

Programme Specification

1	Awarding body	University of London				
2	Teaching Institution	Birkbeck College				
3	Programme Title(s)	Postgraduate Certificate Curating and Collections Management				
4	Programme Code(s)	TPCCURCM_C				
5	UCAS code	N/A				
6	Home Department	History of Art				
7	Exit Award(s)	N/A				
8	Duration of Study (number of years)	1 or 2				
9	Mode of Study	FT	x	PT	x	DL
10	Level of Award (FHEQ)	7				
11	Other teaching depts or institution	N/A				
12	Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details	N/A				
13	<u>QAA Benchmark Statement</u>	N/A				

14	Programme Rationale & Aims
	<p>While there are several other postgraduate curating programmes in the UK and London, there is nothing that offers accredited high-level skills-based training in collections management for current or prospective museum professionals. Curating and collections management dovetail well as areas, each enhancing and drawing on the other. In terms of attracting students, curating has more name-recognition and general appeal as an area, while pairing it with collections management would give us a unique selling point. The new programme and modules would draw on well-established links with the museum world, established through the History of Art department's extensive network of work placements.</p> <p>In addition to the home market among people seeking to access curating and collections jobs in the very large and vibrant museum sector, there are significant potential international markets. Particularly in Africa and the Middle East, there is need for capacity building in the museums area, and little local or in-house training provision. London, with its world-famous museums, is a very attractive draw for students from these parts of the world and elsewhere.</p> <p>The intensive nature of the teaching on the modules allows both home and international students to take short-term leave from work to attend, potentially sponsored by their employers. International students can enter the UK on a short-term study visa.</p> <p>This is a high-quality course for a small number of students. The modules would be capped at 15, in order to make the intensive programme of behind-the-scenes access to partner museums feasible.</p> <p>Aims To provide students with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A solid grasp of key issues in curating and in collections management

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foundational skills in curating and collections management • Insight into the different working practices of various museums and galleries • An opportunity to research and test ideas for exhibitions • Skills in research, writing, and documentation that are specifically geared to a museums or galleries context • A basis for professional work
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15	Entry Criteria
	Second class (2.2) degree in a relevant subject or equivalent (for example, professional experience).

16	Learning Outcomes
	<p>On successful completion of this programme a student will be expected to be able to:</p> <p><i>Subject Specific:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate an understanding of the fundamental principles of collections management and the role and responsibilities of the curator within the modern museum and gallery context; • Understand the principles of museum collecting today, and their relevance to managing a collection; • Catalogue an object to museum standards; • Draw on theoretical concepts to understand the methodologies of collections management and care; • Select objects and create coherent narratives with them; • Understand the fundamental principles of object interpretation; • Engage constructively in current debates concerning curatorship and its changing nature; • Identify some of the challenges faced by the museum and gallery curator and collections manager today; <p><i>Intellectual:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate professionally (both orally and in writing); • Apply theoretical arguments to focussed areas of research; <p><i>Practical:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debate in an atmosphere of open discussion; • Understand the fundamental role and purpose of a collections database; <p><i>Personal and Social:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage time effectively; • Understand the importance of precision and attention to detail.

17	Learning, teaching and assessment methods
	The programme consists of two intensively taught one-week modules. Students are able to take both modules consecutively on a FT basis; or chose the PT route taking one module each year.

	<p>Each intensive module is delivered across a concentrated five-day period.</p> <p>Morning sessions are held in the classroom from 10am to 1pm, with the first ninety minutes consisting of a tutor-led seminar, followed by a further ninety minutes of practical, task-oriented group work / discussion. Students complete ten hours of directed learning prior to the commencement of the module.</p> <p>Tutor-led museum and gallery visits take place each afternoon.</p> <p>Assessment consists of a piece of project coursework for each module. For Collections Management, students document a museum bequest according to accredited museum standards. For Curating Practice, students devise their own exhibition project.</p>
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18	Programme Description
	<p>Students take two modules:</p> <p>Curating (30 credits)</p> <p>Collections Management (30 credits)</p> <p>Each module will be taught in the daytime over one intensive week.</p> <p>The modules can be taken in either order.</p>

19	Programme Structure			
'Full Time' programme				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	ARVC272S7	Collections Management	30	Core
		AND		
7	ARVC273S7	Curating	30	Core
Part Time programme				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	ARVC272S7	Collections Management	30	Core
		OR		
7	ARVC273S7	Curating	30	Core
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	ARVC273S7	Curating	30	Core
		OR		
7	ARVC272S7	Collections Management	30	Core

Status*

CORE – Module must be taken and passed by student; COMPULSORY – Module must be taken, mark can be reviewed at sub-exam board; OPTIONAL – Student can choose to take this module

Year of entry: 2021/22



20	Programme Director	Dr Sarah Thomas
21	Start Date (<i>term/year</i>)	Autumn 2020
22	Date approved by Education Committee	Autumn 2019 (Chair's action)
23	Date approved by Academic Board	Spring 2020
24	Date(s) updated/amended	10 December 2021