

# Project Development PGCFAF1008

## MODULE DESCRIPTOR

|                                 |   |                            |  |
|---------------------------------|---|----------------------------|--|
| <b>ECTS credits<sup>1</sup></b> | 10  | <b>Programme</b>           | MA in 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

By locating themselves within local, community, organisational or public settings or in multiple sites linked thematically, students will initiate a self-directed structured engagement with a group, individuals or elected publics, orientated around a particular creative inquiry or project. Building on learning and feedback from experiments undertaken in 'Practice in Public', students now develop a more focused project framework.

To generate the knowledge required to complete this module, students may engage in diverse activities including *studio work* to prototype forms of art and/or communication; *research* of and communication with proposed partners including communities and others to address questions of need, participation, consent, etc; *project design*, including any resourcing questions; and *engagement* through considered methodological approaches suited to their inquiry and constituent publics.

Students will be supported by a nominated tutor, as well as seminars and practice presentations to their peers.

Alongside this social practice, students will engage in proposal writing, learning to frame their ideas towards funding applications or practice opportunities, and the development of their major MA project. As such, this module will function as a necessary stage of learning prior to the major project. The review and assessment of this work will provide a rigorous testing of that capstone project before it is undertaken.

The aims of this module are to:

- Support learners to conceive of an ambitious and inventive form of creative inquiry into an issue or setting which is of current concern
- Support learners to structure their engagement with a community or any other groups in a purposeful and professional manner

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

- Develop the communication skills required to deliver an ambitious and credible project proposal that meets professional standards of practice
- Provide deep understanding and core skills in project design (articulation of milestones, anticipation of risks, etc)

## 2. What will I learn?

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

1. Research and design a practice project which is capable of being delivered within ‘real world’ constraints
2. Test their ideas for a major practice project by means of prototyping, peer review
3. Communicate that practice project by means of a proposal to high professional standards in terms of ethics, consent, resourcing, permissions, etc.

### Module content

The module will combine proposal writing workshops, seminars led by the Art and Social Action team as well as representatives of arts funding organisations. This module will require self-directed engagement with students making site visits, undertaking primary and secondary research (of appropriate kinds – archives, interviews, fieldwork, etc).

## 3. How will I learn?

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Learning supports will take the form of one-to-one tutorials, proposal writing workshops, peer review of other students’ work. Models of good practice (ie, examples of completed proposal applications will be provided).

| 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 module 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 primary outcomes of this module will be a Presentation and Viva in Week 13 presented to staff and peers. The module will conclude with the submission of a written proposal which will provide detailed information about key elements of the project (e.g. site selected, form of inquiry/ output). Students may also provide other forms of documentation of their work on the module as supporting evidence of their research (video, audio, etc).

By negotiation, the proposal may take a non-written form.

| Assessment tool   | % of final grade | Timing        |
|-------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Research folio    | 15%              | Week 5        |
| Presentation/Viva | 70%              | Week 13       |
| Outline Proposal  | 15%              | End of module |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>100%</b>      |               |

| Assessment tool   | Learning outcomes assessed |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Research folio    | 1 and 3                    |
| Presentation/Viva | 1, 2 and 3                 |
| Outline Proposal  | 1 and 3                    |

## 7. Feedback, results and grading

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### Grading

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 the trimester to students who do not complete all

assessments by the assessment deadline. Students who are unsuccessful at Week 13 for the Presentation and Viva worth 70% and the Outline Proposal worth 15% of the grade for the module will be required to complete this module, Project Development, by the end of the third week in the following trimester. Failure to submit a satisfactory proposal and present the proposal to a satisfactory (Pass) level will result in the student not being eligible to take the final module of the programme, thus not being eligible for the MA or MFA award at that time.

A student failing substantially or who fails to pass the module by the end of the third week would be required to withdraw from the programme and repeat (and attend) this module and the final 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, 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**