

# ACW Major Research Project/Thesis

## PGVC1017

### MODULE DESCRIPTOR

<b>ECTS credits<sup>1</sup></b>	20	<b>Programme</b>	MA in Art in the Contemporary World MFA in Fine Art
<b>NQF level</b>	9	<b>School</b>	School of Visual Culture
<b>Stage</b>	1	<b>Module Co-ordinator</b>	Dr Francis Halsall, Dr Declan Long
<b>Trimester</b>	3	<b>Module Team</b>	Dr Francis Halsall, Dr Declan Long, and other members of NCAD staff as appropriate
<b>Contact</b>	Neasa Travers, School Secretary: <a href="mailto:visualculture@staff.ncad.ie">visualculture@staff.ncad.ie</a>		
<b>Responsibility</b>	The NCAD Academic Council and the School of Visual Culture Board have responsibility for this module.		

## 1. Introduction

For this module students produce a substantial and original piece of research. The research should have a specific research focus and question, employ a credible and appropriate research methodology and propose a coherent argument in relation to the material. Typically, the outcome is a written thesis of 15,000 words, but other options can be proposed including curatorial, creative writing or other outcomes.

The aims of this module are to support students in coordinating and planning effective self-directed research involving:

- Appropriate knowledge of a research topic pertinent to contemporary art discourse.
- The relevant research material and methods.
- Consideration of an original perspective on the research material relative to the appropriate theoretical, historical and social contexts.
- The effective organisation and communication of that research (to an audience of peers) in appropriate and effective forms.

## 2. What will I learn?

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

### RESEARCH

1. Demonstrate an ability to engage in self-directed research.
2. Demonstrate a coherent knowledge of a research topic pertinent to contemporary art discourse.

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

3. Demonstrate appropriate research skills in identifying the relevant research material and methods.

#### ANALYSE and SYNTHESISE

4. Analyse appropriate research material and demonstrate its relevance to both contemporary art discourse and their own practices.
5. Synthesise an original position in relation to that material by placing it in the relevant theoretical, historical and social contexts.

#### COMMUNICATE and ORGANISE

6. Communicate and organise their research material into an appropriate form to address an audience of peers.

### Module content

The module involves self-directed and designed research with the support of fellow students and tutorial support.

### 3. How will I learn?

Independent research and practice with close tutorial support.

Learning tool	Hours
Tutor-led tutorials and classes	6
Specified Learning Activities	118
Autonomous Student Learning	276
<b>Total Workload</b>	<b>400</b>

### 4. What learning supports are provided?

The main learning support is student-centred tutorial discussion.

This module is supported by a dedicated VLE (Canvas or Google Classroom) in which bibliographic material, set readings, assignments and other supporting material is shared. Key materials in the NCAD library have been identified to support learning on this module. Support for technical training in key skills such as sound recording and editing is provided through LinkedIn Learning online tutorials.

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

#### Module Requisites and Incompatibles

<b>Pre-requisites</b>	To undertake this module, students must have successfully completed all core modules and the required option modules in Trimester 1 and 2 of the MA in Art in the Contemporary World programme, 60 credits in total.
<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?

Assessment tool	% of final grade	Timing
Final complete research topic, including a rationale. This is typically a 15,000-word written thesis but other modes of delivery addressing the effective learning outcomes can be considered.	100	End of trimester 3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	

  

Assessment tool	Learning outcomes assessed
Final research project including a rationale	All learning outcomes

## 7. Feedback, results and grading

### Grading

Students' assessments will be graded using the [NCAD Grade Descriptors](#).

Feedback is given by written assessment sheets and face to face discussion.

## 8. What happens if I fail?

Resit opportunities will be provided following the final examination board at the discretion of the board and the course team.

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

Final trimester, NCAD.

## 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. Students are also encouraged to complete the Irish Student Survey of Engagement. These evaluation events are important to current and future students, to ensure we can enhance the delivery of programmes at NCAD.

In addition, students are invited to discuss their experience on the module with their lecturers at any point during the year. Students can also relay your comments to the class student representative who will communicate their comments to the staff.

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