

Higher Diploma in Art AD082

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATIONS

Programme title	Higher Diploma in Art	School	School of
Resulting awards	Higher Diploma in Art	Head of School	Professor Nuala Hunt
Level	Level 8	ECTS credits¹	90
University award	Higher diploma	Programme type	Undergraduate higher diploma programme delivered parttime over two years
Programme Co-ordinator	Nuala Hunt	External Examiner	Oliver Reed, University of Edinburgh
Programme team	Felicity Clear, Beth O'Halloran, Vivian Hansbury, Elaine Leader, Emma Mahoney, and a panel of associate College staff		

1. Programme aims and objectives

The Higher Diploma in Art provides mature students with opportunities to deepen their knowledge, skills and experience in visual art practice. This programme provides lifelong learning options for adults who wish to participate in flexible learning and acquire a level 8 qualification in art. Having completed a level 7 certificate, students are eligible to apply for this 2-year programme. During the HDip, students progress from creative exploration, inquiry and discovery, to engagement with context, audience, histories and cultures.

Social, ecological and economic challenges continue to impact on creative processes and increasingly visual arts practitioners require the ability to collaborate, innovate and influence. Through exploration of materials and competent use of a range of techniques students will apply skills and knowledge of processes to practice. This 2-year programme includes skills-based workshops, research methods, discipline orientation, project-based learning, professional practice combined with theories underpinning contemporary visual culture. The Higher Diploma in Art provides for interdisciplinary approaches and includes discipline options in drawing, painting and expanded practice, with students' orientation for practice identified on completion of stage 1 of this 2-year programme.

The aims of the programme are to:

- Establish a research methodology applicable to practice,
- Explore concepts, ideas and research processes in contemporary art,
- Encourage experimentation through engagement with studio-based projects,
- Develop an applied knowledge of materials, processes and technical skills appropriate to practice,
- Develop self-discipline and effective time management applicable to practice,
- Acquire skills and knowledge applicable to an evolving practice,

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

- Foster critical engagement with art practice, contemporary visual culture and society.

2. Programme outcomes

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

- Apply research methodologies in the generation of ideas, projects and proposals,
- Identify a personal direction for their emerging practice,
- Articulate an identity as an artist,
- Communicate effectively the ideas and processes underpinning their work,
- Select appropriate materials and techniques in the realisation of their work,
- Work independently and collaboratively where appropriate,
- Establish learning goals and manage their time effectively,
- Critically evaluate their practice within contemporary art,
- Analyse and evaluate key concepts and theories in visual culture,
- Produce resolved work suitable to exhibition standard.

Graduates of the programme will communicate ideas informing their practice to peers. They will be able to work independently, collaborate with others on projects, organise small group exhibitions and disseminate ideas and meaning underpinning their visual art practice in a range of formats and settings. Graduates will have established competency in a discipline area, demonstrate an ability to negotiate discipline boundaries and show an understanding of the potential of transdisciplinary approaches of working.

3. Admission requirements

Applicants must:

1. be 23 years of age or older,
2. have successfully completed one of the following NCAD level 7 30-credit certificates:
 - University Certificate in Visual Art Practice
 - University Certificate in Drawing and Visual Investigation
 - University Certificate in Photography and Digital Imaging
3. Submit a portfolio of evidence to demonstrate a sustained commitment to the development of an art practice and be willing to engage in a learning programme involving investigation and experimentation.

Applicants who have completed other appropriate and equivalent qualifications, or have experience in an appropriate field equivalent in level to the Certificate qualifications listed, may apply for recognition of prior learning (portfolio of practice).

4. Further educational opportunities that may arise during or on completion of the programme

On successful completion of the Higher Diploma in Art, students may apply to the Final Year of the Bachelor of Arts in Fine Art at NCAD. Admission to the final year (a fulltime delivery) is subject to interview by departmental academic staff.

On successful completion of Year 1 (45 credits) of the Higher Diploma in Art, students may apply to transfer to Year 2 of the Bachelor of Arts in Fine Art at NCAD.

Equally, students may be eligible to apply for postgraduate studies in art, design, education and related studies in other discipline areas.

5. Teaching and learning methodologies

Blended learning features across the programme and students are encouraged to engage with google classroom as an interface as part of the learning experience. Group critiques, individual presentations, peer learning and group display of final project work, all feature within the programme. Lectures, seminars, projects, group discussion, tutorials, presentations, dialogue form part of the teaching and learning strategies employed throughout. A series of sequential projects will feature throughout the programme. Students are encouraged to actively engage in dialogue with peers, tutors and visiting lecturers. The teaching strategies support student-centred as well as problem-posing and problem-solving approaches with small group as well as individual tuition. The programme includes face to face, online as well as studio-based learning and collaborative approaches to learning and practice.

