

Fine Art Studio Research FA3-2

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

ECTS credits ¹	15	Programme	BA in Fine Art BA in Education & Fine Art BA in Fine Art & Visual Cultures BA in Fine Art with Critical Cultures
NQF level	8	School	School of Fine Art
Stage	Final Year	Module Co-ordinator	Prof Philip Napier
Trimester	Autumn & Spring	Module Team	Fine Art faculty from departments in Media, Painting, Print, and Sculpture and Expanded Practice
Contact	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

Studio Research is an integrated activity that underpins and informs the direction of studio practice.

Through this module, you should understand research and practice to be inseparably linked.

The module expects that through your learning about current art research, developing skills and techniques, undertaking and making research enquiries and engaging in research discussions you will develop an ongoing momentum in relation to developing your work.

The aims of this module are to:

- Support the development and construction of knowledge new to the student.
- Foster methods of inquiry through art and other methods and that are relevant to the subject matter.
- Support the application of research through practice.
- Develop challenging relationships between the subject matter, forms of research, and forms of practice.

The evidence of research outputs could be very varied - consistent with different ways of experimenting and communicating, for example:

artworks	artefacts	material tests
evolved proposals	notebooks	journals

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

presentations	documents	exhibitions
events/happenings/activities	study visits/field trips	expanded practices
collaborative forms	site specific/situated engagements	experiential forms
lectures	discursive forms	conference attendance
participatory practices	photo/video documentation	other appropriate forms
video links	sound work	statement
artists references	contextual research	evidence of engagement with tutorials or seminars

2. What will I learn?

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The module expects that through your learning about current art research, developing skills and techniques, undertaking and making research enquiries and engaging in research discussions you will develop an ongoing momentum in relation to developing your work.

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

1. **PROCESS:** Evidence creative risk-taking, experimentation, and development of ideas through process-based trial and testing.
2. **FOCUS:** Evidence the continuous development of the subject through research-based activity findings, and reflection
3. **DISCOVER:** Evidence the development of relevant research and practice strategies in relation to practice outcomes
4. **CONSOLIDATE:** Demonstrate awareness that they know how the form and subject of the art practice are linked through appropriate skills and approaches pertinent to the subject, discipline and field of practice.

At the mid-point of this module towards the end of Trimester 1, students will be able to:

1. **PROCESS:** Evidence creative risk-taking, experimentation, and development of ideas through process-based trial and testing.
2. **FOCUS:** Evidence the continuous development of the subject through research-based activity findings, and reflection.
3. **DISCOVER:** Evidence the development of relevant research and practice strategies in relation to practice outcomes.
4. **SPECULATE:** Demonstrate an awareness of how forms and content are interrelated in approaches and application to the field of art.

Module content

Research Based in Practice - Primary Research

Interpreted on this programme as critical engagement with field work in relation to studio practice, discursive thematic presentation, seminars and the studio tutorial environment

Appropriate information generating, observation, first hand investigation, searching, finding, gathering, collecting, sourcing, interviewing and editing.

Research Focused - Primary Research

Interpreted in this programme through a cycle of research activities and outputs.

Developing research skills and techniques.

Material testing, sampling, physical experimentation.

Research Studentship - Primary & Secondary Research

Interpreted on this programme as critical discovery and engagement.

Materials / process led testing

Developmental trajectory of the practice

Research Consolidation - Primary & Secondary & Contextual

Interpreted on this programme by the use of previous primary experiences, secondary sources such as libraries, archives, internet to add layers of interpretation / analysis that shape and inform the practice.

These components will be delivered through a blended approach - In studio / on line / off line

3. How will I learn?

You will learn by making and doing.

Students will learn through seminars, lectures and workshops how to engage in activity, develop a sense of discovery, and critically reflect upon their work. This cycle repeated with elements of participation and communication that will develop learning.

- Participating and engaging fully on the programme.
- Understanding research to encompass the ongoing development of ideas and related studio work through contextual study, material research, practical experimentation and studio based trial, testing and experiment.
- Developing a critical enquiry through research and studio practice.
- Identifying and pursuing relevant lines of enquiry both conceptually and practically through editing, selecting and using relevant materials.
- Studying example modes of research and research presentation.
- Attending exhibitions and art events to build an awareness of contemporary art practice and related fields.

