

Research Practices VC3-12

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

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|---------------------------------|---|----------------------------|---|
| ECTS credits¹ | 20 | Programme | BA Visual Culture |
| NQF level | 8 | School | School of Visual Culture |
| Stage | 3 | Module Co-ordinator | Dr Emma Mahony |
| Trimester | 1 and 2 | Module Team | Dr Emma Mahony, Hilary O’Kelly, David Crowley |
| 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

To successfully complete this module, a student must design, plan, research and present a significant study of a subject of their own choosing (within the broad parameters of the field of Visual Culture). Students will be supported in this practice in two ways:

1. They will participate in a series of seminars designed to stimulate critical understanding of research paradigms related to visual and material culture. Students participating in this seminar will examine key conceptual issues around research including ethics, methods, disciplinaryity, and the ‘reflective practitioner’.
2. Students will also attend individual and small group tutorials with a supervisor. These tutorials will be structured in the sense that students will propose a programme of work in which these tutorials act as staging points in the steps towards the culmination of the module. The small group tutorials will provide opportunity for discussion and critical reflection of matters of shared concern.

This module has two assessment points: the first is a presentation in which the student will deliver an illustrated talk to his or her peers, his or her tutor and other members of staff in the School. Longer than other presentations in other modules which form part of the BA in Visual Culture, this presentation should demonstrate the students research skills, analytical skills and propose a clear argument. The student should also demonstrate his or her ability to interpret his or her sources (images, artefacts, documents, etc.).

The second assessment point is the submission of a long-form academic essay of 6-8,000 words (excluding references, bibliography).

This module aims to:

1. Provide an opportunity for students to produce high-level - and even original – research.

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

2. Support students in the development of an appropriate textual form for the delivery of this research within broad parameters set for the submission of long form essays set by NCAD and academic conventions.
3. Support high quality writing.

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?

Seminars, group and individual tutorials.

| Learning tool | Hours |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| Lectures / Workshops | 10 |
| Tutorials | 7 |
| Specified Learning Activities | 33 |
| Autonomous Student Learning | 350 |
| Total Workload | 400 |

4. What learning supports are provided?

Bibliographic and other references will be supplied as needed by the student in tutorial.

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 |
|------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Presentation | 25% | Week 12 trimester 1 |
| 6,000-8,000-word essay | 75% | Week 9, trimester 2 |
| Total | 100% | |

| Assessment tool | Learning outcomes assessed |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Presentation | 1, 2, 4 |
| Essay | 1, 2, 3, 4 |

The student will be assessed on his or her presentation. After making this presentation, he or she will submit a full set of illustrated notes (typically, the script of the presentation) which will identify all sources using full academic conventions. He or she will receive written feedback which will combine formative comments about the work undertaken and well summative assessment of the presentation itself. Assessment will be made using NCAD Grade Assessment Criteria (published in the programme handbook).

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](#).

Please note: students undertaking the electives which form part of this module will be at different stages of their study, and tutors will recognise this in their feedback. For instance, first year students should be able to assess the relative usefulness of the sources with which they work, understanding the different qualities of primary sources and secondary ones., whereas second and third year students should be able to demonstrate greater degrees of independence as researchers in the sourcing and selection of such materials.

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?

This module is delivered in School of Visual Culture seminar rooms and classrooms as well as online, during weeks 1-12 of Trimester 1 and 2.

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**