PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	**BA Art History with Curating** (Level 6)
Name and title of any exit qualification(s)	Dip HE, Cert HE
Is the programme offered with a Foundation Year	Yes
Awarding Body	University of London
Teaching Institution(s)	Birkbeck, University of London
Home school/other teaching departments	Historical Studies (home); Creative Arts, Culture and Communication
Location of delivery	Central London
Language of delivery and assessment	English
Mode of study, length of study and normal start month	Full-time (3 years); Part-time (4 years) Full-time with Foundation Year (4 years); Part-time with Foundation Year (6 years) September
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	not applicable
QAA subject benchmark group(s) Higher Education Credit Framework for England	History of Art, Architecture and Design
UCAS code	UUBAHICR_C (full-time, 3 years) UBAHIACR_C (part-time, 4 years) UUBFHICR_C (full-time with FY, 4 years) UBFHIACR_C (part-time with FY, 6 years)
Birkbeck Course Code	VQ38; VQ39 (with FY)
HECoS Code	100306 100914 100918
Start date of programme	October 2015
Date of programme approval	Spring 2014
Date of last programme amendment approval	June 2024
Valid for academic entry year	**2025-26**
Date of last revision to document	11/06/2024

Admissions requirements

We welcome applicants without traditional entry qualifications as we base decisions on our own assessment of qualifications, knowledge and previous work experience. We may waive formal entry requirements based on judgement of academic potential.

UCAS tariff: 112 points A level – BBC (48 for Foundation Year entry)

The UCAS tariff score is applicable to you if you have recently studied a qualification that has a UCAS tariff equivalence. UCAS provides for you to work out what your qualification is worth within the UCAS tariff.

Course aims

The BA Art History with Curating helps you to develop a range of key skills, from critical thinking and writing, to historical research and visual analysis. We will explore the cultural and political contexts of artworks and exhibitions, and think more broadly about the role of images within society. You will have the opportunity to plan and pitch an exhibition. Our modules make a creative use of the art galleries, museums and other facilities in London and beyond, including a study trip abroad in spring.

We teach art history as a rich and dynamic topic, encompassing exhibitions, installation, print culture, and digital media as well as painting, sculpture and photography. You will be taught by brilliant teachers who are also published writers of ground-breaking art history in periods from medieval to contemporary, and have curated exhibitions in diverse settings.

You will be part of a diverse, vibrant and stimulating student community in central London. Our evening classes allow you to combine studying with work or taking up volunteering opportunities during the day, and the programme will support you in making the first steps towards working in the arts. Alumni of the department now work in a variety of arts and art-related organizations, or progress to postgraduate studies.

The programme aims to:

- Offer a structured programme of intellectually stimulating and challenging modules which provide a sound training in Art History and an introduction to Curating practices
- Offer students the opportunity to develop a range of transferable skills
- Offer a broad range of learning experiences
- Provide relevant courses for those working, or seeking to work, in the visual arts, and opportunities to develop subject-specific skills

(For Foundation year aims see Arts Foundation year specification)

Course structure

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
Full-time – 3 years					
Year 1					
4	ARVC206S4	Doing Art History	30	Comp	T1
4	ARVC294S4	The Artwork in History	30	Comp	T2
4	ARMC120S4	Visual Art: Histories, Networks and Organisations	30	Comp	T3
4	ARVC295S4	STUDENTS CHOOSE EITHER Art in London OR	30	Option	T3
4	AHVM091S4	Debates in Art History OR	30	Option	T3
4		College-wide option	30	Option	T3
Year 2					
5	ARVC239S5	STUDENTS CHOOSE **Two of** Art and Society in the Middle Ages and Renaissance OR	30	Option	One in T1 and one in T2
5	AHVM011S5 AHVM010S5	Art and Society between 1900 and the Present	30	Option	
5		Art and Society in the Nineteenth Century OR College-wide option	30	Option	
5	ARMC249S5	Curating Culture	30	Comp	T2
5	ARVC221S5	Research Portfolio	30	Comp	T1-3 (briefings only in T1 and T2)
Year 3					
6		3 x Level 6 option modules (closed choice art history) OR	90	Option	T1-2
6		2 x above Level 6 option modules and	60		T1 or 2
6		1 x College-wide option	30		T1 or 2
6	ARVC220S6	Dissertation	30	Comp	T1-3 (briefings only in T1&2)

