NCAD DUBLIN

National College of Art and Design
A Recognised College of University College Dublin

Professional Certificate in Art & Design Research
AD483PC

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATIONS

Programme title	Professional Certificate in Art & Design Research	School	School of Visual Culture
Resulting awards	Professional Certificate in Art & Design Research	Head of School	Professor David Crowley
Level	Level 9 on the National Framework of Qualifications	ECTS credits[1]	5 credits
University award	Professional Certificate Special Purpose Award	Programme type	Postgraduate programme delivered flexibly
Programme Co-ordinator	Dr Declan Long	External Examiner	TBC
Programme team	NCAD School of Visual Culture staff team		

1. Programme Aims and Objectives: Purpose, Vision and Values

Background

The Professional Certificate in Art & Design Research is one of several of programmes offered by the School of Visual Culture at NCAD to suitably qualified research students registered in any of the four schools at NCAD and to learners via the Creative Futures Academy (CFA).

The CFA offers a wide range of short and long courses leading to a range of awards from professional certificates to full Masters programmes. They are designed to support future, early and mid-career creative professionals to acquire skills and understanding that will serve their professional needs and provide opportunities to undertake further level 8 and 9 learning. Learners may take CFA courses to deepen their professional and intellectual competencies or develop new ones. All NCAD CFA programmes recognise the changing technical, social and economic contexts in which art, design and allied fields are practiced. As such, they offer opportunities to learners to engage with new thinking and approaches to practice. All CFA programmes benefit from guidance offered by an Industry Council formed by representatives of professional bodies in diverse art, design and cultural fields.

The CFA is a space for learners to learn, to network and to allow new ideas to influence and shape our future.

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

Programme Aims

The programme aims to:

- provide participants with an introduction to key methods in art and design research;

- provide a context for critical reflection and the development of their own approaches in relation to planned or actual research projects and that of their peers.

2. Programme Outcomes

On successful completion of this module students will have:

- acquired UNDERSTANDING of different current approaches to art and design research

- made a CRITICAL ASSESSMENT of different methods of research in relation to their own needs and interests

- undertaken COMMUNICATION of actual / proposed research method

3. Admission Requirements

To be accepted into the programme, applicants must have a 2.2 degree. Alternatively, applicants who can demonstrate equivalent and relevant professional practice or industry experience in the subject or a related field will be considered for entry.

Students should apply to the programme with evidence of previous successful qualifications and statements of work-related achievement etc.

Students who have not been educated through English must show proof of achieving IELTS 6.5 (with a minimum of 6 in the writing section on the Academic Version) or an equivalent score in another accepted test.

As the programme has just one module, applications for recognition of prior learning (RPL) cannot be considered.

4. Further Educational Opportunities

The programme is an opportunity to explore research methods at level 9 and so may be approached by CFA learners as a step towards undertaking a research degree or a taught postgraduate degree.

Careers and skills

The Professional Certificate programme may support the professional needs and opportunities of artists, designers and others who wish to develop a writing practice in, for instance, arts journalism and curation.

5. Teaching and Learning

The programme will be taught in workshops in which students will prepare and share their own work in a crit in the final session. The workshops will be led by NCAD academic staff as well as expert

AD483PC Prof Cert in Art & Design Research　　　　　　　　　　　*Programme Specification Form*
Approved by Academic Council: 11 Sep 24　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　*Page 2 of 4*
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professionals from different fields of publishing. Bibliographic materials as well as access to CANVAS VLE will be provided. Distance learning opportunities will be offered where possible.

6. Methods of Assessment

Work undertaken by students on the Introduction to Research Methods for Art and Design will be assessed in both of the following ways.

- Formative Assessment: typically involves feedback (oral or written) to students on their progress, and does not usually involve a mark. It is used to provide constructive feedback to improve learning and understanding.

- Summative Assessment: assessment results are aggregated and used to determine whether students have fulfilled the specified learning outcomes and have met the standard required to achieve a passing grade, and so can be granted the credits for successfully completing the programme.

7. Programme Review and Evaluation

All programmes are subject to College-wide evaluation practices and events. The annual online student evaluation takes place in May or June, asking all College students to provide feedback. Results are sent to each School to respond to and report to Programmes Board on what changes or developments will be implemented in response to the evaluations.

External Examiners review and assist evaluation as well as assessment. In addition, informal feedback is gathered from discussions with students, staff and management.

These evaluation events are important to current and future students, to ensure we can enhance the delivery of programmes at NCAD.

In addition, learners are invited to discuss their experience on the module with their lecturers at any point during the year.

This programme is delivered under the support of the Creative Futures Academy HCI pillar 1 funded project, which is subject to an annual evaluation. A major review of this programme will be carried out in 2026/27.

AD483PC Prof Cert in Art & Design Research *Programme Specification Form*
Approved by Academic Council: 11 Sep 24 *Page 3 of 4*
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8. Modular Provision

Code & module title	Credits	Core, Option or Elective	Trimester
Professional Certificate in Art & Design Research			
PGCFAV1005 Introduction to Research Methods for Art & Design	5	Core	1

9. Programme Structure

Professional Certificate in Art & Design Research
PGCFAV1005 Introduction to Research Methods for Art and Design 5 credits

10. Exit Points and Credit Requirements

Final Award Calculation

The final award is calculated on the basis of successful competition of the module PGCFAV1005 Introduction to Research Methods for Art & Design (5 credits).

11. Resources

Staffing

Name	Title/Role
Programme Co-ordinator	
Dr Declan Long	Programme Co-ordinator
School of Visual Culture Staff	Lecturing and administration

Space

The programme will be based within existing College studios, workshops and other spaces across the calendar year, while also availing of external spaces where appropriate for on-location or work-based learning.

Facilities

The programme will utilise existing college facilities. Access to facilities across the CFA partners will be available subject to nature and availability.

For further information on this programme:
contact Dr Joanna Crawley, CFA Co-ordinator: crawleyj@staff.ncad.ie

AD483PC Prof Cert in Art & Design Research *Programme Specification Form*
Approved by Academic Council: 11 Sep 24 *Page 4 of 4*
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