

Graduate Diploma in Art

Programme Specification

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

Teaching Institution: Goldsmiths, University of London

Final Award: Level 6 Graduate Diploma (Grad Dip)

Programme Name: Graduate Diploma in Art

Total credit value for programme: 120 Credits

Name of Interim Exit Award(s):

Duration of Programme: 30 weeks + 3 weeks exhibition

UCAS Code(s): Not applicable

HECoS Code(s): (100059) Fine Art

QAA Benchmark Group: Art and Design

FHEQ Level of Award: 6

Programme accredited by: Not applicable

Date Programme Specification last updated/approved: June 2021

Home Department: Art

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

Programme overview

The Graduate Diploma programme is aimed at postgraduate students who need a year to develop or consolidate their artistic practice and/or language skills in academic English, and to familiarise themselves with critical studies in a contemporary art context, ways of working in UK academic culture and in the standards required at Master's degree level. Students who successfully complete the programme at the required level are guaranteed a place on a relevant Goldsmiths' Department of Art Master's level degree. Students who wish to go on to study elsewhere within Goldsmiths or the UK will be given the appropriate one-to-one tutorial support in their applications. The Graduate Diploma is open to Home/EU and International students.

Programme entry requirements

- Students must normally be 18 years of age on admission.
- A minimum score of 6 in IELTS overall with a 6 in writing (with no sub score lower than 5.5) or equivalent in other English Language examinations. Students with 5.5 overall or 5.5 in writing will be required to study a pre-session English programme and achieve the required levels to progress.
- Students must normally have already completed (or be about to finish) an undergraduate degree or equivalent in their own country. Typically this will be in Art or Fine Art although other subjects are acceptable if they are accompanied by a portfolio displaying an independent commitment to artistic or curatorial practice.
- Selection is by submission of a portfolio of work or equivalent material and interview.

Aims of the Programme

The programme is intended for students who want to study fine art, curating, artist filmmaking or the combined subjects of art and ecology at a Masters level. It offers a unique introduction into the pedagogical methods and standards we offer at the Masters level at Goldsmiths, to develop students to become confident independent thinking artist practitioners in readiness for Goldsmiths MFA or MA. Successful completion of the programme prepares the student to benefit from our PGT courses and guarantees admission to the PGT course most suitable to the applicant's development.

Programme learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A1	Demonstrate knowledge of key artists and familiarity with the historical and contemporary contexts in which art is made and understood.	Studio Practice and Critical Studies
A2	Demonstrate a clear understanding of how critical and theoretical debates support your practice and writing.	Studio Practice and Critical Studies

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A3	Demonstrate a basic knowledge of the materials, processes and practices relevant to your own practice.	Studio Practice and Critical Studies

Cognitive and thinking skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
B1	Develop a capacity to consider your own work and the work of others in relation to relevant historical and critical contexts within the field of contemporary art.	Studio Practice and Critical Studies
B2	Identify relevant historical and contemporary models for understanding and developing your practice and writing.	Studio Practice and Critical Studies
B3	Consider and use feedback on your own work and offer constructive feedback on the work of others.	Studio Practice and Critical Studies
B4	To communicate and discuss orally and in writing issues arising from texts, interpretive writing, critical discourse and forms of practice.	All Modules

Subject specific skills and professional behaviours and attitudes

Subject-specific

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C1	Develop and understanding of the different materials, processes and research methods relevant to your practice.	Studio Practice and Critical Studies
C2	Be able to speak, write and read the English language at a level suitable for postgraduate study in a UK university.	Art Writing and Academic Listening and Speaking
C3	To interact with a range of academic staff as well as students in a socially and culturally appropriate manner.	All Modules

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C4	To present systematically organised arguments orally to groups, and to defend them in critical discussion.	All Modules

Transferable skills (Elements)

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D1	Develop a commitment and responsibility for your own practice, research and collaborative working methods through regular attendance and active participation in all tutorials, seminars and lectures.	All Modules
D2	Develop the skills necessary to present your work to others in a variety of contexts.	All Modules
D3	To work constructively with others.	All Modules
D4	To work independently.	Studio Practice and Critical Studies
D5	To be able to explain both orally and in writing complex ideas in relation to your work in a way that others can understand.	All Modules

