

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	Cert HE Art History (Level 4)
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 (2-4 years) October
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	N/A
<u>QAA subject benchmark group(s)</u> <u>Higher Education Credit Framework for</u> <u>England</u>	N/A
Birkbeck Course Code	UEHARTHI
HECoS Code	100306 (history of art)
Start date of programme	Autumn 2010
Date of programme approval	Spring 2010
Date of last programme amendment approval	Feb 2026
Valid for academic entry year	2026-27
Programme Director	Charlotte Ashby
Date of last revision to document	14/02/2026

Note: this is a modular enrolment programme

Admissions requirements

Entry is open to all who apply and who feel they may benefit.

Course aims

The aims of the Cert HE Art History are to:

- Develop your knowledge and understanding of the history of art
- Provide you with first-hand experience of art objects and images
- Develop your critical analysis and judgement in relation to the subject
- Provide you with experience of close textual analysis of different kinds of art historical writing
- Demonstrate the importance of context and the relationship of art history to other disciplines such as literature, social history, film and visual media and the history of ideas
- Develop your academic study and writing skills.

Distinctive Features:

- Provides an open access, entry level introduction to the history of art, requiring no previous knowledge
- Provides first hand experience of visual art and related media
- Introduces objects, images and concepts taken from a range of periods of Western art, from ancient to contemporary

Course structure

To gain the Cert HE Art History, students must successfully complete modules worth 120 credits in total. Students first take the core module, Doing Art History (worth 30 credits). Then they take option modules worth a further 90 credits.

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
Part-time – 2-4 years					
Year 1					
4	ARVC206S4	Doing Art History	30	Core	T1
4		Option	30	Option	T3
Year 2/subsequent years					
4		Option	30	Option	T2
4		Option	30	Option	T3
Indicative options					
4	ARVC294S4	The Artwork in History	30	Option	T1-3
4	ARVC295S4	Art in London	30	Option	T3
4	AHVM091S4	Debates in Art History	30	Option	T2
4	ARMC120S4	Visual Art: Histories, Networks and Organisations	30	Option	T3

Note: students may also include modules worth up to 30 credits (excluding core modules) from the Certificate of Higher Education programmes outside Art History.

Further study opportunities: Students who are awarded the Certificate of Higher Education in Art History and are admitted to Birkbeck's **BA Art History** will be offered exemption from the first year.

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.

Your learning for this course will be organised around the activities outlined below.

Most modules are taught once per week for 11 weeks, with each class lasting 3 hours. Occasional modules are delivered in longer meetings on Saturdays. Guided and self-guided visits to galleries or museums are a feature of some modules.

How we will assess you

Our assessment methods vary from essays and take-home tests to research portfolios and oral presentations, so as to develop a range of subject-specific and transferable skills. Students will need to allow time to complete coursework. Students must complete the coursework successfully to secure the credits for each course. The core course focusses on developing the skills students will need to do this. Support and training is available to help students develop skills throughout the programme.

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:

Subject Specific:

- Begin to engage with the concepts, values and debates that inform the study and practice of the history of art, including awareness of the limitations and partiality of all historical knowledge
- Analyse, describe and interpret objects, images and artefacts closely and systematically
- Show understanding of the objects, contexts and issues relevant to two or more specific areas of the history of art
- Select relevant material 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:

- Critically analyse images, objects and texts
- Marshal and begin critically to appraise other people's arguments

- Produce logical and structured narratives and arguments supported by relevant evidence.

Practical:

- Demonstrate the capacity for critical and effective information retrieval and organisation, including via the use of electronic resources.

Personal and Social:

- Appreciate and evaluate divergent points of view
- Express arguments clearly in writing and/or in oral presentations, using a combination of written and visual material
- Participate effectively in group discussion and structured group work
- Reflect on his/her own learning and respond constructively to feedback.

Careers and further study

Graduates in Art History 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](#).

Copyright, Birkbeck, University of London 2022 ©