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 programme progresses through research, experimentation and application to practice.

6. Methods of assessment

Both formative and summative assessment feature across modules and at different programme stages. Assessments are scheduled throughout each module to ensure workload is spread evenly across the programme. Students will be advised on their progress and receive written and oral feedback as they progress in a timely manner.

Individual assessment as well as group-based display of work will feature. Students will prepare written assignments, including exhibition reviews, individual oral presentations, participate in group critiques, and student-led presentations. Students will present a range of studio-workshop outcomes including paintings, prints, drawings, notebooks, video, animation and artefacts. They will present work for display and dissemination. Final studio assessment includes displaying a coherent body of work which explores a theme in-depth.

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.

At the end of the first trimester, a student forum will be convened to gather students' comments about their experience of 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.

NCAD students also participate in the Irish Survey of Student Engagement, which takes place in the middle of Trimester 2. This international project measures students' engagement with their studies.

In addition, you are invited to discuss your experience on the module with your lecturers 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 2028-29.

8. Modular provision

Students on the Higher Diploma in Art study 45 credits in each year. They complete 20 credits in the autumn trimesters of each year (September to January), and 25 credits in the spring trimester (January to June).

Module	Credits	Core or Option	Trimester
Year 1			
CEAD2002 Materials and Media	10	Core	Autumn
CEAD2003 Theories and Concepts in Critical Cultures 1	5	Core	Autumn
CEAD2004 Multi-disciplinary Art 1	5	Core	Autumn
CEAD2005 Multi-disciplinary Art 2	10	Core	Spring
<i>CEAD2008 Print-Making Techniques</i>	5	<i>Option</i>	<i>Spring</i>
<i>CEAD2009 Digital Film</i>	5	<i>Option</i>	<i>Spring</i>
CEAD2006 Discipline Project Fine Art 1	5	Core	Spring
CEAD2007 Professional Practice 2	5	Core	Spring
Year 2			
CEAD2011 Studio Research Fine Art 1	10	Core	Autumn
CEAD2012 Theories and Concepts in Critical Cultures 2	5	Core	Autumn
CEAD2010 Discipline Project Fine Art 2	5	Core	Autumn
CEAD2013 Studio Practices Fine Art 1	10	Core	Spring
CEAD 2014 Studio Practices Fine Art 2	10	Core	Spring
CEAD2015 Professional Practice 3	5	Core	Spring

9. Programme structure

Year 1: Autumn Trimester: 20 credits			
CEAD2002 Materials & Media 10 credits	CEAD2003 Theories & Concepts in Critical Cultures 1 5 credits	CEAD2004 Multi-disciplinary Art 1 5 credits	
Year 1: Spring Trimester: 25 credits			
CEAD2005 Multi-disciplinary Art 2 10 credits	CEAD2008 Printmaking Techniques OR CEAD2009 Digital Film 5 credits	CEAD2006 Discipline Project Fine Art 1 5 credits	CEAD2007 Professional Practice 2 5 credits
Year 2: Autumn Trimester: 20 credits			
CEAD2011 Studio Research Fine Art 1 10 credits	CEAD2012 Theories & Concepts in Critical Cultures 2 5 credits	CEAD2010 Discipline Project Fine Art 2 5 credits	
Year 2: Spring Trimester: 25 credits			
CEAD2013 Studio Practices Fine Art 1 10 credits	CEAD2014 Studio Practices Fine Art 2 10 credits	CEAD2015 Professional Practice 3 5 credits	

10. Final award calculation

To qualify for the award of the Higher Diploma in Art, students must successfully complete the core and optional modules as specified in the programme to accrue a total of 90 credits.

11. Resources

a) Staffing

	Name	Role
Teaching Staff	Felicity Clear, Beth O'Halloran, Vivian Hansbury, Rhoda Cunningham, Elaine Leader, Fiona Loughnane, Emma Mahoney, occasional visiting lecturers	Lecturer, studio tutors
Admin Staff	School of Education administration staff	Advise students on timetable, College opening closing, College registration and completion
Technical Support Staff	Technical staff will be employed specific to a project-module where required	

b) Space

Dedicated class based learning environment suitable for studio activities, access to workshops, lectures and seminar space and display for assessment-exhibition.

c) Facilities

Access to workshop spaces in print/sculpture/studio/ class based space and space for assessment-display.

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