BA (Hons) History of Art
Programme Specification

Awarding Institution:

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

Teaching Institution: Goldsmiths, University of London

Final Award: BA (Hons) History of Art

Programme Name: BA (Hons) History of Art

Total credit value for programme: 360 credits

Name of Interim Exit Award(s):

Certificate of Higher Education in History of Art

Diploma of Higher Education in History of Art

Duration of Programme: 3 years full-time

UCAS Code(s): V350

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:

Home Department: Visual Cultures

Department(s) which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme: Not applicable

Programme Overview

This degree is unique within the University of London as it focuses on the arts of the modern period internationally (primarily since 1945), on issues both affecting and reflected upon by contemporary art practices, and on the framing of the idea of contemporaneity itself as an important contingent and contested means of evaluating artworks. The programme explores a diverse range of theoretical, methodological, and archival perspectives that have influenced the formation of the discipline of the History of Art, and places considerable emphasis both on the ways that such increased sophistication and diversity has led to the emergence of Visual Culture as a field of study and the most recent developments in this discipline.

The programme also introduces students to an array of philosophical and theoretical debates that embed issues such social justice, gender, racial equity and decoloniality into the study of Art History and Visual Culture.

Within this framework, students are expected and encouraged to develop a critically independent approach to the interpretation of works of art, to examine shifting conceptions of the artist and to explore Visual Culture in its widest political, historical, aesthetic, and technological contexts. The programme pays attention to an inclusive variety of art practices and media, including performance and installation art, the moving image, and the built environment.

In addition, Goldsmiths is well placed for the firsthand study of contemporary art and culture in London. Structurally, the programme makes considerable use of these resources. Students are expected (with guidance and discussion) to take an active role in making themselves familiar with the city's various cultural institutions and to make use of these as primary resources in set coursework and in their own pieces of carefully supervised original research.

Programme entry requirements

Successful completion of three A-levels with BBB
BTEC: DDM
33 Points, HL655 in the International Baccalaureate
Equivalent to A-level BBB in other EU and overseas qualifications
Access: 60 credits overall with 30 distinctions and distinctions/merits in related subject.

Mature students without formal qualifications who have relevant experience are welcome to apply. International students apply in the same way as UK and EU students.

If English isn't your first language, you will need an IELTS score (or equivalent English language qualification) of **6.0 with a 6.0 in writing and no element lower than 5.5** to study this programme. If you need assistance with your English language, we offer a range of courses that can help prepare you for degree-level study.

Application is online through UCAS. Suitably qualified applicants are selected according to aptitude and suitability, based on personal statements, references and, where necessary, interview.

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Programme learning outcomes

Students who achieve the Certificate of Higher Education in History of Art (120 credits at level 4 or above) will be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A1	a basic understanding of the various prevailing theories of contemporary artistic cultural production	Modernities Contemporaneities Space and Time Beyond Boundaries
A2	a basic understanding of the historical emergence and development of contemporary artistic practices	Modernities Contemporaneities Space and Time Beyond Boundaries
A3	an introductory understanding of local, national and international dimensions of these art practices	Seeing and Showing Space and Time Beyond Boundaries
A4	an introductory understanding of the institutions of exhibition and criticism that shape art practices and their relation to other public and private institutions	Seeing and Showing Beyond Boundaries
A5	an introductory theoretical understanding of the ways that art practices produce, and reflect upon the formation of cultural identities	Modernities Contemporaneities Seeing and Showing Beyond Boundaries
A6	an introductory understanding of the nature and the conditions of the emergence of the study of visual culture as a field in its own right	Modernities Space and Time

		Contemporaneities

Cognitive and thinking skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
B1	develop a basic apprehension of a range of pertinent conceptual approaches to the role of art practices in shaping subjectivity, signification, cultural difference, and participation	Modernities Space and Time Contemporaneities All option modules
B2	develop introductory level skills in research, analysis and the ordering, evaluation and communication of ideas relating to the interpretation of artistic practices	Beyond Boundaries BA HA Dissertation

Subject specific skills and professional behaviours and attitudes

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C1	a basic conception of the conventions of art historical and visual cultural discourse and the possible ways of constructively and critically developing an independent practice	Modernities Seeing and Showing Space and Time Beyond Boundaries

