

## Experimenting and Designing Practice

### PGVC2002

### MODULE DESCRIPTOR

|                                 |   |                            |  |
|---------------------------------|---|----------------------------|--|
| <b>ECTS credits<sup>1</sup></b> | 15  | <b>Programme</b>           | Art in the Contemporary World MFA  |
| <b>NQF level</b>                | 9   | <b>School</b>              | School of Visual Culture   |
| <b>Stage</b>                    | 2   | <b>Module Co-ordinator</b> | Dr Francis Halsall, Dr Declan Long,  |
| <b>Trimester</b>                | Autumn  | <b>Module Team</b>         | Dr Francis Halsall, Dr Declan Long, Dr Sarah Pierce 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 have responsibility for this module.              |                            |  |

#### Introduction

This module is designed to provide the support required to scope the body of work which will be completed in the 25 credit Major Project module in semester 2. It requires that the student designs a series of propositions or techniques which are tested in the course of the semester: a photographer might, for instance, explore a set of techniques or a particular visual vocabulary; a curator might develop a series of propositions for curatorial project/s. By the end of the module, students will have a clear blueprint for practice in semester 2. As 'experiments', the students are not expected to have produced final or complete work.

#### What will I learn?

- On successful completion of this module students will be able to:
1. escape a body of work which will meet the requirements of the Major Project module;
  2. conduct a series of tests or experiments with materials or ideas;
  3. reflect critically on the scale, scope and challenge of the work being proposed for the Major Project module.

#### Module content

The module comes tutorials, crits and lectures. It is structured as following:

- i. by week 4, the student should have achieved a clear sense of the nature of the work that they propose completing in the course of the year. This will be outlined a **proposal (text)** submitted to their supervisor. This is ungraded but formative feedback will be provided. This proposal plays an important role in establishing an appropriate level of intellectual challenge for a Major Practice Project (PGVC2004) as well as its appropriate form. Students who propose overly complex or an underweight project will be guided on the basis of this document.
- ii. between week 4 and week 12, the student will be conducting the '**experiments**' outlined above.
- iii. In c. week 12, all ACW MFA will present their work in a **day-long crit**. The crit will involve one or two invited respondents with broad expertise in the fields of contemporary art / curation / art criticism. The crit will be public in as far as the ACW teaching team, ACW first year students and external respondents will contribute to the discussion.
- iv. Following the crit, the students will be required to submit a **portfolio** (including text and images) in which they present their work to date and critical reflections on the work to be conducted in semester 2. The precise nature of the portfolio will be determined by the student and supporting tutor. The portfolio is likely to include critical self-reflection following the feedback in the crit.

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

**How will I learn?**

The module is supported by at least three one-to-one tutorials with a nominated tutor (either from the ACW teaching team or from other areas of the College if particular supporting expertise is needed). They will participate in a 'crit' featuring at least one external respondent. Students will participate in Contemporary Art Practices lectures classes provided as part of the ACW curriculum on a two year cycle. Featuring diverse perspectives on contemporary art practice, these lectures provide a vein of critical thinking which will aid the preparation of the proposal and the material presented in the crit. Students will not be required to submit the essay completed by ACW MA students.

**Credits**

15

| <b>Learning tool</b>                      | <b>Hours</b> |
|---|--------------|
| Tutor-led (tutorials, lectures and crits) | 23           |
| Specified Learning Activities             | 26           |
| Autonomous Student Learning               | 251          |
| Total Workload                            | 300          |

**What learning supports are provided?**

The lecture series outlined above will be supported with bibliographies, set readings, etc.

**Am I eligible to take this module?**
**Module Requisites and Incompatibles**

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Pre-requisites</b> | All trimester 1 and trimester 2 modules on the ACW MA must have been successfully completed prior to transfer to the MFA. They are <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction to Research Methods PGVC- 01</li> <li>Contemporary Art Practices 1: Discourses of Art PGACW-1</li> <li>Situations 1 PGACW-2</li> <li>Situations 2 PGACW-3</li> <li>Key Theories 20<sup>th</sup> Century Foundations PGACW-4</li> <li>Art and Writing 1: Varieties of Criticism PGACW-6</li> <li>Contemporary Art Practices 2: Medium PGACW-7</li> <li><i>Situations 3 PGACW-8 OR Situations 4 PGACW-9 OR DPH-14 Design Mediation OR DPH-15 Futures</i></li> <li>Key Theories 3: Making Publics PGACW-10</li> <li>Key Theories 4: Politics of Participation PGACW-11</li> <li>Art and Writing 2: Varieties of Criticism PGACW-12</li> </ul> |
| <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  |

#### How will I be assessed?

| <b>Assessment tool</b>          | <b>% of final grade</b> | <b>Timing</b> |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| Proposal Text                   | Not assessed            | TBC           |
| Portfolio of writing and images | 100%                    | TBC           |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b>100%</b>             |               |

The Proposal outlined above is a requirement of the module and students will be given formative feedback. It does not contribute to the overall assessment of the module and so is not given a grade. An inadequate proposal will result in the requirement that the student resubmits the proposal during the course of the module by a date specified by the staff team.

| <b>Assessment tool</b>          | <b>Learning outcomes being assessed</b> |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Proposal Text                   | 1                                       |
| Portfolio of writing and images | 1,2 and 3                               |

#### Feedback, results and grading

This module will be assessed graded by a single tutor according to the cross college grade descriptors.

#### What happens if I fail?

Opportunities will be provided during or at the end of the autumn Trimester to students who do not complete all assessments that trimester.

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

Autumn trimester year 2 / various sites on NCAD Campus.

#### 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 trimester, 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