Graduate Diploma in Contemporary Art History
Programme Specification

Awarding Institution:

University of London (Interim Exit Awards made by Goldsmiths' College)

Teaching Institution: Goldsmiths, University of London

Final Award: Graduate Diploma in Contemporary Art History

Programme Name: Graduate Diploma in Contemporary Art History

Total credit value for programme: 120 credits

Name of Interim Exit Award(s):

Not applicable

Duration of Programme: 1 year full-time or 2 years part-time

UCAS Code(s): Not applicable

HECoS Code(s): (100306) History of Art

QAA Benchmark Group: History of Art, Architecture and Design

FHEQ Level of Award: Level 6

Programme accredited by: Not applicable

Date Programme Specification last updated/approved: October 2022

Home Department: Visual Cultures

Department(s) which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme:

Not applicable

Programme overview

The Graduate Diploma in Contemporary Art History is a conversion programme designed for graduates of other disciplines who wish to carry out research at higher levels in the fields of modern and contemporary art history and visual culture, as well as for those looking to inform and deepen their professional practice in the cultural sector.

The programme sets out to be both introductory and experiential, welcoming each students' unique perspectives, while familiarising them with, and orientating them within, a multitude of ways of seeing that inform contemporary art and visual culture.

Rather than providing conventional chronological surveys, the programme explores chosen themes within an interdisciplinary context. As such, the programme develops independent critical thinking and a curious, exploratory approach. By grounding itself in urgent questions

arising from the contemporary, the programme invites students to recognise how entanglements of art, history, and culture, continue to matter, and how rigorous, critical research and practice can enable one to respond.

Programme entry requirements

Students should normally have, or expect to gain, a first degree of at least second-class standard. Non-English language speakers are required to have passed the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) of 6.0 with at least a 6.0 in writing and no element lower than 5.5.

Selection Process

Admission to many programmes is by interview, unless you live outside the UK. Occasionally, we'll make candidates an offer of a place on the basis of their application and qualifications alone.

Late applications will only be considered if there are spaces available.

Programme learning outcomes

The Graduate Diploma in Contemporary Art History has been designed as a conversion programme for graduates of other disciplines who wish to carry out research at higher levels in the field of Contemporary Art History and Visual Cultures. The programme encourages students to develop an independent and critically informed approach to the visual arts and their wider cultural context. It aims to foster the students' awareness of art's cultural and political significance and to relate their historical understanding of visual art to critical debates and perspectives that have shaped the discipline of art history and related fields in the present. The programme encourages students to deal systematically and creatively with complex issues, to continue to advance their knowledge and understanding and develop the independent learning ability required for research at MA and PhD level, as well as for employment in the cultural field.

What you will be expected to achieve

In addition to the skills expected of all humanities graduates, students on the Graduate Diploma in Contemporary Art History will develop particular abilities in the deployment of visual material in conjunction with written, oral and other forms of communication, such as illustrated essays and seminars, slide, moving image or multimedia presentations.

Students on the Graduate Diploma in Contemporary Art History should acquire the following knowledge and should develop skills in the following areas:

Knowledge and understanding

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A1	Knowledge and understanding of key philosophical, theoretical, art-historical and aesthetic concepts and debates pertinent to modern and contemporary art history and visual cultures, as developed in the work of specific practitioners / thinkers / activists.	Compulsory Module.
A2	Knowledge and understanding of the pertinent historical, geo-cultural, social and political contexts pertinent to modern and contemporary art history and visual cultures, generally, and in relation to specific examples.	Compulsory Module, selected BA Art History Third Year modules.
A3	Knowledge and understanding of key issues and debates relating specifically to the topics of vision, spectatorship, and visuality.	Compulsory Module and Laboratory.
A4	Knowledge and understanding of key issues and debates relating specifically to questions and practices of cultural participation.	Laboratory.
A5	Knowledge and understanding of key factors, from the ideological to the practical, that inform the workings of the contemporary global art world.	Compulsory Module and Laboratory.

