

Programme Details

Awarding body	University of London
Teaching institution	Goldsmiths, University of London
Programme Title	MPhil/PhD in Art (Thesis by Practice)
Exit awards	MPhil in Art (Thesis by Practice)
Modes of study	Full-time or Part-time
Duration of study (years)	<p><u>Full-time study</u> Minimum period: 2 years Expected period: 3 years Maximum period: 4 years</p> <p><u>Part-time study</u> Minimum period: 4 years Expected period: 6 years Maximum period: 8 years</p>
Start date/s	October or January
Level of award (FHEQ)	Level 8 (PhD)
Home Department	Art
Other Departments (where applicable)	n/a
Programme Director	Professor Kristen Kreider
Professional accreditation (where applicable)	n/a

Entry Criteria

Academic

Applicants should normally possess at least a first degree (normally of upper second class honours standard or above) or equivalent. Applicants should also normally have (or expect to be awarded) a taught Masters in a relevant subject area.

Where an applicant possesses non-standard qualifications or equivalent experience, these will be considered.

Language

Applicants whose first language is not English should normally have attained a score of at least 7.0 on the IELTS (International English Language Testing System), or equivalent test, with a 7.0 score in the writing element.

Learning outcomes

On completion of the PhD, candidates should be able to demonstrate:

- that they are competent as an independent researcher in their discipline and capable of continuing to undertake research at an advanced level, contributing substantially to the development of new Ideas, techniques or approaches;

(As part of this, they should have gained:

- an ability to evaluate critically the existing literature and practices relevant to their thesis topic;
 - an ability to conceptualise, design and implement a project for the generation of significant new knowledge and/or understanding;
 - an ability to relate practice, theory and concepts to evidence in a systematic way and to draw appropriate conclusions based on evidence.)
- an understanding of the place of the candidate's research in the context of the relevant field of study and across disciplines, as appropriate;
 - awareness of the research integrity and any relevant ethical and professional considerations;
 - effective management of a project, from identifying research questions, planning interim milestones and timescale, prioritising activities, through to timely completion.

They should also be able to demonstrate that they can:

- write and otherwise communicate clearly in a style and through an aesthetics appropriate to the purpose and audience;
- construct coherent arguments and articulate and defend ideas clearly to a range of audiences, through a variety of techniques;
- manage their training needs, both in relation to their programme and their future career development.

Programme description

Department of Art MPhil/PhD in Art (Thesis by Practice)

The Department of Art is committed to supporting and developing art research of the highest quality in the areas of Fine Art, Curating, Art Writing and across disciplines.

The MPhil/PhD in Art (Thesis by Practice) draws on the AHRC definition of practice-led research where creative output, such as artefacts, experiences, services, exhibitions can be produced or practice undertaken as an integral part of a research process. This practice must be accompanied by some form of documentation of the research process and practice, as well as some form of written analysis, commentary or explanation to support its approach and to demonstrate critical reflection. Practice that involves no such processes is not considered research.

For the purposes of the MPhil/PhD in Art (Thesis by Practice) the definition of 'thesis' is adapted from the University of London regulations, and includes the following distinction:

- **MPhil:** the thesis will be either a record of original work or of an ordered and critical exposition of existing knowledge and practice, and shall provide evidence that the field has been surveyed thoroughly;
- **PhD:** the thesis will form a distinct contribution to the knowledge and practice of the subject and afford evidence of originality by the discovery of new facts and/or the making of new artefacts, experiences, services, exhibitions and/or by the exercise of

independent critical power.

The MPhil/PhD in Art (Thesis by Practice) programme will comprise:

i) Research Project

An independent research project in the form of a thesis comprising a substantial body of art practice and/or curatorial practice and/or art writing practice, presented as an integrated whole.

The thesis will be evidenced by:

- a) the practical *work itself*, the greater portion of which must have been undertaken during the period of registration under supervision for the degree. This work must be exhibited or otherwise presented at the point of examination;
- b) a considered form of *documentation*, as appropriate to the project, which should take the form of visual and/or audio-visual and/or written material evidencing and reflecting on the research process and providing a means of broadly disseminating the research outcomes. Such documentation should evidence such research work as might reasonably be expected after three or at most four years of full-time research when the practical element is, itself, considered to form the thesis. (If a student is studying on a part-time basis, this should evidence what might reasonably be expected after six or at most eight years of research when the practical element is, itself, considered to form the thesis.)
- c) a *written component* of 20,000-40,000 words for PhD (or, for MPhil, 10,000-20,000 words), which should offer a critical account of the research and articulate the project's relation to the criterion that the practical work forms 'a distinct contribution to knowledge' (or, for MPhil, is 'either a record of original work or of an ordered and critical exposition of existing knowledge').