Transferable skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D1	Basic communication and discussion skills, in written and oral contexts	Modernities Seeing and Showing Space and Time Beyond Boundaries
D2	Basic skills for presenting rational arguments in a confident, well-informed, and reasoned way and reading and listening critically	Modernities Seeing and Showing Space and Time Beyond Boundaries
D3	A basic ability to think critically and independently and question existing ideas and concepts	Modernities Seeing and Showing Space and Time Beyond Boundaries
D4	Basic group discussion skills, and the ability to interact, work, debate and communicate with others in a productive and positive way	Modernities Seeing and Showing Space and Time Beyond Boundaries

D5	A basic ability to think creatively across disciplinary boundaries	Modernities Seeing and Showing Space and Time Beyond Boundaries
D6	Time management and risk-taking skills: students will know how to manage their time effectively and meet agreed deadlines	Modernities Seeing and Showing Space and Time Beyond Boundaries
D7	A basic competence to accept change and risk taking as a positive dimension in the search for knowledge and personal development	Modernities Seeing and Showing Space and Time Beyond Boundaries
D8	A basic ability to modify one's thinking to better meet challenges	Modernities Seeing and Showing Space and Time Beyond Boundaries
D9	A commitment to ethical and sustainable ways of living and working, to social justice and racial equity	Modernities Seeing and Showing Space and Time Beyond Boundaries

Students who achieve the Diploma of Higher Education in History of Art (240 credits: 120 at level 5 and 120 at level 4 or above) will be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A1	a good understanding of the various prevailing theories of contemporary artistic cultural production	Modernities Seeing and Showing Space and Time Beyond Boundaries Contemporaneities
A2	a good understanding of the historical emergence and development of contemporary artistic practices	Modernities Seeing and Showing Space and Time Beyond Boundaries Contemporaneities
A3	a good understanding of local, national and international dimensions of these art practices	Modernities Seeing and Showing Space and Time Beyond Boundaries Contemporaneities
A4	a good understanding of the institutions of exhibition and criticism that shape art practices and their relation to other public and private institutions	Modernities Seeing and Showing Space and Time Beyond Boundaries Contemporaneities

A5	a solid foundation for a theoretical understanding of the ways that art practices produce, and reflect upon the formation of cultural identities	Modernities Seeing and Showing Space and Time Beyond Boundaries Contemporaneities
A6	a good understanding of the nature and the conditions of the emergence of the study of visual culture as a field in its own right	Modernities Seeing and Showing Space and Time Beyond Boundaries Contemporaneities

Cognitive and thinking skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
B1	a good theoretical apprehension of a range of pertinent conceptual approaches to the role of art practices in shaping subjectivity, signification, cultural difference, and participation	Modernities Seeing and Showing Space and Time Beyond Boundaries Contemporaneities
B2	the ability to use a range of skills in research, analysis and the ordering, evaluation and communication of ideas relating to the interpretation of artistic practices	Modernities Seeing and Showing Space and Time Beyond Boundaries Contemporaneities

Subject specific skills and professional behaviours and attitudes

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C1	a good ability to analyze the conventions of art historical and visual cultural discourse and the possible ways of constructively and critically developing an independent practice	Modernities Seeing and Showing Space and Time Beyond Boundaries Contemporaneities

Transferable skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D1	Good communication and discussion skills, in written and oral contexts	Modernities Seeing and Showing Space and Time Beyond Boundaries Contemporaneities BA HA Dissertation
D2	Good presentation skills in written form in a confident, well-informed, and reasoned way	Modernities Seeing and Showing Space and Time Beyond Boundaries Contemporaneities BA HA Dissertation

D3	A good ability to think critically and independently and question existing ideas and concepts	Modernities Seeing and Showing Space and Time Beyond Boundaries Contemporaneities BA HA Dissertation
D4	Good group discussion skills, and the ability to interact, work, debate and communicate with others in a productive and positive way	All modules
D5	A good ability to think creatively across disciplinary boundaries	Modernities Seeing and Showing Space and Time Beyond Boundaries Contemporaneities BA HA Dissertation
D6	Good time management and risk-taking skills: students will know how to manage their time effectively and meet agreed deadlines	Modernities Seeing and Showing Space and Time Beyond Boundaries Contemporaneities BA HA Dissertation
D7	A good competence to accept change and risk taking as a positive dimension in the search for knowledge and personal development	Modernities Seeing and Showing Space and Time

