

Professional Certificate in Creative Approaches to Archives

AD486PC

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATIONS

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| Programme title | Professional Certificate in Creative Approaches to Archives | School | School of Visual Culture |
| Resulting awards | Professional Certificate in Creative Approaches to Archives | Head of School | Professor David Crowley |
| Level | Level 9 on the National Framework of Qualifications | ECTS credits¹ | 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 | School of Visual Culture staff | | |

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

The Professional Certificate in Creative Approaches to Archives is one of several of programmes offered by 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 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 offer opportunities to engage with a variety of archiving tools and practices that have grown in importance in art, design and visual culture research since the 1980s and remain a matter of considerable interest and intellectual energy.

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

Drawing on new thinking and methods in the digital humanities, archival practice as well as related fields such as oral history, participants in this module will develop a critical perspective on the interests and concerns which have shaped archives. What defines an archive? What makes something worth archiving? What effects does classification have on understanding? What effects has digitisation have on the organisation and distribution of knowledge? What is the relationship of the archive to history and memory? And what claims do archives make on the future? And what kind of inexistent archives are needed?

Participants will examine how contemporary artists and designers have made significant creative use of existing archives in artistic research and exhibition practices, or by organising documents and records of various (often, through self-archiving practices).

By undertaking this programme, participants will be encouraged to think through the ways different research tools and sources shape knowledge and practice, developing skills in criticality and responsibility in relation to research.

The programme aims to:

- provide participants with opportunities to understand current archiving practices and issues in relation to art and design.
- explore the ways in which different artists and designers have made effective and creative uses of archival material in their research practice.
- provide an opportunity for participants to explore how their practice might make use of archives of various kinds, including material and digital archives.

2. Programme Outcomes

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

1. UNDERSTANDING of the interests and operations of archives and other forms of organised knowledge.
2. UNDERSTANDING of the impact of new technologies and thinking on archival practice.
3. CRITICAL ASSESSMENT of the ways in which art and design have engaged with archives.
4. SELF-REFLECTION on the ethical and political dimensions of their own practice as art or design researchers using archival material.

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.

4. Further Educational Opportunities

The Professional Certificate in Creative Approaches to Archives is an opportunity to explore archival 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.

5. Teaching and Learning

The programme will be taught in workshops and field visits. The workshops will be led by NCAD academic staff as well as expert professionals from different archives. 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 Professional Certificate in Creative Approaches to Archives will be assessed in the following way:

- **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.

8. Modular Provision

| Code & module title | Credits | Core, Option or Elective | Trimester |
|--|---------|--------------------------|-----------|
| Professional Certificate in Creative Approaches to Archives | | | |
| PGCFAV1008 Creative Approaches to Archives | 5 | Core | 1 |

9. Programme Structure

| Professional Certificate in Creative Approaches to Archives | |
|---|--|
| PGCFAV1008 Creative Approaches to Archives 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 PGCFAV1008 Creative Approaches to Archives.

11. Resources

Staffing

| Name | Title/Role |
|---|------------------------|
| Programme Co-ordinator, Module Co-ordinators | |
| 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, crawleyj@staff.ncad.ie