The practical work, documentation and written component may incorporate experimental approaches.

ii) Research Training

a) Discipline Specific skills

Research Training for the Art MPhil/PhD (Thesis by Practice) takes place in and through Skills Workshops, Art Research Seminars, Public Presentations, Public Events and a series of individual Installations. All MPhil/PhD Art Researchers are expected to attend, participate in and, in certain cases, organise these various activities as part of the programme's discipline-specific skills training.

The full details of the Department's research training programme will be set out from year to year in separate documentation.

b) Generic/transferable skills

At the start of their programme, students will complete a Learning Needs Assessment to determine what further training would be beneficial to their studies and ongoing career development. This must be discussed and approved with the main supervisor.

Progression

Students will initially be registered on the programme of MPhil/PhD in Art (Thesis by Practice) with progress to PhD status being subject to formal assessment of research ability.

Students will be subject to an annual review of progress, the details of which are summarised in the Goldsmiths *Code of Practice for Postgraduate Research and Training*.

In Year 2 (or equivalent for part-time students), students will undertake a Transfer of Registration assessment. The possible outcomes of this assessment are as follows:

- i) transfer to PhD status;
- ii) an agreed plan of remedial action, leading to a second and final upgrade attempt, to an agreed timescale, normally within three months of the original interview (or six months if studying on a part-time basis). This is the expected outcome if transfer is not agreed at the first attempt;
- iii) recommendation that the candidate prepare for a submission for the degree of MPhil, if and when their work is likely to fit the criteria for this degree; or
- iv) recommendation for termination of registration.

Final Assessment

Submission of MPhil/PhD in Art (Thesis by Practice)

Candidates will be required to submit a thesis comprising a substantial body of art practice and/or curatorial practice and/or art writing practice, presented as an integrated whole.

The thesis will be evidenced by the practical work itself, a considered form of documentation (as appropriate to the project) and a written component of 20,000-40,000 words for PhD (10,000-20,000 words for MPhil).

The thesis submission should take on **one** of the following three forms:

- i) The practical work itself and/or a considered and appropriate form of documentation of the practical work is presented as an **A4 codex**, which includes the written component. This is bound in keeping with the standard regulations for the submission of a thesis.

See the Goldsmiths *Instructions on submission, format and binding of theses submitted for the degrees of MPhil and PhD* for full details.

- ii) The practical work itself and/or a considered and appropriate form of documentation of the practical work is presented as an **A3 codex**, which includes the written component. This is bound in keeping with the standard regulations for the submission of a thesis.

See the Goldsmiths *Instructions on submission, format and binding of theses submitted for*

the degrees of MPhil and PhD for full details.

- iii) The practical work itself and/or a considered and appropriate form of documentation of the practical work is presented in the form of an **archival box**, which includes a bound copy of the written component.

The written component is bound in keeping with the standard regulations for the submission of a thesis. See the Goldsmiths *Instructions on submission, format and binding of theses submitted for the degrees of MPhil and PhD* for full details.

The archival box can be made from any material and decorated in any way, but must be robust and must meet the following criteria:

- provide the candidate's name, year and degree level clearly on the outside;
- include a list of contents;
- fit onto shelving (H37 D42);
- weigh no more than 10kg;
- include material relating to the practice; for example, video, photography, scores, audio works, book works, objects, publications, diagrams, drawings and other elements approved by the supervisors;
- include the written component.

All elements in the box must be scanned and made available for the library e-thesis facility and comply with copyright legislation.

Assessment of MPhil/PhD in Art (Thesis by Practice)

Assessment of the MPhil/PhD in Art (Thesis by Practice) is by viva voce, which **must** include an exhibition or other presentation of the practical work, as appropriate to the project. This can take the form of an exhibition, performance, screening, artist's book, page-based publication or other form approved by the supervisory team.

Discussion of the practical work with reference to its documentation (as appropriate to the project) and to the written component will be the basis of the viva voce.

