Programme Specification

1	**Awarding body**	University of London
2	**Teaching Institution**	**Birkbeck College**
3	**Programme Title(s)**	**MA History of Art** **MA History of Art with Curating** **MA History of Art with Collections Management** **Postgraduate Diploma History of Art** **Postgraduate Certificate History of Art**
4	**Programme Code(s)**	TMAAHIST_C – MA History of Art TMAAHCUR_C – MA History of Art with Curating TMAAHCOL_C – MA History of Art with Collections Management TPDAHIST_C – PG Dip History of Art TPCAHIST_C – PG Cert History of Art
5	**UCAS code**	N/A
6	**Home Department**	History of Art
7	**Exit Award(s)**	PG Dip History of Art PG Cert History of Art PG Dip History of Art with Collections Management PG Cert History of Art with Collections Management PG Dip History of Art with Curating PG Cert History of Art with Curating
8	**Duration of Study** (number of years)	1 (full-time) or 2 (part-time)
9	**Mode of Study**	FT **x** PT **x** DL
10	**Level of Award (FHEQ)**	7
11	**Other teaching depts or institution**	School of Arts Departments: English, Theatre and Creative Writing; Film, Media and Cultural Studies; and Cultures and Languages
12	**Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details**	N/A
13	**QAA Benchmark Statement**	N/A

14	**Programme Rationale & Aims**
	The MA History of Art seeks to develop historical and critical skills in the study of selected aspects of art, architecture, design and theory. There is an emphasis on historiographical awareness and critical debate rather than on comprehensive survey. Many of our graduates undertake further postgraduate work or progress to careers in arts-related fields. **Aims:** The programme aims to: - Enable students to develop skills involved in dealing with visual and textual materials - Enhance students' understanding of critical debates and traditions - Encourage intellectually independent exploration of historical and critical issues.

15	**Entry Criteria**
	2.2 degree in a relevant subject or equivalent (for example, professional experience). For students with a degree in a subject other than history of art, the one-year part-time Graduate Certificate in History of Art and Architecture can be used as a conversion course. Students who successfully complete the Graduate Certificate with Merit will be guaranteed a place on this programme.

16	**Learning Outcomes**
	On successful completion of the **MA History of Art**, students are expected to have: *Subject Specific* • Developed at postgraduate level acuity in observing visual culture • Developed enhanced understanding of this visual culture within the social and cultural context of its production • Engaged constructively in current debates concerning the discipline and its changing nature. *Intellectual* • Ability to select and acquire relevant visual and textual material and evidence and to analyse, present and interpret this as appropriate within the context of the course • Ability to select and develop appropriate historical and theoretical methodological frameworks and approaches • Ability to understand advanced abstract material and demonstrate critical awareness and distance *Practical* • Ability to debate in an atmosphere of open discussion • Ability to undertake short and extended-length academic writing • Ability to communicate ideas effectively, both in writing and verbally On successful completion of the **MA History of Art with Curating**, students will additionally demonstrate: • A solid grasp of key issues in curating practice • Foundational skills in curating practice • Insight into the different working practices of various museums and galleries • Ability to research and test ideas for exhibitions • Skills in research, writing, and documentation that are specifically geared to a museums or galleries context On successful completion of the **MA History of Art with Collections Management**, students will additionally demonstrate: • A solid grasp of key issues in collections management • Foundational skills in collections management

- Insight into the different working practices of various museums and galleries
- Skills in research, writing, and documentation that are specifically geared to a museums or galleries context

17	**Learning, teaching and assessment methods**
	The standard format for teaching is a combination of lectures and seminars and one-to-one tutorials.
	Lecturers present an overview of the main issues attached to the week's subject area, pointing students in the direction of required reading as well as further reading and research.
	The seminar component of each session enables students to explore ideas and methods, to discuss both the required reading and the results of personal research and study, and to refine their own skills of argument, communication and presentation. Seminars may include structured or open debate, a close analysis of textual or visual material, small group discussions and task based work. Participation in seminar discussion is very important in all parts of the course. Classroom based work is supported and enhanced by visits to archives, museums and galleries.
	As the MA progresses students are expected to become increasingly independent researchers. This is reflected in the fact that both the research exercise and dissertation are largely self-defined rubrics (with guidance from academic members of staff).
	Further support and expansion of students' areas of interest comes in the form of tutorials, arranged by mutual agreement with the lecturer, allowing students to discuss issues on a one-to-one basis, especially in relation to essays, research exercise and dissertation.
	Work on the dissertation is further enhanced by work-in-progress seminars in the summer term.
	Additional handouts and moodle resources will direct students towards supplementary information and reading.
	Research seminars, symposia and lectures delivered by relevant guest speakers provide students with an opportunity to engage with current developments and debates in the field.

