

Creative Principles - Digital Making

PGCFAD1037

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

ECTS credits¹	5	Programme	Professional Certificate in Digital Making Professional Diploma in Digital Making
NQF level	9	School	School of Design
Stage	1	Module Co-ordinator	Prof Alex Milton
Trimester	Any	Module Team	NCAD staff team (Co-ordinators, Lecturers and Technical Officers)
Contact	Dr Joanna Crawley, CFA Administrator: crawleyj@staff.ncad.ie		
Responsibility	The NCAD Academic Council and the School of Design Board have responsibility for this module.		

1. Introduction

This module introduces learners to fundamental principles, working methods, skills, and theories that underpin digital making in art and design. This module will focus on the practical underpinnings, technological advances, innovations, and concepts relating to Digital Making, introducing learners to the fundamental principles and processes that underpin digital technologies, programming, and communication within art and design practices, enabling them to approach creative work by applying advanced digital-making techniques whilst understanding the digital theory and context.

This module shapes learning that is rooted in harnessing the opportunities opened up by digital, technological, and ecological fabrication across creative practice.

Contemporary methods of fabrication, such as 3D printing and laser cutting have changed not only how objects are produced, but have amplified what, and how, artefacts can be created or manufactured. With that, so too our perception, understanding and interaction with objects has moved toward questioning materials, necessity, traceability, impact, use/re-use and needs.

As modern fabrication technologies continue to advance, the worlds of making, design and manufacturing are changing and merging into something much more seamless. Through an approach that blurs traditional boundaries between art, design, engineering, fabrication and manufacturing, this pathway positions learners to grow a practical understanding of future-facing techniques that enable new, bespoke, on-demand, flexible and sustainable forms of making, production, manufacture and creation.

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

2. What will I learn?

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

1. DEFINE: Demonstrate an outline knowledge and understanding of select core principles, processes and concepts associated with the Digital Making programme.
2. CHARACTERISE: Demonstrate a working knowledge of the differing characteristics and practices associated with contemporary Digital Making.
3. DISTINGUISH: Demonstrate the ability to undertake analysis, evaluation and synthesis of associated debates surrounding and centred in contemporary Digital Making.
4. CRITIQUE: Examine the professional practices associated with Digital Making including ethical and professional issues raised by their design discipline/field

Module content

Through a series of practice-based activities and lectures, you will have the opportunity to individually and collectively find new possibilities for digital applications. A wide range of digital techniques will be explored that draw on the inherent qualities of the making process to support contemporary creative practice.

The module is designed as a series of digital-making activities.

Each of these activities is directed towards one or more specialist digital tools.

Some of these activities are to be undertaken individually, some collaboratively in small or large groups, and some by a combination of these.

3. How will I learn?

Students will learn through a combination of set activities within studio and/or base room including remote learning combined with directed and self-directed study within NCAD and at comparable external workshop facilities through strategic partnerships.

The activities take a variety of forms. In this module they include:

- Structured online learning activities
- Seminars
- Tutorials
- Lectures
- Self and peer-assessment tasks
- Group work
- Independent study

Learning tool	Hours
Lectures and seminars	20
Specified Learning Activities	20

Autonomous Student Learning	60
Total Workload	100

4. What learning supports are provided?

Suggested Reading lists, suggested websites and other learning supports are included in the project briefs.

5. Am I eligible to take this module?

Module Requisites and Incompatibles

Pre-requisites	None
Co-requisites	None
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	

6. How will I be assessed?

Assessment tool	% of final grade	Timing
Learning Portfolio of work	80%	End of Trimester
Presentation of work	20%	End of Trimester
Total	100%	

Assessment tool	Learning outcomes assessed
Learning Portfolio of work	1-4
Presentation of work	1-4

7. Feedback, results and grading

Students will receive feedback on their progress throughout the module. Feedback on the final assessments will also be provided, as soon as possible after the submission and presentation of work. Any reference to grading is only provisional until results are confirmed by the Exam Board.

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

8. What happens if I fail?

Resit Opportunities

Students who fail to complete all assessments within their initial trimester of study will have the opportunity to submit additional resit responses within the subsequent trimester to fulfil the learning outcomes. Students will not be able to progress to the next stage of the programme until they have successfully completed this module.

9. When and where is this module offered?

This module is offered:

- Autumn Trimester (September to January)
- Spring Trimester (January to May)
- Summer Trimester (May to September)

Studios and Facilities

Teaching and learning will occur in person where access to specialist workshop facilities is required, Theory and elements of software teaching and learning where feasible will be delivered virtually.

Specified Learning Activities and Student Self-Directed Learning will be facilitated by providing bookable access to the NCAD William Walsh digital workshop, NCAD facilities, and studio spaces as well as comparable external digital workshop facilities through strategic partnerships.

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.

A student evaluation will be issued to gather students' comments about their study and the delivery of the programme on completion of studies. 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.