		Beyond Boundaries
		Contemporaneities
		BA HA Dissertation
D8	A good ability to modify one's thinking to better meet challenges	Modernities
		Seeing and Showing
		Space and Time
		Beyond Boundaries
		Contemporaneities
		BA HA Dissertation
D9	A commitment to ethical and sustainable ways of living and working, to social justice and racial equity	Modernities
		Seeing and Showing
		Space and Time
		Beyond Boundaries
		Contemporaneities
		BA HA Dissertation

Students who successfully complete the BA (Hons) History of Art programme will be expected to have acquired the following knowledge, understanding and skills:

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Knowledge and understanding

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A1	a comprehensive understanding of the various prevailing theories of contemporary artistic cultural production	All modules
A2	a comprehensive understanding of the historical emergence and development of contemporary artistic practices	Modernities Seeing and Showing Space and Time Beyond Boundaries Contemporaneities BA HA Dissertation All option modules
A3	a detailed understanding of local, national and international dimensions of these art practices	Modernities Seeing and Showing Space and Time Beyond Boundaries Contemporaneities BA HA Dissertation All option modules
A4	a systematic understanding of the institutions of exhibition and criticism that shape art practices and their relation to other public and private institutions	Modernities Seeing and Showing Space and Time Beyond Boundaries

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
		Contemporaneities
		BA HA Dissertation
		All option modules
A5	a highly developed theoretical understanding of the ways that art practices produce, and reflect upon the formation of cultural identities	Modernities
		Seeing and Showing
		Space and Time
		Beyond Boundaries
		Contemporaneities
		BA HA Dissertation
A6	a detailed understanding of the nature and the conditions of the emergence of the study of visual culture as a field in its own right	Modernities
		Seeing and Showing
		Space and Time
		Beyond Boundaries
		Contemporaneities
		BA HA Dissertation
		All option modules

Cognitive and thinking skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
B1	a theoretical apprehension of a range of pertinent conceptual approaches to the role of art practices in shaping subjectivity, signification, cultural difference, and participation	Modernities Seeing and Showing Space and Time Beyond Boundaries Contemporaneities BA HA Dissertation
B2	highly developed skills in research, analysis and the ordering, evaluation and communication of ideas relating to the interpretation of artistic practices	Modernities Seeing and Showing Space and Time Beyond Boundaries Contemporaneities BA HA Dissertation All option modules

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Subject specific skills and professional behaviours and attitudes

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C1	a strong conception of the conventions of art historical and visual cultural discourse and the possible ways of constructively and critically developing an independent practice	Modernities Seeing and Showing Space and Time Beyond Boundaries Contemporaneities BA HA Dissertation All option modules

Transferable skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D1	strong communication and discussion skills, in written and oral contexts	Modernities Seeing and Showing Space and Time Beyond Boundaries Contemporaneities BA HA Dissertation All option modules
D2	a strong ability to present arguments in a confident, well-informed, and reasoned way	Modernities Seeing and Showing Space and Time Beyond Boundaries

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
		Contemporaneities BA HA Dissertation All option modules
D3	A strong ability to think critically and independently and question existing ideas and concepts	Modernities Seeing and Showing Space and Time Beyond Boundaries Contemporaneities BA HA Dissertation All option modules
D4	Group discussion skills, and a strong ability to interact, work, debate and communicate with others in a productive and positive way	Modernities Seeing and Showing Space and Time Beyond Boundaries Contemporaneities
D5	A strong ability to think creatively across disciplinary boundaries	Modernities Seeing and Showing Space and Time Beyond Boundaries Contemporaneities BA HA Dissertation All option modules

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D6	Time management and risk-taking skills: students will know how to manage their time effectively and meet agreed deadlines	Modernities Seeing and Showing Space and Time Beyond Boundaries Contemporaneities BA HA Dissertation All option modules
D7	A strong competence to accept change and risk taking as a positive dimension in the search for knowledge and personal development	Modernities Seeing and Showing Space and Time Beyond Boundaries Contemporaneities BA HA Dissertation All option modules
D8	A strong ability to modify one's thinking to better meet challenges	Modernities Seeing and Showing Space and Time Beyond Boundaries Contemporaneities BA HA Dissertation All option modules

