Major Project 2 (MFA)
PGCFAF2001

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

ECTS credits[1]	60	Programme	MFA in Art and Social Action
NQF level	9	School	School of Fine Art
Stage	1	Module Co-ordinator	Dr Fiona Whelan
Trimester	3 & 4	Module Team	Brian Hand, Dr Fiona Whelan and others tbc
Contact	Fiona Whelan, Programme Leader: whelanf@staff.ncad.ie		
Responsibility	The NCAD Academic Council and the School of Fine Art Board have responsibility for this module.		

1. Introduction

Drawing on the theoretical framings, research methods, and practice-based inquiry developed though earlier modules, students will now design, scope and realise a self-directed art and social action project in this capstone module.

By locating themselves within local, community, organisational or public settings or in multiple sites linked thematically, students will be immersed in 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 engagements and processes carried out in the 'Project Development' module, students will realise a dynamic project with real world engagement and located beyond the campus. The project will have a significant 'publicly engaged' output, event or encounter that is an appropriate evolution of research, artistic experiment and critical thinking.

The form of the final project will be self-determined. Students will develop suitable forms to present their work, to identify publics, and to orientate their practice to be public facing. Where appropriate, the student will need to negotiate the development and form of the new work with project partners or participants, paying keen attention to the politics of representation in their practice. In this, students will be supported by close tutorial supervision as well as occasional workshops and work in progress events.

Students will critically reflect upon their project at the public stage considering its theoretical and methodological underpinnings, its ethical and formal challenges and the knowledge produced through the practice.

The aims of this module are to:

- Support Art and Social Action students to realise an ambitious and inventive form of creative inquiry into a subject, issue or setting of current concern.

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

- Encourage sustained work with communities or other groups in a way that achieves a significant art and social action outcome.

- Support the documentation and communication of a creative project to high professional standards (i.e. capable of being peer reviewed).

- Encourage high levels of critical reflection regarding the field and the student's own contribution to it.

2. What will I learn?

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

1. Realise a complex creative project in public.

2. Initiate a collaboration with stakeholders and communities responding to a defined context.

3. Communicate that practice project by various means including publicity and documentation.

4. Reflect critically on the research methods, production processes, project realisation and future plans in the field.

Module content

This module is largely undertaken as an independent project with tutorial support provided by the Art and Social Action team. Students will also participate in occasional work in progress events and crits in which they will present the development of their project and comment on the work of others. In the early phase of the project they will make a research-led proposal to the team which will act as a mechanism to ensure that an appropriate level of MFA ambition is being set by the student. This will also permit an assessment of feasibility. Ethical issues and other ill-defined complexities will be reviewed too.

Suggested seminars will examine current and emergent fields, discourses and practices and support the student with critical skills in the production of their work.

At the end of the project, staff and students will experience the new work or in certain cases students will just submit the requisite documentation of their project. Documentation will typically include early phase plans as well as evidence of the realisation of the work, event or actions. The form of this documentation will be determined by the student and may include film, photography, etc. but should be capable of being archived and exhibited in an archival exhibition. This is important as the External Examiner will require access to this material to understand the nature of the work undertaken in this capstone module. Documentation workshops will support students to understand good practice as well as practical matters concerning AV recording, etc. At the same time, students will be asked to write a short critical appraisal of the work that they have undertaken: this will allow 'failures' to be the subject of a positive assessment (what have I learned from this aspect of the project?). This critical appraisal will also afford the student to present future plans for their work in the field of art and social action.

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3. How will I learn?

Learning supports will take the form of one-to-one tutorials, occasional workshops, unassessed peer review of other student's work in crits. Models of good practice (i.e. examples of completed proposal applications will be provided).

Learning tool	Hours
Workshops, crits and tutorials	40
Specified Learning Activities	160
Autonomous Student Learning	1000
Total Workload	**1200**

4. What learning supports are provided?

Like all modules which form part of the Art and Social Action MA, this course will be supported by the workshops and studio infrastructures of the Department of Sculpture and Expanded Practice as well as the library and the Virtual Learning Environment (Canvas). The canvas 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?

Module Requisites and Incompatibles

Pre-requisites	To study this module, students must have successfully completed 60 credits from the modules in this programme
Co-requisites	None
Incompatibles	Students must select this module or Major Project Realisation (MA) PGCFAF1009, but cannot study both. Their selection will depend on whether they have opted to study towards achievement of an MA or an MFA.
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?

The primary outcomes of this module will be the mediation and/or realisation of a major art and social action project, documented and presented to staff, peers and participating publics. At the beginning of the module a written proposal will be prepared and submitted which will provide

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detailed information about key elements of the project (e.g. site selected, form of inquiry/ output). Students will complete the assessment with the submission of an illustrated work of critical reflection (3,000 words approx).

Assessment tool	% of final grade	Timing
Realisation of Major Project	75	End of 4th trimester (Jan)
Critical Self-appraisal document	25	End of 4th trimester (Jan)
Total	100%	

Assessment tool	Learning outcomes assessed
Realisation of Major Project	1-4
Critical Self-appraisal document	4

7. Feedback, results and grading

Students will receive written feedback on completion of the module. Assignments will be graded using the NCAD Grade Descriptors. Early phase work will be assessed on a Pass/Fail basis.

8. What happens if I fail?

Depending on the extent of not reaching the learning outcomes, students could resubmit their submission in the Spring Trimester. If the fail is substantial, the student would need to repeat the module in the following year with attendance, which would incur costs.

9. When and where is this module offered?

The module is offered in the MA Art and Social Action Hub through weekly classes for 6 weeks and a 1 day work in progress seminar. If a student wants to work completely remotely from campus blended arrangements can be provided.

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.

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