18	**Programme Description**
	Students take the compulsory module 'Frameworks: Histories and Theories of Art, Architecture, Photography', two option modules, a research exercise, and a dissertation.
	Full-time students take 'Frameworks: Histories and Theories of Art, Architecture, Photography' and the first option module in the autumn term and the second option module in the spring term. Then they either take the research exercise in the spring term and work on their dissertation from the summer term OR they take a work placement in the summer term and begin work on their dissertation from the spring term.
	In Year 1, part-time students take 'Frameworks: Histories and Theories of Art, Architecture, Photography' in the autumn term, the first option module in the spring term, and the research exercise OR the work placement in the summer term. In Year 2 they take the

	second option module in the autumn term, and work on their dissertation from the spring term.
	'Frameworks: Histories and Theories of Art, Architecture, Photography' provides a postgraduate-level introduction to current theoretical and historiographical issues in the study of the discipline.
	Option modules allow students to pursue specific interests and areas of research in selected topics from the Italian Renaissance to the present.

19	**Programme Structure**

Full Time programme: MA History of Art

Year 1

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	ARVC247S7	Frameworks: Histories and Theories of Art, Architecture, Photography	30	Compulsory
7	From a range	Option Module 1	30	Optional
7	From a range	Option Module 2	30	Optional
7	ARVC282S7	Research Exercise OR	30	Compulsory
7	ARVC054S7	Work Placement		
7	AHVM019D7	Dissertation	60	Core

Full Time programme: MA History of Art With Curating

Year 1

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	ARVC247S7	Frameworks: Histories and Theories of Art, Architecture, Photography	30	Compulsory
7	ARVC273S7	Curating	30	Compulsory
7	From a range	Option Module	30	Optional
7	ARVC282S7 ARVC054S7	Research Exercise *Or* Work Placement	30	Compulsory
7	AHVM019D7	Dissertation	60	Core

Full Time programme: MA History of Art With Collections Management

Year 1

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	ARVC247S7	Frameworks: Histories and Theories of Art, Architecture, Photography	30	Compulsory
7	ARVC272S7	Collections Management	30	Compulsory
7	From a range	Option Module	30	Optional
7	ARVC054S7 ARVC282S7	Work Placement *Or* Research Exercise	30	Compulsory
7	AHVM019D7	Dissertation	60	Core

		Part Time programme: MA History of Art		
		Year 1		
Level	**Module Code**	**Module Title**	**Credits**	**Status***
7	ARVC247S7	Frameworks: Histories and Theories of Art, Architecture, Photography	30	Compulsory
7	From a range	Option Module 1	30	Optional
7	ARVC282S7 ARVC054S7	Research Exercise OR Work Placement	30	Compulsory
		Year 2		
Level	**Module Code**	**Module Title**	**Credits**	**Status***
7	From a range	Option Module 2	30	Optional
7	AHVM019D7	Dissertation	60	Core
		Part Time programme: MA History of Art with Curating		
		Year 1		
Level	**Module Code**	**Module Title**	**Credits**	**Status***
7	ARVC247S7	Frameworks: Histories and Theories of Art, Architecture, Photography	30	Compulsory
7	From a range or ARVC273S7	Option Module OR Curating	30	Optional or Compulsory
7	ARVC054S7 ARVC282S7	Work Placement Or Research Exercise	30	Compulsory
		Year 2		
Level	**Module Code**	**Module Title**	**Credits**	**Status***
7	From a range or ARVC273S7	Option Module OR Curating	30	Optional or Compulsory
7	AHVM019D7	Dissertation	60	Core
		Part Time programme: MA History of Art with Collections Management		
		Year 1		
Level	**Module Code**	**Module Title**	**Credits**	**Status***
7	ARVC247S7	Frameworks: Histories and Theories of Art, Architecture, Photography	30	Compulsory
7	From a range or ARVC272S7	Option Module OR Collections Management	30	Optional or Compulsory
7	ARVC054S7 ARVC282S7	Work Placement Or Research Exercise	30	Compulsory

