

Course Specification

MA Creative Practice

September 2024 Entry



1. General information

Course Title	MA Creative Practice		
Awarding University	Leeds Arts University		
University at which course is delivered	Leeds Arts University		
Relevant benchmark(s)	Master's Degree Characteristics (2020), Sector Recognised Standards		
Awards	Credits	Duration	Mode of study
MA Creative Practice	180	1 year / 2 years	Full time / Part time
PGDip in Creative Practice *	120		Full time / Part time
PGCert in Creative Practice *	60		Full time / Part time
*Exit Award only			

2. Course Aims

This course aims to:

This course encourages a deeper understanding of process, methods, technique and materiality through scholarship and critical engagement with theoretical creative practice contexts. It engenders experimental, critical, and creative engagement with the context of practice through project management and research. The aim is to acquire self-direction and an awareness of the complex issues that impact upon creative practice and the creative industries. It aims to support you as you develop, and consistently sustain the application of critical, analytical judgements, informed by theoretical material and self-directed research to the production of a body of investigative creative practice work. The course aims to support you throughout your journey and promote an independent, analytical, proactive and negotiated approach to your creative practice, and the creative industries. You will be encouraged to develop and apply a sustained approach that results in the creative use of concepts and research in resolved, coherent and sophisticated creative practice work.

3. Distinctive Features of the Course

The environment at Leeds Arts University engenders an atmosphere of academia and creativity as the only specialist arts university in the North of England. The suite of postgraduate specialist courses creates an attitude of learning and an environment of creativity from a wide range of creative pathways. The postgraduate culture embraces practice research and community of inquiry which has the potential for collaborative working, across the subject areas. The course encourages and promotes a transdisciplinary pedagogy that celebrates art, design, performance, community engagement and writing. Transdisciplinary practice is central to MA Creative Practice and is informed by developmental planning of your research project and the mix of closely tutored, specialist, research-based negotiated learning and independent practitioner research. The essential elements of this course are the development of your creative practice. Underpinning this development is a theoretical framework that enmeshes practice, research, and theory. The nature of a transdisciplinary practice is not to ignore or discount definitions of discipline, nor is it simply

to harmonise links between two or more disciplines. Rather, it is to integrate practice research, professionalism and criticality and transcend their traditional boundaries. MA Creative Practice is a place for transdisciplinary working practices, collaboration, transmedia explorations and socially engaged arts and design. It encourages an exploration of new forms of creativity in which critical thinking and critical writing are essential tools for understanding and articulating a creative practice. MA Creative Practice encourages highly motivated and independent critical thinkers and creatives; the course encourages experimentation and the development of transferrable academic, practical and professional knowledge.

4. Course Structure

4a. Module Framework

Level 7	Credit points	ECTS	Learning hours
Research for Practice	30	15	300
Practice Development	30	15	300
Practice Resolution	30	15	300
Research Methods	30	15	300
Professional Practice	30	15	300
The Dissertation	30	15	300

4b. Course Map / Structure

Full Time Mode				
	Trimester 1 (September - January)	Trimester 2 (January - April)	Trimester 3 (May - August)	
	Research for Practice (30 Credits)	Practice Development (30 Credits)	Professional Practice (30 Credits)	180 Credits
	Research Methods (30 Credits)	The Dissertation (30 Credits)	Practice Resolution (30 Credits)	
Part Time Mode				
	Trimester 1 (September - January)	Trimester 2 (January - April)	Trimester 3 (May - August)	
Y1	Research for Practice (30 Credits)	Practice Development (30 Credits)	Professional Practice (30 Credits)	90 Credits
Y2	Research Methods (30 Credits)	The Dissertation (30 Credits)	Practice Resolution (30 Credits)	90 Credits

5. Course Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the following learning outcomes, you will be eligible for the award of MA Creative Practice.

CLO 1 Research	Create specialised work outputs, which are informed by current practice, research and scholarship.	Research for Practice (30) The Dissertation (30) Practice Development (30) Research Methods (30)
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CLO 2 Analysis	Use, analyse, critique and evaluate a range of research methods, as you develop your specialist, subject and professional knowledge and practice.	Research for Practice (30) Practice Development (30) Research Methods (30)
CLO 3 Subject Knowledge and Understanding	Evidence an in-depth knowledge and understanding of your specialist, subject and professional practice, including that of contemporary critical and conceptual debate, and practical developments.	The Dissertation (30) Professional Practice (30) Practice Resolution (30)
CLO 4 Experimentation	Experiment with techniques, ideas and approaches to advance your specialist, subject and professional practice.	Research for Practice (30) Practice Development (30) Practice Resolution (30)
CLO 5 Techniques and Processes	Choose, apply and evaluate a range of techniques and processes appropriate to your practice.	Research for Practice (30) Practice Development (30)
CLO 6 Personal and Professional Development	Work with autonomy, initiative and professionalism as you evaluate, revise and disseminate your practice.	The Dissertation (30) Practice Resolution (30) Professional Practice (30)

6. Learning and Teaching Strategies

The learning and teaching methods and strategies included in this course are aligned to the descriptor for master's degrees as defined by the Office for Students in the *Sector Recognised Standards* document (November 2022). Further information is available by following this link: <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/securing-student-success-regulatory-framework-for-higher-education-in-england/>.

The *Characteristics Statement [for] Master's Degrees* (February 2020) has also informed the design of the award. In particular, the document notes the following:

... all master's degree graduates have in-depth and advanced knowledge and understanding of their subject and/or profession, informed by current practice, scholarship and research. This will include a critical awareness of current issues and developments in the subject and/or profession; critical skills; knowledge of professional responsibility, integrity and ethics; and the ability to reflect on their own progress as a learner. Further information is available here: <https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/master-s-degree-characteristics-statement.pdf>

Therefore, the learning, teaching and assessment strategies on this course have been designed to enable the student to become effective practitioners and researchers; to develop critical and analytical skills and to develop and evidence in-depth knowledge and understanding of their subject area. They also encourage and facilitate an experimental approach to practice and research and allow the student to extend their specialist technical knowledge. They are designed to support and facilitate personal and professional development and allow the student to work with initiative and autonomy.

Teaching and Learning:

Teaching and learning strategies include the following approaches:

- Lectures and presentations
- Seminars and discussion groups
- Independent research and self-directed study
- Demonstrations including technical demonstrations and workshop inductions
- Peer group presentations and collaborative practice
- One to one tutorials

- Group tutorials and ‘crits’
- Individual presentations
- Live projects

Assessment:

Assignment submissions are made in response to set briefs. The content of the submission is usually negotiated with your tutor, and related to, or derived from, your research interests.

The briefs and assignment requirements are informed by the module content and may include for example, subject specialist art-based practice work, written submissions, presentations, business and research plans, research books, sketch books and/or work books.