

Fine Art Professional Practice 5

FA3-1

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

ECTS credits ¹	10	Programme	BA in Fine Art
NQF level	8	School	School of Fine Art
Stage	3	Module Co-ordinator	Brian Hand
Trimester	Autumn & Spring	Module Team	Fine Art faculty from departments: Media, Painting, Print, and Sculpture and Expanded Practice
Contact	School of Fine Art Administration Team: fineart@staff.ncad.ie		
Responsibility	The NCAD Academic Council and the School of Fine Art Board have responsibility for this module.		

1. Introduction

This Professional Practice module occurs throughout the final year of our undergraduate programme. It is concerned with guiding the learner through the broad and pluralist contexts of being an artist in Ireland and Europe today. Final year is the place for students to start thinking about their career and recognising that a professional artists' career can be very varied and there is not a simple single occupation category.

The aims of this module are to:

- Develop advanced knowledge of the 'ins and outs' of the professional world of art production, marketing, networking and reception.
- Foster a level of critical and contextual judgement in students' practice and in the practices of other artists, institutions, funders and networks.
- Support and guide students to clarify their career plan in the art world taking account of its opportunities /supports/challenges.
- Help students evolve their own peer led support networks for their future work and their development of good working practices.
- Develop skills in documentation and recording of their work.
- Learn how to become a reflective practitioner.

¹ European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System, where 60 ECTS credits equate to the workload of a full-time academic year (two trimesters)

2. What will I learn?

On successful completion of this module students will be able to:

1. Evidence their selection, planning, engagement, time-management and negotiation with an artist/organisation (Trimester 1) and in the context of a professional opportunity through an application process (Trimester 2).
2. Evidence significant critical and practical engagement with a range of relevant art networks and contexts and with course material delivered as part of the programme (Trimesters 1 & 2).
3. Demonstrate and apply familiar and unfamiliar knowledge of the subject field and context of having a sustainable career in the art world.
4. Reference key skills in documentation, application making, interviewing and health and safety practices.
5. Present coherent informed in-depth communications across a variety of fora in relation to the self, peers, others and/or in context.

In meeting the learning outcomes, students should be informed by a variety of relevant sources ie, artist presentations, books, art journals, webinars / discussions interviews etc (e.g. visual, written, numeric, digital and verbal).

Module content

The module outputs concentrate on different demands and standards of professional practice across the diverse world of contemporary art. Students are expected to engage with departmental talks and framing and to develop a more in-depth inquiry into their chosen areas of interest suited to their professional needs as an artist. The rationale for choices should also be described, with reflections on what they have produced and the challenges encountered. The module is delivered across both trimesters.

3. How will I learn?

- Through attendance at lectures, presentations, workshops, peer learning, engagement and understanding how artists exist in an ecosystem.
- Through students' ability to react to and connect different iterations of contexts, practices, manifestations of creative thinking and action.
- Through an ability to coherently and reflectively present and discuss the demands and standards of contemporary professional artists.
- Through presentational forms that are able to articulate students' future career goals and communicate them coherently to others.
- Through engaging online and offline.

Learning tool	Hours
Lectures and seminars	24
Specified Learning Activities	16
Autonomous Student Learning	160
Total Workload	200

4. What learning supports are provided?

Project briefs, Google Drive folder/ Canvas content for all students and staff, NCAD library, Lynda.com, ITC lab resources, departmental audio-visual equipment, reading lists, screenings, websites including:

General references where artist communications can be found.

Visual Artists Ireland e-bulletin: national opportunities, residencies, commissions, exhibitions. Based in Dublin adjacent to NCAD: <http://visualartists.ie/>

www.artandeducation.net: Distributes information about some of the significant global contemporary art exhibitions, publications, and symposia taking place within educational contexts, as well as academic employment positions available in the visual arts. Based in USA.

www.e-artnow.org: an independent alternative to existing electronic e-mail art news distribution with a Do It Yourself philosophy. Based in Prague.

www.wooloo.org: connects the resources of more than 22,000 cultural producers internationally. Set up by Danish artists.

www.e-flux.com: e-flux announcements, distributes information on some of the world's most important contemporary art exhibitions, publications and symposia.

<https://contemporaryartdaily.com>: Contemporary Art Daily is an exhibition feed running since 2008 by a not-for-profit US organisation.

5. Am I eligible to take this module?

Fine Art Professional Practice 5 is undertaken by BA Fine Art students in their final year, except for students studying BA Education and Fine Art and BA Fine Art with Critical Culture, who study alternative modules.