Part-time – 4 years					
Year 1					
4	ARVC206S4	Doing Art History	30	Comp	T1
4	ARVC294S4	The Artwork in History	30	Comp	T2
4	ARMC120S4	Visual Art: Histories, Networks and Organisations	30	Comp	T3
Year 2					
5	ARVC239S5	STUDENTS CHOOSE ONE OF Art and Society in Middle Ages and Renaissance	30	Option	T1 or T2 (Students must take one module in each term)
5	AHVM011S5	Art and Society between 1900 and the Present	30	Option	
5	AHVM010S5	Art and Society in the Nineteenth Century	30	Option	
5	ARMC249S5	Curating Culture	30	Comp	T2
4	ARVC295S4	STUDENTS CHOOSE EITHER Art in London OR	30	Option	T3
4	AHVM091S4	Debates in Art History OR	30	Option	T3
4		College-wide option	30	Option	T3
Year 3 (students must take 2 Level 5 modules and 1 Level 6 in year 3)					
6	From a range	1 x Level 6 option module (closed choice art history) OR	30	Option	T1
5		Art and Society option not taken in year 2	30	Option	T1
6	From a range	1 x Level 6 option module (closed choice art history) OR	30	Option	T2
5		Art and Society option not taken in year 2 OR	30	Option	T2
		College-wide option	30	Option	T2
5	ARVC221S5	Research Portfolio	30	Comp	T1-T3 (briefings in T1 and 2)
Year 4					
6	From a range	1 x Level 6 option module (closed choice art history) OR	30	Option	T1
6		College-wide option	30	Option	T1
6	From a range	1 x Level 6 option module (closed choice art history)	30	Option	T2
6	ARVC220S6	Dissertation	30	Comp	T1-T3 (briefings in T1 and T2)

Foundation year – full-time (Year 0)						
3	CASE002S3	Fundamentals of Study	30	Core	T1
3	CASE001S3	Breaking Boundaries of Knowledge	30	Core	T2-3
3	SC03015S3	London: Places, Objects, Ideas	30	Core	T1
3	ARAR009S3	The Arts: Questioning the Contemporary World **or** Level 4 language option	30	Option	T2-3
Then Years 1-3 as shown for BA Art History with Curating full-time above						
Foundation year – part-time						
Year 0A						
3	CASE002S3	Fundamentals of Study	30	Core	T1
3	CASE001S3	Breaking Boundaries of Knowledge	30	Core	T2-3
Year 0B						
3	SC03015S3	London: Places, Objects, Ideas	30	Core	T1
3	ARAR009S3	The Arts: Questioning the Contemporary World **or** Level 4 language option	30	Option	T2-3
Then Years 1-4 as shown for BA Art History with Curating part-time above						

Indicative L6 Options include: (note: not all options may be available every year)

ARVC219S6	Art Nouveau Across Europe at the Fin-de-Siècle
AHVM066S6	The Gothic Cathedral
ARVC277S6	Impressionist Paris: Modernity and Difference
AHVM007S6	Art and Architecture in Rome c 1500 - 1527
AHVM031S6	From Private Piety to Princely Pomp: The Art of Northern Renaissance
AHVM049S6	Portraiture in England in the Long Eighteenth Century
ARVC229S6	Photography Between Art and Document, 1839 to Now
SC03014S6	The Politics of Display

Core: *Module must be taken and passed by student*
Compulsory: *Module must be taken but can be considered for compensated credit (see CAS regulations paragraph 24)*
Option: *Student can choose to take this module*

How you will learn

Your learning and our teaching are organised to help you meet the learning outcomes of the course. As a student, we expect you to be an active learner and to take responsibility for your learning, engaging with all of the material and sessions arranged for you.

Each course is divided into modules. You will find information on the virtual learning site (Moodle, see Academic Support below) about the programme overall and each of your modules: what to expect, the work you need to prepare, links to reading lists, information about how and when you will be assessed, how to communicate with lecturers and your peers.

