

## **MA/ MFA in *Art in the Contemporary World* – FAQ**

### ***What is an MA/ MFA?***

MA/ MFA is a Level 9 master's degree at post-graduate level. In *Art in the Contemporary World* there are a number of different ways to do this including full and part-time options.

### ***What are the differences between the MA and the MFA?***

All courses begin with two semesters of course-work. Then students can take the following pathways:\*

*MA Art in the Contemporary World* (90 credits) with a major research project completed over the summer (1 year FT/ 2 years PT)

*MFA Art in the Contemporary World* (120 credits) with another 2 semesters to complete a major project related to the student's practice (in this instance practice can be mean art making, writing, curating, research or other related and relevant activities.)

Both pathways are offered through the School of Visual Culture.

### ***What are the differences between the MFA Fine Art and the MFA ACW?***

Unlike the MFA Fine Art, the MFA ACW involves a first year of taught modules based on the core ACW material, offering students a chance to undertake detailed, thorough study of theories, practices and contexts of contemporary art. The second year involves a focus on a project related to your practice. This practice can be studio based but could also be based in Visual Culture (i.e. major research project, publication, curation, event organising etc.)

### ***What is the focus of Art in the Contemporary World?***

*Art in the Contemporary World* examines contemporary art practices and their critical, theoretical, historical and social contexts.

The course offers an opportunity for focused engagement with the varied challenges presented by today's most ambitious art practices, bridging the relationship between theory and practice by creating exciting study opportunities for both practitioners and theorists.

We encourage all participants on the course to consider themselves having a practice. This might be art-making; but also curating, art writing, research, event organisation or other cultural activities. Students will spend their time on the course situating this practice in relation to the key coordinates of contemporary art discourse.

### ***What kind of students are on the course?***

We have always welcomed graduates from a variety of backgrounds, including: art; art history; philosophy; literature; film studies; architecture; communications; or design. We are actively interested in recruiting from across a range of disciplines in order to generate a dynamic mix of student research interests.

### ***Who is eligible to apply for Art in the Contemporary World?***

Graduates or students who have successfully completed, or expect to complete, an honours undergraduate degree in a discipline related to Visual Culture (design, fine art, education Visual Culture) and who have achieved, or expect to achieve, a minimum grade of 2.2 in their degree are eligible to apply. We can also accept other students subject to interview and/ or satisfactory meeting of other requirements (e.g. in the case of applicants who don't have an honours degree but have relevant professional experience.)

NB – acceptance onto the MFA part of the course is conditional upon a successful presentation of the proposed practice/ project.

### ***How/ When do I apply for the MFA pathway?***

After the first two semesters of taught work. Acceptance onto the MFA part of the course is conditional upon a successful presentation of the proposed practice/ project.

### ***What will I study on Art in the Contemporary World?***

Contemporary art discourse and related ideas. The taught course material is organised into 4 themes:

- 1: a survey of contemporary art practices (involving collaborative teaching with MFA Fine Art and guest lecturers)
- 2: a number of elective seminars on various themes. Topics have included: 'Systems'; 'Literature and Art'; 'Curatorial Histories'; 'Queer Cinema'; 'North'; 'Imaginary Beings'; and collaborations with institutions including IMMA, IFI and National Gallery
- 3: *Key Theories* such as 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century philosophy, and the politics and ethics of participation
- 4: Art & Writing: looking at different models and strategies for writing on and about art.

### ***What should I expect the research project to be like/ about?***

For the MA typically the research project is a 15 000 word thesis. However, we're very keen to facilitate other types of projects (providing they fulfil the criteria of a research project) including creative writing, curatorial projects and other ways of doing and presenting research

For the MFA we expect you to realise a particular project working with your tutor. This could be studio based, but also include a long research thesis, a curatorial project, publication or other, appropriate manifestation of your ideas and practice.

### ***What opportunities are there to engage?***

We have excellent relationships with institutions in Dublin and beyond and have run collaborative projects with places including: IMMA, IFI, The Kerlin Gallery, the Hugh Lane/Dublin City Gallery, Glasgow University (history of art), UCD, EVA (Limerick), Irish Pavilion at the Venice Biennale.

The spirit of the course is inherently collaborative and we work hard to build relationships with partners.

### ***Who teaches on the course?***

The core team comprises the course directors Declan Long and Francis Halsall and Visual Culture staff. In addition we have a number of invited and guest tutors leading elements of the course including philosophers (Paul Ennis, Tina Kiinsella), curators (Vaari Claffey, Kate Strain), artists (Sarah Pierce). More details on the course team are available at: [www.acw.ie](http://www.acw.ie)

We also run a visiting teaching residency with IMMA where an invited fellow joins us to lead a seminar. Past fellows are Morgan Quaintance and Nait Banai.

The MFA element may involve (where appropriate) contributions from Fine Art Staff.

***When does the programme run?***

The core MA teaching runs from September to May.

MA research projects are submitted in Sept.

MFA work is presented in May/ June

i.e. – MA is 12 months F/T; 24 months P/T; MFA is 4 semesters over 2 years.

The main class days are Monday and Friday. Full time students attend on both days. Part time students attend on Fridays in Year 1 and Mondays in Year 2.

***How do I apply?***

Applications should be made through the NCAD Admissions Office on the Postgraduate Application Form available from [www.ncad.ie/study-at-ncad/postgraduate/](http://www.ncad.ie/study-at-ncad/postgraduate/)

***Will there be an interview?***

NCAD graduates and continuing students will not be required to attend for interview. Outside applicants may be required to attend for an interview.

***When is the closing date?*** April 29<sup>th</sup> 2016

***What fees will NCAD graduates be charged?***

- Year 1 Tuition Fees are €5,400.
- Year 2 Tuition fees are €3,400.

**For Further Information please contact:**

**Art in the Contemporary World course directors:**

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**Admissions:** [admissions@ncad.ie](mailto:admissions@ncad.ie)

**More information on the activities of the course and its alumni are on the course blog: [www.acw.ie](http://www.acw.ie)**