

## Dublin City Practice Lab PGCFAF1007

### MODULE DESCRIPTOR

<b>ECTS credits<sup>1</sup></b>	10	<b>Programme</b>	Art and Social Action
<b>NQF level</b>	9	<b>School</b>	School of Fine Art
<b>Stage</b>	1	<b>Module Co-ordinator</b>	Dr Fiona Whelan
<b>Trimester</b>	2	<b>Module Team</b>	Brian Hand, Dr Fiona Whelan and School staff
<b>Contact</b>	Dr Fiona Whelan: whelanf@staff.ncad.ie		
<b>Responsibility</b>	The NCAD Academic Council and the School of Fine Art Board have responsibility for this module.		

#### 1. Introduction

Working in small groups, students will engage in an immersive and transdisciplinary practice lab to engage with and respond to a selected location in Dublin city. Working together students will be required to combine their diverse skills and knowledges to create actions that are responsive to a site-specific thematic.

This module requires students to work with each other, and with communities and other organisations in the city. It will have a strong intellectual focus on place and culture in Dublin, i.e. on site-specificity. This requires that students undertake place-based research and community engagement with the selected setting.

This module will be offered in partnership with an external Dublin-based organisation under the terms of a memorandum of understanding - such as Create - the national development agency for collaborative arts and/or Dublin City Council Arts Office. Typically, the external partner will act as a 'client' specifying a location, introducing stakeholders with diverse perspectives, signalling conditions for the production of the action or activity, and providing feedback during its design and after completion. Assessment will remain the responsibility of the Art and Social Action team.

As a stand-alone 10-credit module undertaken in one trimester with students working in groups, the outcomes will be temporary and/or of short duration (eg, a performance in public, a zine distributed locally) and may be propositional and imaginative rather than fully resolved or completed (eg, a series of architectural drawings for a new school, a utopian vision for harmonious communities).

Learning on this module will be supported by close supervision by a member of the A&SA team and occasional workshops. Particular emphasis will be given to collaborative practice - working across discipline and sector, with critical reflection being given to 'practical' matters such as project design and management, techniques of decision making as well as to questions relating to participation, cooperation and collective activity. This will encourage a self-reflection on the merits and limits of collaboration and relationality.

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

The aims of this module are to:

- Encourage students to research and employ models of collaborative practice
- Provide the professional experience of working with an external agency, benefitting from the expertise that it can provide as well as the experience of working for a 'client' or commissioning body.
- Support deep understanding of Dublin as a context for socially-engaged practice

## 2. What will I learn?

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

1. Work collaboratively, with other students, community organisations and arts organisations.
2. Conduct research into the history, current circumstances and future development of a specific Dublin setting and/or community.
3. Develop a site-specific project, that addresses a well-articulated concern or need in a Dublin setting and/or community.

### Module content

This module requires seminar and group work as well as self-directed study. Briefing events as well as mid-phase reviews and feedback will be provided by the module partner organisation. Students will make site visits, engage in workshops related to the assessment task and undertake group work.

## 3. How will I learn?

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Learning tool	Hours
Lectures and seminars	70
Specified Learning Activities	30
Autonomous Student Learning	100
<b>Total Workload</b>	<b>200</b>

## 4. What learning supports are provided?

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Like all modules which form part of the Art and Social Action MA, this course will be supported by a virtual learning environment (VLE). The site will feature module-related bibliographies, links to key organisations and practices, as well as policy documents. Students will have the opportunity to use this VLE to share resources and engage in other forms of peer exchange.

Students who wish to develop particular software skills to undertake the tasks outlined in this module descriptor will have access to Linked-In Learning training (Creative Cloud programmes, storyboarding etc).

## 5. Am I eligible to take this module?

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### Module Requisites and Incompatibles

<b>Pre-requisites</b>	None
<b>Co-requisites</b>	None
<b>Incompatibles</b>	None
<b>Prior learning</b>	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.
<b>Recommended</b>	None

## 6. How will I be assessed?

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The students will work in groups and engage in collective tasks including a practice presentation to representatives of the partner organisation. Feedback will be given by the partner organisation but the responsibility for grading the assignment will fall on the Art and Social Action MA team.

Individual students will be required to keep a reflective journal in which they record their activities as well as critical reflection on any issues that they have confronted. It should also document any public or community outcomes of this work. This will be graded on an individual basis.

Assessment tool	% of final grade	Timing
Presentation 1	15%	Week 2
Group Project	50%	End of Module
Reflective journal	10%	End of module
Presentation 2	25%	Week 12
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	

Assessment tool	Learning outcomes assessed
Group project	1-3
Reflective journal	2
Presentations	1 and 3

## 7. Feedback, results and grading

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Students will receive written feedback on completion of assignments. Assignments will be graded using the [NCAD Grade Descriptors](#).

## 8. What happens if I fail?

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Opportunities to remediate an unsuccessful assessment depend on the deficit encountered. Resit opportunities will be provided at the end of each trimester to students who do not complete all

assessments by the assessment deadline. This is primarily a group-based learning module. Students are marked in a distributive way for their group work, through the 50% outcome, 50% group process formula. Students who are unsuccessful in this distributive process at Week 2 and 12 for Continuous assessment group assignments (presentations) worth 40% of module, may be given the opportunity to resit each element during the 15 weeks of the module. This will not involve a resit fee. Students who are unsuccessful at Week 14 for the group assignment (project) worth 50% of the module may be given the opportunity to resit during the following trimester. This will involve a resit fee.

A student failing substantially at both continuous assessment and final group assignment would be required to repeat (and attend) the module in the following year, and pay the required registration fee.

## 9. When and where is this module offered?

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MA Art and Social Action Hub, Dept of Sculpture and Expanded Practice and off campus engagement. Mondays Trimester 2.

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

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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 year, 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 Trimester 2, 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.

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