

COURSE SPECIFICATION

BA (Hons) Fine Art



1. General information

Course Title	BA (Hons) Fine Art
UCAS code	W100
Course / Award Title	BA (Hons) Fine Art
Awarding Institution	Leeds Arts University
Institution at which course is delivered	Leeds Arts University
Professional Accreditation (if applicable)	N/A
Relevant QAA Benchmark(s)	Art & Design December 2019

Awards	Credits	Duration	Mode of study
BA (Hons) Fine Art	360 (180 ECTS)	3 years	FT
BA Fine Art*	300 (150 ECTS)	3 years	FT
DipHE in Fine Art*	240 (120 ECTS)	2 years	FT
CertHE in Fine Art*	120 (60 ECTS)	1 year	FT
*Exit award only			

2. Course Aims

This course aims to provide you with:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A specialised course of study in Fine Art; • A high-quality fine art education in a stimulating learning environment, appropriately resourced; • An academically rigorous course of study that reflects a wide range of Fine Art practice; • the ability to use practical and intellectual skills for independent, professional Fine Art practice, supporting progression to higher study at MA level and/or employment in a range of professional settings; • An understanding of concepts central to Fine Art practice and theory, and of the various models of Fine Art practice that acknowledge the expanded field of contemporary discourses; • The ability to develop a personal practice in Fine Art;

- The skills and knowledge to apply, consolidate and extend your learning in different contextual frameworks and situations, both within the field of Fine Art and within appropriate professional and entrepreneurial contexts.

3. Distinctive Features

Distinctive features of the course:

BA (Hons) Fine Art is a practical, vocational and rigorous training for artists which is well-resourced and delivered within a specialist art school environment. It is distinctive and unique to the sector, contributing and influencing the cultural currency of the institution, the city and the country.

The course is distinctive in that it:

- develops professional Fine Art practice within a pedagogy which promotes synergy between practice, theory and contemporary practice within the core modules;
- delivers a series of taught modules designed to develop your Fine Art practice to a professional level;
- promotes opportunities for engaging with national and international Fine Art networks of students and practicing artists;
- develops your ability to understand and apply your individual creativity in a professional studio context;
- develops practice which is responsive to a wide spectrum of critical and theoretical discourses.

This distinctiveness is underpinned by a broader remit in that it:

- engenders a flexible approach, encouraging you to develop a core of competence as the basis for an ability to apply knowledge in other areas of expertise and the ‘T-shaped’ thinking required to meet shifting contemporary, creative and professional contexts;
- promotes practice within a local and regional context with the potential for national and international significance;
- is vocationally orientated in a specialist art university environment, preparing you for a range of careers within the cultural industries sector;
- develops high level skills using well-resourced specialist workshops in making well resolved artworks appropriate for the context for which they are intended;
- uses situations and environments within the city of Leeds and beyond, as sites to develop and disseminate Fine Art practice;
- uses the learning experience to invest in and develop the cultural capital of the district.

4. Course Structure

4a. Module Framework

Level 4	Credit Points	ECTS	Learning Hours
LAUFA404 Studio Practice	60	30	600
LAUFA405 Practice and Professional Contexts 1	60	30	600
Level 5	Credit Points	ECTS	Learning Hours
LAUFA504 Theory Through Practice	60	30	600
LAUFA505 Practice and Professional Contexts 2	60	30	600

Level 6	Credit Points	ECTS	Learning Hours
LAUFA601 Negotiated Practice	60	30	600
LAUFA602 Exhibition Practice	60	30	600

4b. Course Map / Structure

Level 4	
Semester One	Studio Practice (LAUFA404) <i>60 credits</i>
Semester Two	Practice and Professional Contexts 1 (LAUFA405) <i>60 credits</i>
120 credits (60 ECTS credits) Certificate of Higher Education (Exit Award)	

Level 5	
Semester One	Theory Through Practice (LAUFA504) <i>60 credits</i>
Semester Two	Practice and Professional Contexts 2 (LAUFA505) <i>60 credits</i>
120 credits (60 ECTS credits) Diploma of Higher Education (Exit Award)	

Level 6	
Semester One	Negotiated Practice (LAUFA601) <i>60 credits</i>
Semester Two	Exhibition Practice (LAUFA602) <i>60 credits</i>
120 credits (60 ECTS credits) BA (Hons) Fine Art (Exit Award)	
*Students who fail to complete 360 credits but have accumulated no fewer than 300 credits will be awarded an Ordinary degree.	