Grading Criteria

Mark	Descriptor	Specific Marking Criteria
80-100%	Distinction (Exceptional)	Work that reflects an exceptional level of achievement of the appropriate learning outcomes. The work demonstrates original research and a rigorous conceptual understanding of the chosen subject. The decisions made in the use of visual or material or conceptual frameworks begin to challenge existing contexts and make an initial contribution to the field of contemporary art.
70-79%	Distinction (Excellent)	Work that reflects an excellent level of achievement of the appropriate learning outcomes. The work demonstrates wide research and evidence of a clear

		understanding of the chosen field. It shows a high level of conceptual rigour that indicates sustained independent study together with an original and imaginative interpretation of contemporary art, and begins to challenge the current limits in the field.
60-69%	Merit (Very good)	Work that reflects a very good standard of achievement of the appropriate learning outcomes. Work that shows evidence of very good critical reflection with considered use of visual material and/or conceptual frameworks. It is highly imaginative and indicates that an artistic or curatorial project has been developed, albeit within the known and expected boundaries of the field of study.
50-59%	Pass (Good)	Work that reflects a good standard of achievement of the appropriate learning outcomes, and demonstrates an initial understanding of the field of study, coupled with good overall ability. There is evidence intentional manipulation of chosen visual material or conceptual frameworks, indicating critical reflection and technical competence that will require further sustained development.
40-49%	Pass	Work that reflects a threshold standard of achievement of the appropriate learning outcomes and demonstrates a limited understanding of the field of study. The work demonstrates some manipulation of the chosen visual and/or conceptual material indicating a predictable and unimaginative response to the boundaries defining the field.
30-39%	Fail	Work is unsatisfactory and represents an overall failure to achieve the appropriate learning outcomes. The work shows scant attention to the critical and practical demands of the student's practice, with no apparent judgement in the manipulation of material or conceptual resources. The module or element must be retaken.
10-29%	Bad fail	Work that represents a significant failure to achieve the appropriate learning outcomes. The work shows no attempt to address the practical or intellectual demands of the practice, and demonstrates no judgement or critical reflection in the use of material or concepts. The module/elements must be retaken.

1-9%	Very bad fail	Work that does not even attempt to address the learning outcomes. The module/elements must be retaken.
0%	Non submission or plagiarised	A categorical mark representing either the failure to submit an assessment or a mark assigned for plagiarised assessment.

Mode of study

On-campus

Programme structure

Academic year of study 1

Module Name	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Type	Term
Studio Practice and Critical Studies	FA53046B	90	6	Compulsory	1,2,3
Collaborative Practice	FA53047B	15	6	Compulsory	1,2
Academic Listening & Speaking (CALL)	LS61003A	15	6	Optional	1,2
Artists' Text Portfolio	FA53048B	15	6	Optional	1,2

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 (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 twice 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, 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

The intention is to make professional development and employability a key component of the programme, further emphasised through the introduction of the proposed Collaborative Practice module and to utilise our extensive contact throughout the professional and academic art worlds to facilitate this. We will encourage students to be ambitious, utilise London as a resource and work in a gallery, exhibition or offsite space.

Employability and potential career opportunities

The Graduate Diploma in Art prepares students for study at the MFA level. It enables them to develop their intellectual and practical skills to a level 7 academic level, but also to a professional level that will support their work as artists and curators in the professional art world. Students on the course will be introduced to professional artists through tutorials and studio visits, and professional curators and gallerists through tutorials and visits to galleries and museums.

Programme-specific requirements

Graduate Diplomas normally involve one academic year of full-time study and have a value of 120 credits. Programmes are composed of individual modules, each of which has its own credit value. If a programme has a part-time pathway, the structure will be set out in the section “How the programme is structured” above. Normally, all modules are at level 6 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications.

More detailed information about the structure and requirements of a Goldsmiths degree is provided in the [Goldsmiths Qualifications and Credit Framework](#).

Tuition fee costs

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

Specific programme costs

There are no programme-specific costs other than materials for making artwork and ticket costs for exhibitions, though we try where possible to visit galleries as an orientation to London. Tuition fees will be in line with our postgraduate taught courses.