*N.B. Given that the practical work is considered **to be** the thesis, it is possible for examiners of the MPhil/PhD in Art (Thesis by Practice) to ask for amendments on the practical work itself as much as on its documentation and/or the written component, or to fail an examination on the basis of the practical work itself and/or its documentation and/or the written component.*

Criteria for the Award of the MPhil/PhD in Art (Thesis by Practice)

The thesis will:

- i) **MPhil:** be either a record of original work or of an ordered and critical exposition of existing knowledge and practice, and shall provide evidence that the field has been surveyed thoroughly;

PhD: form a distinct contribution to the knowledge of the subject and afford evidence of originality by the discovery of new facts and/or the making of new artefacts, experiences, services, exhibitions and/or by the exercise of independent critical power;

- ii) be what might reasonably be expected after three or at most four years of full-time study (or, for MPhil, after two or at most three years of full-time study). If a student is studying on a part-time basis, the scope of the thesis shall be what might reasonably be expected after six or at most eight years of study (or, for MPhil, after three or at most four years of part-time study).
- iii) consist of the candidate's own account of his/her investigations, the greater proportion of which shall have been undertaken during the period of registration under supervision for the degree;

N.B. The part played by the candidate in any work done jointly with the supervisor(s) and/or fellow research workers must be clearly stated by the candidate and certified by the supervisor.

- iv) be an integrated whole and present a coherent argument and/or body of work;

N.B. A series of papers or works, whether published or otherwise made public, is not acceptable for submission as a traditional MPhil/PhD thesis.¹

N.B. Research work already published or otherwise made public, or submitted for publication or public exhibition, at the time of submission of the thesis, either by the candidate alone or jointly with others, may be included in the thesis. Published papers or exhibited artefacts should be adapted as needed to form an integral part of the thesis and thereby make a relevant contribution to the main theme of the thesis. Publications or exhibitions derived from the work in the thesis may be bound as supplementary material at the back of the thesis.

- v) give a critical assessment of the relevant practices and literatures in the field; describe or otherwise evidence the method of research and its findings; include reflection on those findings and indicate in what respects they appear to the candidate to advance the study of the subject. In so doing, demonstrate:

- a deep and synoptic understanding of the field of study (the candidate being able to place the thesis in a wider context);
- the capacity for judgment in complex situations;
- autonomous work in that field;

- vi) the written component must be in English and the literary presentation shall be satisfactory; this component should not exceed the limit of 40,000 words and must include a full bibliography and references;

N.B. On an exceptional basis, permission may be granted for a thesis in the field of foreign literature to be written in the language of study; in such cases the thesis shall additionally include a submission of between 5,000 and 10,000 words which shall be written in English and shall summarise the main arguments of the thesis.

N.B. The bibliography is excluded from the word count; footnotes are included within the word count; appendices are excluded from the word count and should only include

material which examiners are not required to read in order to examine the thesis, but to which they may refer if they wish.

- vii) the practical work must demonstrate its ability to undertake research and communicate findings; the practical work and its documentation must not exceed an equivalent of 60,000 words in whatever form is submitted for final examination;
- viii) demonstrate research skills relevant to the thesis being presented;
- ix) be of a standard to merit publication or other means of public dissemination in whole or in part or in a revised form.

Methods of enhancing Quality and Standards

Departmental Postgraduate Committee

The Departmental Postgraduate Research Committee is the main body responsible for ensuring that qualities and standards are met on the programme. The Director of Postgraduate Research is the Chair of the Committee, and members comprise all MPhil/PhD Art staff and Supervisors as well as the Head of Department and the Chair of the Research Committee.

The Postgraduate Research Committee meets three times per year, once per term, and reports then to the main Departmental Committee.

Responsibilities of the Departmental Postgraduate Committee include:

- i) Overseeing the appointment and allocation of supervisors in consultation with the Head of Department as necessary, and reviewing all supervisors' responsibilities on an annual basis.
- ii) Ensuring that all academic staff and postgraduate students have a copy of the current Research Student Handbook, as appropriate (or access to it via the internet). Third parties (for example, sponsoring organisations, research councils and professional and statutory bodies) with an involvement in the research and examination programme should also be sent the Handbook.
- iii) Ensuring that the Departmental Induction programme provides students with any specific information needed on departmental procedures, policies and resources (in addition to the general coverage in the College Induction week programme); advice should be provided on Departmental health and safety, ethical and other issues.
- iv) Reporting at the end of the first term of each academic year to the Graduate School on the supervision and resources provided for each research student in the Department, by means of the First Term Report form.
- v) Overseeing procedures for Transfer of Registration from MPhil to PhD status for students, in accordance with the Regulations.

