

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	Graduate Certificate Art History (Level 6)
Name and title of any exit qualification(s)	N/A
Awarding Body	University of London
Teaching Institution(s)	Birkbeck, University of London
Home school/other teaching departments	School of Historical Studies
Location of delivery	Central London
Language of delivery and assessment	English
Mode of study, length of study and normal start month	Part-time (1 year) September
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	N/A
QAA subject benchmark group(s) Higher Education Credit Framework for England	N/A
Birkbeck Course Code	GCGARTHI_C
HECoS Code	100306
Start date of programme	October 2010
Date of programme approval	Summer 2010
Date of last programme amendment approval	March 2024
Valid for academic entry year	2025-26
Programme Director	Charlotte Ashby
Date of last revision to document	25/03/2024

Admissions requirements

Students will normally have a second-class honours degree (2:2 or above) in any subject from a UK university, or an equivalent international qualifications.

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.

Course aims

The programme aims to serve as a conversion course for students aiming to be admitted onto a postgraduate programme in History of Art (specifically the MA in History of Art, MA in History of Architecture, MA History of Photography, MA History of Art with Curating and MA in Museum Cultures offered by the Department of History of Art), but whose first degree is not in History of Art.

Aims:

- To introduce students new to the discipline to the study of the history of art and architecture
- To learn to critically analyse and interpret art objects and buildings
- To engage with the concepts, values and debates that inform the study and practice of the history of art and architecture
- To acquire and develop skills and knowledge of the discipline up to Level 6 final-year undergraduate level

The Graduate Certificate may also assist progression to MA Film, Television and Screen Media, MA Victorian Studies, and MA Renaissance Studies and postgraduate studies in other institutions.

Course structure

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
Full-time – 1 year					
6	ARVC182S6	Art History: Skills and Approaches	30	Core	T1-3
6		Level 6 option (see list below)	30	Option	T1, 2 or 3
Indicative level 6 options (note: not all options may be available every year)					
6	ARVC219S6	Art Nouveau Across Europe at the Fin-de-Siècle	30	Option	
6	AHVM066S6	The Gothic Cathedral	30	Option	
6	ARVC277S6	Impressionist Paris: Modernity and Difference	30	Option	
6	AHVM007S6	Art and Architecture in Rome c 1500 - 1527	30	Option	
6	AHVM031S6	From Private Piety to Princely Pomp: The Art of Northern Renaissance	30	Option	
6	AHVM049S6	Portraiture in England in the Long Eighteenth Century	30	Option	
6	ARVC229S6	Photography Between Art and Document, 1839 to Now	30	Option	

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 teaching is organised to help you meet the learning outcomes (below) 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 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.

Teaching on the programme will consist of a combination of student-centred seminars and interactive lectures. Museum and site visits will form a regular feature of the learning experience.

How we will assess you

Assessment is used to enhance your learning rather than simply to test it. For most of the modules associated with this course, your assessment will be through written essays.

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.

At the end of this course, you should be able to:

NB: where used below, 'history of art' is intended to encompass 'history of art' and 'history of architecture'

Subject specific:

1. engage with the concepts, values and debates that inform the study and practice of the history of art, including an awareness of the limitations and partiality of all historical knowledge
2. demonstrate a knowledge of the development of the field of history of art and of its key intellectual tools and past and current methods of investigation and interpretation
3. analyse, describe and interpret objects, images, buildings and artefacts closely and systematically, and at a level informed by this engagement and knowledge
4. show understanding of the objects, contexts and issues relevant to two or more specific areas of the history of art
5. select relevant evidence from the wide range of possible types of evidence used in the history of art and apply it to the examination of art historical issues and problems

Intellectual:

1. analyse critically images, objects and texts
2. marshal and appraise critically other people's arguments
3. formulate research questions independently
4. produce logical and structured narratives and arguments supported by relevant evidence

Practical:

1. demonstrate the capacity for critical, effective and testable information retrieval and organisation, including the use of electronic resources

Personal and Social:

1. appreciate and evaluate divergent points of view and communicate their qualities
2. express arguments clearly in writing and/or in oral presentations, using a combination of written and visual material
3. participate effectively in group discussion and structured group work
4. reflect on his/her own learning and respond constructively to feedback
5. work independently

Careers and further study

Graduates in History of Art can pursue career paths in the creative arts, media and education. Possible professions include:

- museum/gallery curator
- arts administrator
- advertising account executive
- community arts worker
- multimedia specialist
- higher education lecturer.

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 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.

The information in this programme specification has been approved by the College's Academic Board and every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information it contains.

Programme specifications are reviewed periodically. If any changes are made to courses, including core and/or compulsory modules, the relevant department is required to provide a revised programme specification. Students will be notified of any changes via Moodle.

Further information about specifications and an archive of programme specifications for the College's courses is [available online](#).

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