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D9	A strong commitment to ethical and sustainable ways of living and working, to social justice and racial equity	Modernities

Seeing and Showing

Space and Time

Beyond Boundaries

Contemporaneities

BA HA Dissertation

All option modules |

Grading Criteria

Mark	Descriptor	Specific Marking Criteria
80-100%	1st: First (Exceptional)	Represents the overall achievement of the specified assessment criteria/module learning outcomes to an exceptionally accomplished level. Potentially publishable work, showing extensive research, originality and independence of thought. Such work will be highly articulate and demonstrate an equally highly sophisticated critical apprehension of subject matter, theoretical, archival and historiographical questions and issues regarding cultural processes. It will make potentially original gestures towards the advancement and integration of these areas. The work will also demonstrate an acute understanding of developments in the field of Art History, and an understanding of the significance of the emergence and direction of the discipline of Visual Culture.
70-79%	1st: First (Excellent)	Represents the overall achievement of the specified assessment criteria/module learning outcomes to an excellent level. Excellent work, taking in all aspects of the question under consideration and showing independence in approach and ideas; shows a high level of critical and analytical skill; has a good grasp of the historiography of the subject; has a good understanding of the main issues and is able to relate them comparatively to other topics and/or periods; well written and presented. Awareness of shifts, conflicts and the development of concerns in the fields of Art History and Visual Culture will be in evidence, as will an advanced apprehension of questions surrounding the interpretation of cultural processes.
60-69%	2.1: Upper Second (Very good)	Represents the overall achievement of the specified assessment criteria/module learning outcomes to a very good level. Good work, showing wide knowledge of appropriate art historical, art theoretical and visual cultures themes and an ability to use this in relevant analysis and argument; shows a grasp of the main issues and the historiography of the subject; on the whole has a good understanding of English grammar, spelling and punctuation. Such work will signal a well-developed awareness of historiographical matters, research methodology, cultural processes and developments in the fields of Art History and Visual Culture. There may be evidence of independence of research and thought.
50-59%	2.2: Lower Second (Good)	Represents the overall achievement of the specified assessment criteria/module learning outcomes to a good level. Has a satisfactory knowledge of appropriate art historical, art theoretical and visual cultures themes, but tends to produce narrative and has not got highly developed powers

		of analysis and argument. Such work will signal a quite limited awareness of the main issues as well as of historiographical matters, research methodology, cultural processes and developments in the fields of Art History and Visual Culture.
40-49%	3rd: Third (Pass)	Represents the overall achievement of the majority of the specified assessment criteria/module learning outcomes to a pass level. Shows a limited knowledge of appropriate art historical, art theoretical and visual cultures themes, and weakness in approach; fails to see more than one side of a question; faults in style, spelling and punctuation; unable to write to the point. Any grasp or awareness of historiographical matters, research methodology, cultural processes and developments in the fields of Art History and Visual Culture will be weak.
25-39%	Fail	Represents an overall failure to achieve the specified assessment criteria/module learning outcomes. Has inadequate knowledge to tackle the question; serious weaknesses in approach; tendency to jot down a few unanalysed facts. Poor knowledge of the object of study and no apprehension of further critical and theoretical issues.
10-24%	Bad fail	Represents a significant overall failure to achieve the specified assessment criteria/ module learning outcomes. Has inadequate knowledge to tackle the question; serious weaknesses in approach; tendency to jot down a few unanalysed facts. Very poor knowledge of the object of study and no apprehension of further critical and theoretical issues.
1-9%	Very bad fail	A submission that does not even attempt to address the specified assessment criteria/module learning outcomes (shall be deemed a non valid attempt and module must be re-taken). Scribbled notes indicating little or no research, understanding of the question or attempt to consider theoretical issues.
0%	Non submission or plagiarised	A categorical mark representing either the failure to submit an assessment or a mark assigned for a plagiarized assessment.