- vi) If a student or supervisor believes that an effective working relationship has not been established, or where a student puts in a request for change of supervisor, investigating the problem and, if necessary, arranging for a new supervisor to be nominated.
- vii) In cases where a supervisor is criticized for poor supervision, discussing the issue with the supervisor and, where appropriate, recommending to the Head of Department either training or, if necessary, tasks other than supervisory duties. In cases where the supervisor being criticized is also the Head of Department, the Dean of the Graduate School or the responsible Pro-Warden should be consulted.
- viii) Reporting annually at the end of each academic year to the Graduate School Board by means of the Annual Progress Report form and attached copies of supervision meeting reports.
- ix) In cases where the student is not making satisfactory progress, placing a student on Special Academic Review (see Appendix B, Regulation 6). If it is considered that a research student is unlikely to achieve the degree for which s/he is registered, the Committee is empowered to recommend dismissal to the Director of Student Services.

Annual Review Panels

Scheduled in Term 3, the Annual Review Panels are the main monitoring exercise for the MPhil/PhD in Art. The panels are intended to monitor and evaluate progress made throughout the year; provide an opportunity to assess training or other research needs; aid progression to next stage of research. These panels are mandatory and linked to the submission of the yearly Annual Progress Report Form.

All MPhil & PhD Researchers (Full-Time and Part-Time; at any stage of research) will submit materials ahead of the panel sessions and are expected attend their individual panel session in person, without exception.

Focus

While linked to the Annual Progress Report, the focus of the session will be geared to a particular stage of research:

- Upgrade Review - for those who will Upgrade the following year;
- Exam Review - for those who will submit for the Final Exam the following year;
- Annual Review - for all others.

Structure

Each MPhil/PhD Art Researcher has a dedicated panel slot of 50 minutes consisting of:

- Presentation of research/work for the year by the Researcher (5-10 minutes)
- Discussion amongst panel members of research/work for the year (20-30 minutes)
- Evaluation of progress, with Researcher absent (5-10 minutes)
- Feedback to Researcher and decision on any actions to be taken (5-10 minutes)

Panel

3-4 panels will run concurrently across the allocated days, and each panel session will consist of the following persons:

- *MPhil/PhD Art Researcher*

The MPhil/PhD Art Researcher will have submitted materials ahead of time (see below) and will present research/work for the year during the panel session (5-10 minutes, see above). The Researcher will be expected to respond to questions presented by the panel and to discuss progress and future goals.

- *Panel Chair*

The Panel Chair will be a member of the PhD Core Staff Team. While all relevant information and materials will be distributed by the Art Office, the Chair is ultimately responsible for ensuring that all members of the panel know the date, time and location of the panel and have received all necessary materials. The Chair will also keep time during the session. While the Panel Chair may participate in the discussion, their role is specifically to raise points specifically related to regulations and guidelines. If the panel is geared toward either Upgrade or Exam, then the Chair will ensure that all information related to these procedures is communicated to the Researcher and Supervisors.

- *Respondent*

The Respondent will be one member of the Postgraduate Research Committee and/or another member of academic staff with expertise relevant to the research project. The Respondent is there as the primary lead for discussion, raising questions and comments related to the materials submitted and the panel presentation.

- *Primary Supervisor*

The Primary Supervisor is there as part of the monitoring process. While the Primary Supervisor may participate in the discussion, it is not expected that the Primary Supervisor will lead such discussion as any points can be taken up at a later supervisory session. It is expected that the Primary Supervisor will offer comments about progression during the evaluation of progress. The panel session is also an opportunity for the Primary Supervisor to raise questions related to supervision with the Panel Chair and Respondent.

- *Second Supervisor*

The Second Supervisor is there as part of the monitoring process. While the Second Supervisor may participate in the discussion, it is not expected that the Second Supervisor will lead such discussion as any points can be taken up at a later supervisory session. It is expected that the Second Supervisor will offer comments about progression during the evaluation of progress. The panel session is also an opportunity for the Second Supervisor to raise questions related to supervision with the Panel Chair and Respondent.