Module Requisites and Incompatibles

Pre-requisites	None
Co-requisites	The following modules must be studied alongside this module: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● FA3-2 Fine Art Studio Research ● FA3-3 Fine Art Practice Resolution ● VC3-10 Visual Culture Research Project
Incompatibles	None

Prior learning	Where a student can demonstrate that they have achieved at least 80% of the learning outcomes of this module, by academic certified achievement, or through quantifiable and documented experience, they can apply to the School for that prior learning to be recognised. Applications must be received prior to the commencement of delivery of the module.
Recommended	None

6. How will I be assessed?

Trimester 1

Presentation: Short and concentrated illustrated presentation on students' work, their influences, context and their particular resourceful and proactive approach towards goals in their future career.

The presentation can be assessed by criteria/guidelines proposed by project brief, for example:

Introduction: Was the student comfortable setting up the presentation, finding files etc?

Did the introduction capture their interest; was necessary background given relating to course content; was a clear purpose conveyed?

Content: Did the presenter support their points; could students get a clear sense of their relationship to their career plan, the context of the brief, and audience?

Visual Aids: Were visual aids used effectively and appropriately, carefully prepared?

Any video or sound?

Delivery: Was the speaker natural, enthusiastic; did they speak clearly; seem well prepared?

What was the quality of vocabulary and expressions used? Was there good time keeping?

Discussion: Were questions answered accurately, clearly, effectively?

Interview: Engagement with an artist, or relevant individuals, or group or organisation or broader cultural field that connects to the student's career interests. This may relate to art or non-art framing. Students should research the background of the artist, group, or organisation and produce an original interview in written or recorded form that engages at some depth.

Do the questions reveal some knowledge of the artist or organisations work/ background?

Does the interview imply preparation and negotiation with the interviewee?

Has a rationale and interest been established beyond 'having to do this for college'?

Is a line of enquiry being pursued beyond the general?

In reflection is the student able to frame the components of greatest interest to them?

Can the student describe what they have learned?

Trimester 2

Statement of Professional Ambition: The Reflective text should be no more than 500 words and serve to demonstrate a self-awareness about the student's professional development over the year, reviewing the task of the application completion journey, the difficulties and successes.

Written application: An in-depth illustrated written application for an award, bursary, residency, placement or gallery prize, for example, Thomas Damman Jnr award, Pallas Projects open call, Arts Council’s Next Generation Award, etc. This also might be a relevant Erasmus + placement or training in the student’s field outside of Ireland, a percent for art scheme or other grant or scholarship competitive opportunity. Application to include typical elements like cover letter, full CV, bio, digital portfolio and/or blog/website link with captioned documentation of all work, and fully realised budget for all expenses.

Students should frame this document with a reflective text that sets out their rationale and selection and reflects on their inquiries carried out to make the proposal.

The written application can be assessed by award criteria/ guidelines proposed by project brief eg. quality of overall proposal and its potential to be realised, presentation, fluency, accuracy to the awards context and conditions, the ambition and originality of the proposal / interview etc.

Assessment tool	% of final grade	Timing
Interview	25%	End of Autumn Trimester
Presentation	25%	End of Autumn Trimester
Statement of Professional Ambition	15%	Spring Trimester
Application	35%	Spring Trimester
Total	100%	

Assessment tool	Learning outcomes assessed
Interview	All assessments holistically assess all five learning outcomes.
Presentation	
Statement of Professional Ambition	
Application	

7. Feedback, results and grading

Feedback

Feedback is both formal and informal and students are encouraged to submit drafts and iterations of their work before specific deadlines.

Grading

Students’ assessments will be graded using the [NCAD Grade Descriptors](#).

8. What happens if I fail?

Resit Opportunities

Opportunities to remediate an unsuccessful assessment depend on the deficit encountered. Re-sit opportunities will be provided at the end of each trimester to students who do not complete all assessments by the assessment deadline. Students who are unsuccessful at the end of spring trimester and after attempting the re-sit opportunities may be given the opportunity to re-sit at the end of summer trimester. This will involve a re-sit fee. At this point, a student failing substantially

would be required to repeat (and attend) one or both trimesters in the following year, and pay the required registration fee.

9. When and where is this module offered?

The module will be offered as a weekly engagement for students during Trimester 1 & 2

10. How will I have the chance to evaluate the module?

It is important to NCAD that students inform the development of teaching and learning at NCAD. We encourage all students to communicate their concerns and their observations about their study to members of staff so that any changes can be made in a timely manner.

About two-thirds of the way through the year, a student forum will be convened to gather students' comments about their study and the delivery of the programme. In addition, at the end of Trimester 2, students have the opportunity to complete an online evaluation of their study and experience at NCAD. Students are also encouraged to complete the Irish Student Survey of Engagement. These evaluation events are important to current and future students, to ensure we can enhance the delivery of programmes at NCAD.

In addition, students are invited to discuss their experience on the module with their lecturers at any point during the year. Students can also relay your comments to the class student representative who will communicate their comments to the staff.

**For further details on the content of your module and teaching arrangements,
consult your Programme or Module Handbook**