Mode of study

On Campus

![Goldsmiths University of London logo]

Programme structure

Academic year of study 1

Module Name	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Type	Term
Modernities	VC51001A	30	4	Core Module for Ba History of Art, BA Curating and BA Fine Art/History of Art Compulsory	1 and 2
Seeing and Showing	VC51002A	30	4	Compulsory	1 and 2
Space and Time	VC51003A	30	4	Compulsory	1 and 2
Beyond Boundaries	VC51004A	30	4	Compulsory	1 and 2

Academic year of study 2

Module Name	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Type	Term
Contemporaneities	VC52112A	30	5	Compulsory (non-compensatable)	1 and 2
Goldsmiths' Elective Module (Chosen from a list made available annually of modules which provide an opportunity to undertake study in another discipline without pre-requisites or prior knowledge		15	5	Compulsory	1
Either					
Goldsmiths Social Change module	TBC	15	5	Optional	2
and					
Modules to a value of 60 credits from a list made		60	5	Optional	1 and 2

Module Name	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Type	Term
available annually by the department					
Or					
Modules to a value of 75 credits from a list made available annually by the department		75	5	Optional	1 and 2

Academic year of study 3

Module Name	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Type	Term
BA History of Art Dissertation	HT53024A	30	6	Compulsory (non-compensatable)	1 and 2
Options to the value of 90 credits from an approved list available annually from the Visual Cultures Department*		90	6	Optional Module	1 and 2
*The 90 credits may include Visual Cultures as Public Practice	VC53073B	15	6	Optional Module	Internship takes place in term 3 of Year 2 and assessment in term 1 of Year 3

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 toreach their best potential both academically and personally.

All students are allocated a Personal Tutor (one in each department for joint programmes) 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 disciplineand 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.

Students are provided with information about learning resources, 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 encouragedto 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' workis 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 thestudent and communicated to the department so that adjustments to learning and teaching can 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 Inclusion 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 EducationAchievement Report (HEAR).

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

Placement opportunities

The Year 3 module, *Visual Cultures as Public Practice*, offers all students a research opportunity within a public body. The placement enables a substantial engagement with material and practices from outside the university context and to develop a research project that probes, challenges, complements, experiments with the readings and ideas students engage with in the classroom. The placement partners are often institutions keeping a collection or an archive relevant to Visual Cultures, which is either already made public in some form or stored with the institution without public access. Students are introduced to the collection by the placement partners and given initial support to access materials. Students are also allowed to think of an organisation that is not immediately linked to Visual Cultures or the Arts – there are no limits to thinking creatively of other kinds of placement options if the department can work out a research project in coordination with the selected institution.

In each case students are asked to identify and develop a focused and manageable research project in discussion with the academic supervisor who will assist the process through group seminars and individual tutorials. They also develop a personal portfolio, based on their experience in which they explore how the work done in the university modules relates to the practices of the public organisation hosting their project.

The final presentation of the research project could lead to a small exhibition, a talk, a text, a performance, a performative lecture, or any other appropriate form. This presentation could take place within the public organisation, at Goldsmiths or another place of the students' choice in agreement with the host organisation.

Employability and potential career opportunities

The BA History of Art programme prepare students for life after the college together with the ability and confidence to earn their living by being flexible, self-motivated, and multi-skilled. The experience of the programme helps students to develop as autonomous individuals, committed to life-long learning with valuable skills in communication (including public speaking, developing and presenting an argument, note taking, report writing) and analytical thinking. They also develop awareness of social, political, and cultural processes as well as of social and cultural differences. These skills provide a good foundation for several career paths.

Most students of this degree find employment in arts related areas (arts education, curating, arts administration, writing etc.), or move further into postgraduate education. While at Goldsmiths, many take up jobs, internships and volunteer positions at museums and other gallery and exhibition spaces internationally. This regular connection with the Department has led to work for many in the UK, the rest of Europe, the USA, Asia and Australia. Such areas as advertising and product styling are important destinations too. Arts and other forms

of journalism also recruit frequently from the students of the Goldsmiths Art History programme.

A great number of graduates choose to continue their studies. The degree is very well regarded by those institutions internationally offering MA programmes in arts administration, curatorial practice, the history of art, architecture, film, design and fashion. Very many students from Goldsmiths have accepted grant-supported places on the most prestigious of these programmes. Many too have gone on to grant-supported doctoral and post-doctoral study, both here and abroad. It is also a degree that provides a suitable starting point to enter law or the teaching profession, for example, through suitable conversion programmes.

Programme-specific requirements

Not applicable

Tuition fee costs

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

Specific programme costs

Not applicable