

Visual Culture Research Project 3

VC3-10

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

ECTS credits¹	10	Programme	BA (Hons) Fine Art BA (Hons) Design
NQF level	8	School	School of Visual Culture
Stage	3	Module Co-ordinator	Rachel O Dwyer
Trimester	1 & 2	Module Team	Francis Halsall, Sarah Pierce, Declan Long, David Crowley, Paul Caffrey, Lisa Godson, Rachel O'Dwyer, Fiona Loughnane, Denis Kehoe, Emma Mahony, Hilary O' Kelly, and others
Contact	Neasa Travers, School Secretary: traversn@staff.ncad.ie		

1. Introduction

The aim of this module is to give students an opportunity to undertake a research project written in continuous prose and present a statement of practice. Building on work over the previous two years, students will demonstrate a clear critical understanding of key historical and theoretical writing, research practices and methods that inform both their research project and their chosen studio discipline. Students choose their own area to research, within Visual Culture parameters, and are allocated a tutor to supervise their research project in trimester 1. In trimester 2 students write and present a short statement of practice which provides a critical explanation of their current studio work. This is likely to form the basis of the catalogue statement published at the time that students complete their studies.

The aims of this module are:

1. To give the student an opportunity to develop a deep understanding of a subject of their choosing;
2. To require the student to immerse him or herself in field/s of scholarship and/or intellectual enquiry related to that subject;
3. To support the student in the research, structuring and writing of a long text;

2. What will I learn?

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

1. PLAN: Undertake self-directed research using appropriate time management skills, including tutorial attendance, participation and timely draft submission.

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

2. RESEARCH: Evidence critical understanding of the key theories, practices and methods that inform the research project and employ an appropriate range of research strategies and sources.
3. ANALYSE: Synthesise and reflect critically on the results of research and practice.
4. COMMUNICATE: Demonstrate your ability to manage, structure and resolve an extended essay and a statement of practice presented in an appropriate and coherent form.

3. How will I learn?

Introductory workshops will be offered outlining the two assessments, support skills and other aspects of the module. The student will be supported with individual and small group tutorials with a supervisor. These tutorials will be structured in the sense that students will propose a programme of work in which these tutorials act as staging points towards the completion of the module. The small group tutorials will provide opportunity for discussion and critical reflection of matters of shared concern. The groups may also use this opportunity for informal peer-to-peer feedback of drafts.

Learning tool	Hours
Tutorials	4.5
Specified Learning Activities	70.5
Autonomous Student Learning	125
Total Workload	200

4. What learning supports are provided?

Individual bibliographic references will be supplied by the nominated tutor in one-to-one tutorial meetings.

5. How will I be assessed?

Assessment tool	% of final grade	Timing
Research Project	90%	Start of spring trimester
Statement of practice (text)	10%	TBC
Total	100%	

Both pieces of work submitted by the student will be assessed according to NCAD's grade assessment criteria.

6. What happens if I fail?

Resit Opportunities

Opportunities will be provided at the end of Trimester 2 to students who do not complete all assessments, but students will not be able to qualify for the award on completion of this programme until the learning outcomes of this module have been met.

7. Am I eligible to take this module?

Module Requisites and Incompatibles

Pre-requisites	Students must have successfully completed all Year 2 modules (60 credits) or be recognised for equivalent prior learning before registering on this module.
Co-requisites	None
Incompatibles	None
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

8. When and where is this module offered?

Various settings	Various times
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9. 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