Your learning for this course is organised around a combination of interactive lectures, seminars, and visits to art museums and galleries. Interactive lectures are designed to allow you to engage with an outline or overview of the topic, with the visual and textual material related to the session, and direct you to other resources. They are a springboard for your own learning. Seminars are group sessions where you will be asked to contribute to discussion or group work around the topic, with material set in advance for which you need to prepare. Visits are guided or organised by you with your peer group, and form an integral part of some of the modules.

How we will assess you

The course will use a variety of assessment methods. Assessment is used to enhance your learning rather than simply to test it. We use a variety of assessment methods. For most of the modules associated with this course, your assessment will be through the following types of assessment:

- Short written exercises, including social media posts and take-home exams
- Essays which will develop in length as you progress through your studies
- Oral and visual presentations about your written work

Learning outcomes (what you can expect to achieve)

'Learning outcomes' indicate what you should be able to know or do at the end of your course. Providing them helps you to understand what your teachers will expect and also the learning requirements upon which you will be assessed.

By the end of this course you should be able to:

- Demonstrate a general knowledge of the history of art and detailed knowledge of specific themes, periods or places.
- Observe and analyse works of visual culture, orally and in writing.
- Demonstrate a critical awareness of the functions of such works within the social and cultural contexts of their production and reception.
- Demonstrate familiarity with current debates and approaches to the discipline.
- Use effective skills of visual perceptiveness, of critical reading of texts and images, of analysis, debate and communication, in your written work and oral presentations.
- Take responsibility for your own learning by undertaking independent research.

(For Foundation Year learning outcomes, please Arts Foundation year specification)

Careers and further study

You will find art history graduates in the following kinds of roles:

- Work in art galleries, museums, archives and arts organizations.
- Work in organizations that offer financial, legal, logistic, catering, travel or public relations services to the art world.
- Public relations sector.

- Teaching art and art history in school, colleges, further or higher education.
- Running own businesses in any of the above.

Birkbeck's BA History graduates will complete with a set of valuable attributes, for example:

- The ability to work as part of a team
- High-level oral and written communication skills in English
- Research skills
- Skills in evaluating and assessing types of information, including visual
- The ability to present yourself and an argument

Birkbeck offers a range of careers support to its students. You can find out more on the careers pages of our website.

Academic regulations and course management

Birkbeck's academic regulations are contained in its Common Award Scheme Regulations and Policies published by year of application on the Birkbeck website.

You will have access to a course handbook on Moodle and this will outline how your course is managed, including who to contact if you have any questions about your module or course.

Support for your study

Your learning at Birkbeck is supported by your teaching team, your personal tutor, and other resources and people in the College there to help you with your study. Birkbeck uses a virtual learning environment called Moodle and each course has a dedicated Moodle page and there are further Moodle sites for each of your modules. This will include your course handbook.

Birkbeck will introduce you to the Library and IT support, how to access materials online, including using Moodle, and provide you with an orientation which includes an online Moodle module to guide you through all of the support available. You will also be allocated a personal tutor and provided with information about learning support offered within your School and by the College.

Please check our website for more information about student support services. This covers the whole of your time as a student with us including learning support and support for your wellbeing.

Quality and standards at Birkbeck

Birkbeck's courses are subject to our quality assurance procedures. This means that new courses must follow our design principles and meet the requirements of our academic regulations. Each new course or module is subject to a course approval process where the proposal is scrutinised by subject specialists, quality professionals and external representatives to ensure that it will offer an excellent student experience and meet the expectation of regulatory and other professional bodies.

You will be invited to participate in an online survey for each module you take. We take these surveys seriously and they are considered by the course team to develop both modules and the overall courses. Please take the time to complete any surveys you are sent as a student.

We conduct an annual process of reviewing our portfolio of courses which analyses student achievement, equality data and includes an action plan for each department to identify ongoing enhancements to our education, including changes made as a result of student feedback.

Our periodic review process is a regular check (usually every four years) on the courses by department with a specialist team including students.

Each course will have an external examiner associated with it who produces an annual report and any recommendations. Students can read the most recent external examiner reports on the course Moodle pages. Our courses are all subject to Birkbeck Baseline Standards for our Moodle module information. This supports the accessibility of our education including expectations of what information is provided online for students.