

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

NOTE: ANY CHANGES TO A CSD MUST GO THROUGH ALL OF THE RELEVANT APPROVAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING LTPC.

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| Academic School/Department: | Communications, Arts and Social Sciences |
| Programme: | MA in Visual Arts Management and Curating |
| Level: | 7 |
| Course Title: | Extended Professional Research Project |
| Course Code: | VAM 7550 |
| Course Leader: | Charlotte Bonham-Carter |
| Student Engagement Hours: | 600 |
| Independent / Guided Learning : | 600 |
| Semester: | SUMMER |
| Credits: | 60 UK CATS credits 30 ECTS credits 12 US credits |

Course Description:

For students working independently on their Masters professional research project. An extended project equivalent to a 15,000-20,000 word thesis is offered as an alternative to the mandatory internship. The professional research project encourages students to study intensively a topic agreed with a supervisor, and so develop skills and experience which can be applied in work placements or further graduate work. Students apply their knowledge from across the autumn and spring semesters to researching a topic on visual arts management and curating, which may relate to their work experience. This course is comprised of intensive and regular meetings on a one-to-one (by appointment) basis with a project supervisor to discuss the progress of research, development and writing.

Pre-requisites and/or Co-requisites: MA Visual Arts Management and Curating students offered only as an alternative to those not taking the internship.

Aims and Objectives:

- For the supervisor to guide the student, as a junior research colleague, through the research, writing and production of an MA level professional research project of 15,000-20,000 words (or the equivalent of)
- For the student to undertake independent/autonomous research on a professional topic which makes a valuable contribution to the field
- To develop professional skills and experience which can be applied in work placements or further graduate work

Programme Outcomes:

At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following programme outcomes:

B1, B2, B3, B4, B6

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification. This is located at the Departmental/Schools page of the portal.

Learning Outcomes:

- demonstrate critically engaged visual literacy including formal analysis
- show systematic, critical engagement with texts and objects
- conduct successful and original research, including the application of appropriate methodologies for locating, assessing and interpreting primary sources
- show excellent writing skills including logical and structured narratives and arguments supported by relevant primary and secondary evidence

Indicative Content:

- production of a professional research project equivalent to a 15,000-20,000 word Masters thesis, suitably illustrated, evidencing:
- intensive autonomous study of a topic agreed with a supervisor
- primary research making a valuable contribution to the field
- a coherent argument
- appropriate, critical use of secondary sources
- footnotes and a bibliography complying with the Chicago Manual of Style
- satisfactory presentation and scholarly apparatus

Assessment:

This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Academic Council on June 28, 2012.

| FHEQ level | Richmond/UK Level | Normal Number of Items (including final exam)* | Total assessment |
|-------------------|--------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| LEVEL 7 | R500/UK MA | 2-3 | 5000-7000 words |

Note: the required word count of the professional research project is 15,000-20,000 words.

Teaching Methodology:

AUTONOMOUS RESEARCH AND RESEARCH SUPERVISION

The course will require independent research overseen by a thesis supervisor, tutorial opportunities including with specialist faculty for more specific academic guidance, including comments on draft materials, and faculty and peer review feedback at a thesis conference.

Bibliography:

Barnet, S. *A Short Guide to Writing About Art* (Fifth Edition) (New York: Longman, 1997).