- Participating in tutorial contact, seminars, lectures, visiting artists, peer dialogue, and critical presentations.
- Effectively documenting and recording the development of ideas, processes and studio work.

Learning tool	Hours
Lectures and seminars	70
Specified Learning Activities	70
Autonomous Student Learning	160
Total Workload	300

4. What learning supports are provided?

Through project briefs teaching and tutorial activity students will be directed to relevant material including literature, lectures, artworks and exhibitions. There will be ongoing feedback through tutorials and group discussions. Use of Resources such as library, studio/space, workshops, technical support and advice, equipment, projects work, blended teaching and learning in studio, online and off-line. Some travel to enable Study Visits are likely to be required.

5. Am I eligible to take this module?

Module Requisites and Incompatibles

Pre-requisites	Students entering this module must have successfully completed Year 1 and Year 2 of BA Fine Art at NCAD or have successfully applied for appropriate RPL.
Co-requisites	Students must have completed or be concurrently studying the following modules: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fine Art Practice Resolution FA3-3 • Visual Culture Research Project 3 VC3-10 • Fine Art Professional Practice 5 FA3-1, in the case of AD 204 Fine Art Those studying Education and Fine Art or a joint Major with Visual Culture study should be studying alternative Visual Culture / Professional Practice modules.
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?

Students are assessed by a panel of staff.

The Studio Research module is two trimesters in length. It is assessed at two points: once approaching the end of Trimester 1; once at the end of Trimester 2.

Both grades valued equally as 50% of the module weighting are added together to produce a final grade.

It is not possible to present the same material twice for assessment unless the work has been significantly advanced or substantially reconsidered.

Assessment Plan

Trimester 1: Summative Assessment Point 1: Week 13-15

Examination is through your presentation of Research. This should be achieved through presentation or documentation that evidences your inquiries. That is, material which gives evidence to process, the momentum of an art inquiry, creative risk-taking including ‘failed’ work and experiments and reference to other material. It should include notebooks, selected reference material, evidence of relevant influential artists, cultural manifestations and others. Moving image components should be clearly labelled with date, title and duration.

Assessment will reflect your Trimester 1 momentum toward processing, discovering, focussing and evolving your work. This will be achieved through a continuous assessment process.

Assessment at the end of Trimester 1 is 50% weighting of the overall assessment for the module.

Trimester 2: Summative Assessment Point 2: Week 29

Your submission of Studio Research should be an edited, coherent presentation based on the quality and relevance of the inquiries you are making.

Your submission should make clear your critical evaluation of contextual research, material research, creative experimentation and studio practice. It would be expected that your research would become more particularly focussed and should clearly show and navigate the relationship between Studio Research and Practice Resolution. This should enable you and examiners to understand your rationale for critical decision-making. You cannot submit the same material as in Trimester 1 but you may make further observations based on your emergent understanding.

Submissions must be edited and presented in a way that guides the examiner in through methods experiments, decisions, learning.

Assessment at the end of Trimester 2 is 50% weighting of the overall assessment for the module.

Assessment tool	% of final grade	Timing
Presentation of portfolio of work and narration of research A	50%	End of Trimester 1
Presentation of portfolio of work and narration of research B	50%	End of Trimester 2
Total	100%	

Assessment tool	Learning outcomes assessed
Portfolio including research narration A	All learning outcomes
Portfolio including research narration A	All learning outcomes

7. Feedback, results and grading

Feedback

Following mid-year assessment, within a timely period, students are given their indicative grade. The grade acts as a form of feedback. Written / verbal feedback is also available.

Grading

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

Results

Results will be formally announced by Exam Board 3 - typically in June.

8. What happens if I fail?

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 is delivered over Trimester 1 and Trimester 2 of the academic year, in Fine Art Spaces, Departmental facilities and locations exterior to the campus as appropriate.

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**