

Professional Practice: Institutions VC2-3

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

ECTS credits¹	10	Programme	BA Visual Culture
NQF level	8	School	School of Visual Culture
Stage	2	Module Co-ordinator	Dr Sarah Pierce
Trimester	1	Module Team	Dr Sarah Pierce
Contact	Neasa Travers, Secretary School of Visual Culture: visualculture@staff.ncad.ie		
Responsibility	The NCAD Academic Council and the School of Visual Culture Board have responsibility for this module.		

1. Introduction

The purpose of this module is to support the ongoing development of professional practice skills pertaining to the study of visual culture. To achieve this broad aim, the module concentrates on professional practice contexts in Ireland, considering ways in which subjects studied more broadly within this programme can be applied to the work of appropriate local institutions and agencies. The module makes use of an extended case study (or, if appropriate, a number of case studies) in order to support students in developing their understanding of institutional conditions that shape visual culture in Ireland. In particular, it focuses on the role played by the institution/s in the organisation and dissemination of knowledge of visual culture beyond matters of exhibition and display (these concerns feature strongly in other professional practice modules offered in years 1 and 3). As such, it places particular emphasis on organisations like archives and libraries, as well as the tools central to their activities such as databases and catalogues. Central to these studies is the question of how specific institutions and agencies in Ireland seek to understand and administer key aspects of their operations such as audiences and publics, collection policy, outreach and education. How the practices of local and national organisations are informed by international relationships and tendencies is also an important point of reference.

Each year an organisation / number of related organisations will be approached to offer students access to their collections, staff and organisation systems. Where possible, classes will take place in situ as well as on the NCAD site. Research tasks will be designed in partnership with the staff of these institutions to develop insights and understanding of their operations and, if successful, new knowledge about objects and documents in their care.

The aims of this module are to:

1. Encourage understanding of the professional and public obligations and responsibilities which shape the operation of institutions;

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

2. Understand the professional and epistemological structures which shape the organisation of knowledge and its dissemination;
3. Provide opportunities for students to work with original materials in collections and archives.

2. What will I learn?

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

1. RESEARCH: Develop detailed knowledge of local and national professional practice contexts for the study of visual culture.
2. REFLECT: Develop the interpretive skills to work with primary material in collections and archives.
3. ANALYSE: Understand ways in which archives, objects and other materials employed in institutional contexts related to the production and presentation of visual culture in Ireland.
4. COMMUNICATE: Further develop the capacity to address and develop audiences in a targeted, strategic manner.

3. How will I learn?

Classes will take the form of site visits, meetings with professionals, and topic specific weekly readings and lectures. All site visits take place during class time and weekly readings are available via Google Classroom. Students will have the opportunity to work in small groups on tasks within the archive or other institution selected for this module.

Learning tool	Hours
Lectures / seminars	33
Specified Learning Activities	57
Autonomous Student Learning	110
Total	200

4. What learning supports are provided?

Bibliographic resources, weekly readings, specific training in / introductions to the cataloguing systems of partner organisations (e.g. archives), workshops on small group work, plus tutorial support.

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	None

6. How will I be assessed?

Assessment tool	% of final grade	Timing
Public presentation/display accompanied by a critical report and documentation outlining the approach taken	100%	Week 13
Total	100%	

Assessment tool	Learning outcomes assessed
Public presentation/display accompanied by a critical report and documentation outlining the approach taken	1,2,3,4

Students will be required to develop a public-facing form of presentation which captures the research and analysis undertaken. This might take the form of a display and/or a publication. The precise nature of this will be negotiated with the partner organisation/s. If real opportunities to publish/display are not available, a substantial draft version may be submitted. In addition, the student will submit a critical self-reflective report with supporting documentation. This will map the experience of the project against the concepts and ideas discussed in the seminars.

Student work will be measured using the [NCAD Grade Assessment criteria](#) (see Visual Culture Handbook) against the following:

1. Research: preparation with sufficient notes and visuals, evidence of consulting a range of resources that inform and support the presentation; clear notes and references delivered following the oral presentation to peers and module coordinator as part of the assessment task.
2. Analysis: present and analyse the materials through visual aids and notes that support a position or idea.
3. Communication: Clear and prepared oral presentation, delivered in a rehearsed and organised manner; submission of notes that convey the oral presentation clearly and according to handbook guidelines.

7. Feedback, results and grading

Work submitted for assessment will be graded using [NCAD Grade Assessment Criteria](#).

8. What happens if I fail?

Opportunities will be provided during or at the end of Trimester 2 to students who do not complete all assessments in Trimester 1, but students will not be able to progress to the next stage of the programme until they have successfully completed all Year 2 modules, equivalent to 60 credits.

9. When and where is this module offered?

Venue TBC / Weeks 1-11

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

In addition, you are invited to discuss your experience on the module with your lecturers at any point during the year. You can also relay your comments to the class student representative who will communicate your comments to the staff.

**For further details on the content of your module and teaching arrangements,
consult your Programme or Module Handbook**