Year 2				
Level	**Module Code**	**Module Title**	**Credits**	**Status***
7	From a range or ARVC272S7	Option Module OR Collections Management	30	Optional or Compulsory
7	AHVM019D7	Dissertation	60	Core

Full-Time Programme: PG Dip				

Year 1				
Level	**Module Code**	**Module Title**	**Credits**	**Status***
7	ARVC247S7	Frameworks: Histories and Theories of Art, Architecture, Photography	30	Compulsory
7	From a range	Option Module 1	30	Optional
7	From a range	Option Module 2	30	Optional
7	ARVC282S7	Research Exercise OR	30	Compulsory
7	ARVC054S7	Work Placement	30	

Part-Time Programme: PG Dip				

Year 1				
Level	**Module Code**	**Module Title**	**Credits**	**Status***
7	ARVC247S7	Frameworks: Histories and Theories of Art, Architecture, Photography	30	Compulsory
7	From a range	Option Module 1	30	Optional
7	ARVC282S7	Research Exercise OR	30	Compulsory
7	ARVC054S7	Work placement	30	

Year 2				
Level	**Module Code**	**Module Title**	**Credits**	**Status***
7	From a range	Option Module 2	30	Optional

Part-Time Programme: PG Cert				

Year 1				
Level	**Module Code**	**Module Title**	**Credits**	**Status***
7	ARVC247S7	Frameworks: Histories and Theories of Art, Architecture, Photography	30	Compulsory
7	From a range	Option Module 1	30	Optional

Indicative list of optional modules				
Level	**Module Code**	**Module Title**	**Credits**	**Status***
7	AHVM083S7	Fashioning the Body	30	Optional
7	AHVM003S7	Art and Identity: 'Race', Ideology, Culture	30	Optional
7	AHVM055S7	Art and War 1814-2004	30	Optional

7	AHVM064S7	Curating Difficult Histories: Museums, Exhibitions, Art Activism	30	Optional
7	ARVC118S7	Art and Devotion in Fifteenth-Century Italy	30	Optional
7	AHVM035S7	Art in the Age of Giotto: Evidence and	30	Optional
7	AHVM053S7	Gender, Modernity and the City	30	Optional
7	AHVM054S7	Inventing the Victorians	30	Optional
7	AHVM068S7	The Art of Persuasion: Religious Imagery and the Catholic Reformation	30	Optional

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

20	**Additional Programme Information**
	Requirements for exit awards Students must have completed the following modules in order to exit with these awards: PG Dip History of Art with Collections Management • Frameworks: Histories and Theories of Art, Architecture, Photography (ARVC247S7) • Collections Management (ARVC272S7) • 1 Option Module (30 credits, from a range of level 7 modules) • Work Placement (ARVC054S7) *Or* Research Exercise (ARVC282S7) PG Cert History of Art with Collections Management • Frameworks: Histories and Theories of Art, Architecture, Photography (ARVC247S7) • Collections Management (ARVC272S7) PG Dip History of Art with Curating • Frameworks: Histories and Theories of Art, Architecture, Photography (ARVC247S7) • Curating (ARVC273S7) • 1 Option Module (30 credits, from a range of level 7 modules) • Work Placement (ARVC054S7) *Or* Research Exercise (ARVC282S7) PG Cert History of Art with Curating • Frameworks: Histories and Theories of Art, Architecture, Photography (ARVC247S7) • Curating (ARVC273S7) Students on the Collections Management and Curating Pathways, who have accumulated the correct number of credits, and have taken Frameworks (ARVC247S7), but have not taken all the required modules above, can exit with the PG Cert History of Art.

24	**Programme Director**	Professor Kate Retford
25	**Start Date** (term/year)	Autumn 1986
26	**Date approved by TQEC**	Spring 1986
27	**Date approved by Academic Board**	Summer 1986
28	**Date(s) updated/amended**	6 May 2020 (for 2021/22)