Cognitive and thinking skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
B1	Have a high level of visual literacy with respect to still and moving imagery.	Compulsory Modules, selected BA Art History modules such as: Emancipating Images and Sounds (VC52091B), Feminist and Queer Technoscience (VC52111A), the Arts of Surveillance (VC52110A), and

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
		those modules in the Sound and Image pathway.
B2	Be able to identify and question presuppositions.	Compulsory Modules, all BA Art History modules.
B3	Understand how to activate, apply and/or test particular philosophical, theoretical and aesthetic concepts in relation to specific visual culture practices and phenomena.	Compulsory Modules.
B4	Be able to examine issues and phenomena from a variety of critical perspectives.	Compulsory Module and Laboratory, all BA Art History modules.
B5	Be able to think speculatively and to critically explore the impact of competing discourses.	Compulsory Module and Laboratory, all BA Art History modules.
B6	Understand how to access and make appropriate use of a wide range of relevant research and image databases, archives and other research resources (including special collections).	Compulsory Module.
B7	Have independence of thought in terms of developing and carrying out research.	Compulsory Module and Laboratory, all BA Art History modules.
B8	Be able to develop and present a convincing argument.	Compulsory Module and Laboratory, all BA Art History modules.
B9	Understand the complexities of working in inter- disciplinary or trans-disciplinary contexts.	Compulsory Module and Laboratory.

Subject specific skills and professional behaviours and attitudes

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C1	Observation: close and systematic visual examination, informed by appropriate knowledge of materials, techniques and cultural contexts.	Compulsory Module.
C2	Description: using ordinary and specialist language to record and describe visual artefacts.	Compulsory Module and Laboratory, all BA Art History modules.
C3	The ability to set artefacts and other visual expressions within appropriate	Compulsory Module and Laboratory, all BA Art History modules.

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
	historical, intellectual, cultural and institutional contexts.	
C5	The ability to draw upon personal responses to artefacts while recognising how these should be distinguished from other relevant meanings.	Compulsory Module and Laboratory.
C5	The ability to understand the role of artefacts and other visual cultural expressions as carriers of meaning and value.	All modules.

Transferable skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D1	The ability to use appropriate methodologies for locating, assessing and interpreting primary sources.	Compulsory Module and Laboratory.
D2	The ability to produce logical and structured narratives and arguments supported by relevant evidence.	Compulsory Module.
D3	The ability to bring evidence or ideas of different sorts or from different sources together in a productive way.	Compulsory Module.
D4	The ability to be open and receptive to new things and ideas.	All modules.
D5	The ability to identify the merits of unfamiliar arguments or cultural artefacts and the merits or shortcomings of familiar ones.	Compulsory Module.
D6	The ability to design and carry out a research project with limited tutorial guidance.	Compulsory Module.
D7	The ability to develop an independent argument that is informed by but not dependent on authorities in the field of art history and visual culture.	Compulsory Module and Laboratory.
D8	The ability to work diligently, to fulfil briefs and deadlines, and to take responsibility for one's own work.	All modules.

Mode of study

On campus; 1 year full-time or 2 years part-time.

Programme structure

The programme consists of one core module Histories of Art and its Lab (45 CATS), and 2 further compulsory modules in Autumn term, Curating and the Curatorial (15 CATS) and Inhabitations (15 CATS). Further modules (45 CATS in total) are selected by students from Visual Cultures Spring term Level 5 and 6 Option modules. The programme is offered in full-time (1 year) and part-time (2 year) mode. Full-time students take all modules over one year. Part-time students spread the modules over two years. Part-time students are required to take the Core Module Histories of Art and its Lab in year one, alongside one other module, with the remaining modules taken in the second year.

The Compulsory Module and Lab extend students' knowledge base and the understanding of the principles, methodologies and critical perspectives that have shaped the discipline of art history and visual culture. The other two core modules introduce key themes of the curatorial (the taking care of visual art and its histories), and space and place (to invite attention to the specificity of dwelling), together these compulsory modules provide a strong foundation for students to recognise their own emerging interests and pursue these through option choices in term 2.   Where the assessment of option modules are concerned, graduate students are required to produce written work equivalent to that expected of Year 3 undergraduate students (i.e. FHEQ level 6).

Students, in consultation with module convenors, may audit additional modules, and are invited to the (non-assessed) Visual Cultures Public Programme that takes place on Thursday evenings. Overseas students, of whom the programme has a high proportion, also take language modules provided by the English Language Centre.

Students should be aware that each 30 CAT module requires 300 nominal learning hours – a mixture of formal learning and teaching events such as lectures, seminars, and tutorials, as well as a significant amount of independent study in terms of weekly reading and lecture/seminar preparation, and research and writing towards formative and summative assessment.

