

# Professional Certificate in Art & Design Research Ethics

## AD484PC

### PROGRAMME SPECIFICATIONS

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

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

*Art and Design Research Ethics* 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.

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 Creative Futures Academy (CFA) is a space for learners to learn, to network and to allow new ideas to influence and shape our future.

#### Programme Aims

This programme aims to explore ethics in the field of art and design research. As well as investigating commonly understood and formal definitions of research ethics which include principles such as voluntary participation, informed consent, anonymity, confidentiality, potential for

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

harm, and results communication, it will equip participants with knowledge of key ethical debates within research and practice, and enable them to reflect on the ethos and ethics of their own work and that of others.

It will also consider the tension between conventional and well-established ethics frameworks and concepts such as 'truth' and 'consent' in fields of practice such as contemporary art and speculative design which embrace controversy, para-fictionality, self-experiment, etc.

The programme will present an opportunity for participants to connect their research practice in art or design to broader considerations of ethos and ethics. Developing insights into what is required to design an ethical research project, they will be able to articulate an ethical stance in relation to their own practice and in relation to key principles as formulated in various domains including arts organisations and governmental agencies. In this way, participants will achieve an extended framework for understanding of notions of 'risk' and 'impact'.

As such, the programme aims to:

- Provide participants with opportunities to learn about and critically assess current practice in art and design research ethics.
- Support understanding of the development and operation of research ethics in other fields of academic work.
- Support participants to develop a clear and informed ethics framework for their own research, whether planned or current.

## 2. Programme Outcomes

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On successful completion of the programme, students will be able to:

1. UNDERSTAND the development and operation of established frameworks for research ethics.
2. UNDERSTAND the ethical challenges which have been encountered in contemporary art and design research practice.
3. CRITICALLY ASSESS the approaches taken to calculate / understand ethics risks in art and design.
4. SELF-REFLECT on the ethical dimensions of their own practice as art or design researchers.
5. PREPARE practical tools and materials that can be used in conducting ethical research.

## 3. Admission Requirements

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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.

## 4. Further Educational Opportunities

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The Professional Certificate in Art and Design Research Ethics is an opportunity to explore research practices 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 in Art and Design Research Ethics 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

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The programme will be taught in workshops in which students will engage with key issues and case studies in research ethics. The final session will take the form of a crit in which students make a proposal concerning their own research ethics framework and discuss similar proposals produced by their peers. The workshops will be led by NCAD academic staff as well as expert professionals who have undertaken research which raises ethical questions. Bibliographic materials as well as access to CANVAS VLE will be provided. Distance learning opportunities will be offered where possible.

## 6. Methods of Assessment

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Work undertaken by students on the Professional Certificate in Art and Design Research Ethics 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

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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.

## 8. Modular Provision

Code & module title	Credits	Core, Option or Elective	Trimester
<b>Professional Certificate in Art &amp; Design Research Ethics</b>			
PGCFAV1006 Art & Design Research Ethics	5	Core	Any

## 9. Programme Structure

Professional Certificate in Art & Design Research Ethics	
PGCFAV1006 Art & Design Research Ethics 5 Credits	

## 10. Exit Points and Credit Requirements

### Final Award Calculation

The final award is calculated on the basis of successful completion of the module PGCFAV1006 Art & Design Research Ethics.

## 11. Resources

### Staffing

Name	Role
<b>Programme Co-ordinator, Module Co-ordinators</b>	
Dr Declan Long	Programme Co-ordinator
Dr Lisa Godson	Module Co-ordinator

### 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, NCAD Creative Futures Academy Co-ordinator: [crawleyj@staff.ncad.ie](mailto:crawleyj@staff.ncad.ie)