

Programme Specification

1	Awarding Body	University of London					
2	Teaching Institution	Birkbeck College					
3	Programme Title(s)	Cert HE History of Art					
4	Programme Code(s)	UEHAHIST					
5	UCAS code	N/A					
6	Home Department	History of Art					
7	Exit Award(s)	N/A					
8	Duration of Study (number of years)	2-4 years					
9	Mode of Study	FT		PT	х	DL	
10	Level of Award (FHEQ)	4	I.	I.		ı	1
11	Other teaching depts or institution	N/A					
12	Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details	N/A					
13	QAA Benchmark Group	History of Art, Architecture and Design					

14 | Programme Rationale and Aims

Rationale:

- To provide a flexible entry level programme in History of Art that would attract significant student numbers and feed into both the BA and MA History of Art offered by the College.
- To deliver a programme in line with Birkbeck's mission to provide flexible, part-time programmes.
- To deliver a programme in line with the Common Awards Scheme.

Aims:

The aims of the Cert HE History of Art are to:

- Develop students' knowledge and understanding of the history of art
- Provide students with first-hand experience of art objects and images
- Develop students' critical analysis and judgement in relation to the subject
- Provide students 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 academic study and writing skills.

Distinctive Features:

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



• Provides academic background for those who have a professional interest in the art world.

¹⁵ Entry Criteria

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

16 Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the Cert HE History of Art, students will be expected to 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.

17 Learning, Teaching and Assessment Methods

Teaching and Learning:

Most modules are taught once per week for either 11 weeks or 22 weeks, with each class lasting 1.5 hours. Occasional modules are delivered in longer meetings on Saturdays, or in intensive week-long sessions. A visit to a gallery or museum are included where possible.

Assessment:

Our assessment methods vary from essays and take-home examinations 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 and prepare for exams. 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.

18 | Programme Description

To gain the Cert HE History of Art, students must successfully complete modules worth **120 cr** total.

Students first take the core module, Doing Art History (worth 30 credits). Then they take option modules worth a further 90 credits.

Core Module:

• Doing Art History (ARVC206S4)

Option Modules:

- ARVC205S4 Art History: A Survey
- AHVM091S4 Debates in Art History
- ARVC207S4 Material and Process in Art

Students may also include modules worth up to 30 credits (excluding core modules) from the Certificate of Higher Education programmes outside the department.

If students wish to progress to the **BA History of Art** it is recommended that they take one or more of the following options, which are shared with the BA first year: *Art History: A Survey* (ARVC205S4), *Material and Process in Art* (ARVC207S4) and/or *Debates in Art History* (AHVM091S4) (each worth 30 credits).

If students wish to progress to the **BA Liberal Arts** they must take the module *Production of the Human: Decolonising the Canon* (AREN257S4)(worth 30 credits).

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

19 Prog	gramme Structure	mme Structure						
Year 1								
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*				
4	ARVC206S4	Doing Art History	30	Core				
4		Option	30	Option				
Year 2/Subsequent Years								
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status				
4		Option	30	Option				
4		Option	30	Option				
Option	List:							
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status				
4	ARVC205S4	Art History: a Survey	30	Option				
4	ARVC207S4	Material and Process in Art	30	Option				
4	AHVM091S4	Debates in Art History	30	Option				

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



24	Current Programme Director	Dr Charlotte Ashby
25	Start Date (term/year)	Autumn pre-2003
26	Date approved by TQEC	pre-2003
27	Date approved by Academic Board	pre-2003
28	Date(s) updated/amended	20 April 2022