study and experience at NCAD. Students are also encouraged to complete the Irish Student Survey of Engagement. These evaluation events are important to current and future students, to ensure we can enhance the delivery of programmes at NCAD.

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

**For further details on the content of your module and teaching arrangements,
consult your Programme or Module Handbook**