Full-time mode

Module Name	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Type	Term
Histories of Art (Lecture and Lab)	VC53065B	45	6	Compulsory	1-2

Curating and the Curatorial	VC53103A	15	6	Compulsory	1
Inhabitations	VC52061A	15	5	Compulsory	1
Optional module 1		15	5 or 6	Optional	2
Optional module 2		15	5 or 6	Optional	2
Optional module 3		15	5 or 6	Optional	2

NB: A maximum of 15 CATS may be taken from level 5 options.

Part-time mode

Academic year of study 1

Module Name	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Type	Term
Histories of Art (Lecture and Lab)	VC53065B	45	6	Compulsory	1-2
EITHER Curating and the Curatorial OR Inhabitations in Term 1, OR an optional module in Term 2.	VC53103A / VC52061A / TBC	15	6	Compulsory	1 or 2

Academic year of study 2

Students will select four 15 CAT modules (60 CATS) from the below options depending on section from year 1. If compulsory modules were not taken in year 1 they must be taken in year 2.

Module Name	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Type	Term
Curating and the Curatorial	VC53103A	15	6	Compulsory	1
Inhabitations	VC52061A	15	5	Compulsory	1
45 credits of optional modules	TBC	15	5 or 6	Optional	2

NB: A maximum of 15 CATS may be taken from level 5 options.

Academic support

Support for learning and wellbeing is provided in a number of ways by departments and College support services who work collaboratively to ensure students get the right help to reach their best potential both academically and personally.

All students are allocated a Personal Tutor who has overall responsibility for their individual progress and welfare. Personal Tutors meet with their student at least three times a year either face-to-face, as part of a group and/or electronically. The first meeting normally takes place within the first few weeks of the autumn term. Personal Tutors are also available to students throughout the year of study. These meetings aim to discuss progress on modules, discussion of the academic discipline and reports from previous years if available (for continuing students). This provides an opportunity for progress, attendance and assessment marks to be reviewed and an informed discussion to take place about how to strengthen individual learning and success.

All students are also allocated a Senior Tutor to enable them to speak to an experienced academic member of staff about any issues which are negatively impacting their academic study and which are beyond the normal scope of issues handled by Programme Convenors and Personal Tutors.

Students are provided with information about learning resources, a Visual Cultures specific Introduction to Academic Skills the Library and information available on Learn.gold (VLE) so that they have access to department/ programme handbooks, programme information and support related information and guidance.

Taught sessions and lectures provide overviews of themes, which students are encouraged to complement with intensive reading for presentation and discussion with peers at seminars. Assessments build on lectures and seminars so students are expected to attend all taught sessions to build knowledge and their own understanding of their chosen discipline.

All assessed work is accompanied by some form of feedback to ensure that students' work is on the right track. It may come in a variety of forms ranging from written comments on a marked essay to oral and written feedback on developing projects and practice as they attend workshops.

Students may be referred to specialist student services by department staff or they may access support services independently. Information about support services is provided on the Goldsmiths website and for new students through new starter information and induction/Welcome Week. Any support recommendations that are made are agreed with the student and communicated to the department so that adjustments to learning and teaching are able to be implemented at a department level and students can be reassured that arrangements are in place. Opportunities are provided for students to review their support arrangements should their circumstances change. The Disability and Wellbeing Services maintain caseloads of students and provide on-going support.

The Careers Service provides central support for skills enhancement, running The Gold Award scheme and other co-curricular activities that are accredited via the Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR).

The Academic Skills Centre works with academic departments offering bespoke academic literacy sessions. It also provides a programme of academic skills workshops and one-to-one provision for students throughout the year.

Placement opportunities

Not applicable.

Employability and potential career opportunities

As the Graduate Diploma in Contemporary Art History is designed as a conversion programme, many of the students who complete it successfully go on to MA programmes in either Art History, Art Theory, Visual Culture, Museum Studies or Curating. Some have found employment in museums and galleries, as well as in community art projects in this country and abroad. Others work freelance as exhibition curators or as critics for art journals. Students who have continued doing research at PhD level, have found long-term or short-term employment in educational institutions.

Tuition fee costs

Information on tuition fee costs is available at: https://www.gold.ac.uk/students/fee-support/.

Specific programme costs

Not applicable.