5. Course Learning Outcomes

Learning is assessed at each level of the course. This develops from introductory work within the specialism of the course at level 4, through development of skills and ideas at level 5, progressing to application and synthesis of skills, originality, and theory in practice at level 6 as indicated by the FHEQ qualification descriptors.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs) comprise the Level Learning Outcomes, which define what you are expected to be able to do on completion of each level. Level Learning Outcomes are achieved through successfully completing all modules at that level. Expectations for your learning are expressed within each module.

Level 4 (CertHE)

Level Learning Outcomes	Modules
<i>By the end of Level 4, you will be expected to:</i>	
4.1 Demonstrate a familiarity with the basic visual language, materials, processes and skills, which are standard features of fine art.	LAUFA404 LAUFA405
4.2 Demonstrate an awareness of fine art as a professional activity, of its critical and contextual dimensions, and of relevant health and safety requirements.	LAUFA404 LAUFA405
4.3 Demonstrate the ability to interpret and evaluate underlying concepts and principles of fine art.	LAUFA404 LAUFA405
4.4 Demonstrate the ability to generate ideas, using different approaches to problem solving associated with fine art, including both convergent and divergent thinking.	LAUFA404 LAUFA405
4.5 Present a structured and coherent simple demonstration of the development of your ideas through to material outcomes.	LAUFA404 LAUFA405
4.6 Appreciate your strengths and weaknesses as learners.	LAUFA404 LAUFA405

Level 5 (DipHE)

Level Learning Outcomes	Modules
<i>By the end of Level 5, you will be expected to:</i>	
5.1 Demonstrate a broad understanding of the concepts, materials, processes, skills and critical discourses, which are standard features of fine art.	LAUFA504 LAUFA505
5.2 Apply generic and subject specific intellectual qualities to a range of relevant fine art problems and / or situations.	LAUFA504 LAUFA505
5.3 Appreciate and employ key methods of research, ideas development and production in fine art, and critically evaluate the appropriateness of these methods.	LAUFA504 LAUFA505
5.4 Select, analyse and make appropriate use of materials, processes, environments, and information, using a range of techniques.	LAUFA504 LAUFA505
5.5 Apply generic and subject specific skills in order to establish an appropriate direction in your fine art practice, in preparation for a career in your chosen field.	LAUFA505
5.6 Effectively communicate responses to fine art briefs, through visual, oral and written forms of expression, to a range of audiences, including fine art professionals, markets and / or participants.	LAUFA505

Level 6 (BA Hons)

Level Learning Outcomes	Modules
<i>By the end of Level 6, you will be expected to:</i>	
6.1 Demonstrate an independent critical understanding, specific knowledge and specialist understanding of the professional and contextual location of your fine art practice.	LAUFA601 LAUFA602
6.2 Evidence the synthesis of your knowledge and understanding to generate effective creative solutions within your fine art discipline in order to progress into employment or other progression opportunities.	LAUFA601 LAUFA602
6.3 Evidence a high level of process and professional skills that demonstrate a critically informed application of the materials and professional skills of your chosen discipline.	LAUFA601 LAUFA602
6.4 Use information, experiences and a range of appropriate communication methods to present yourself as a professional practitioner.	LAUFA601 LAUFA602

6. Teaching, Learning and Assessment Strategies

Our overall approach to engagement is outlined in our statement on [Higher Education teaching & learning at Leeds Arts University](#).

6a. Teaching and Learning

Level 4

The first year introduces you to awareness of contemporary practice within the creative industries and cultural environment now. As the first module on the course, **Studio Practice** introduces you to the history, theory, and practice paradigm in which you will work during the three levels of the course. Whilst undertaking this module you are also introduced to the course cultures, teaching and learning strategies and cross university workshops and learning spaces. This is seen as an essential orientation period for the course and the wider HE environment you have entered. At the end of this module, you will confirm your alignment to one of the Fine Art areas, and then work alongside students from other levels as appropriate. The second module **Practice and Professional Contexts 1** is an opportunity to develop your work prioritizing the challenge to materialize your thought within personally identified disciplines within Fine Art. Your progress will be underpinned by tutor led engagement with deeper questions and values in aspects of Fine Art practice. You will engage with practice and research active course tutors, industry speakers and gallery visits. This module concludes the year concentrating on a study of markets and audiences and supporting you to structure a reflection on your experience and new skills to develop pertinent promotional material for your emerging practice. Teaching, learning, and assessment strategies are therefore additionally designed to support you as you gain contextual understanding of how your creative practice links to those of others in different contexts, and entrepreneurial skills to equip you to identify and pursue a range of employment or further training opportunities. Throughout the module delivery you will be encouraged to undertake independent study to supplement and consolidate what is being learnt and taught.

Level 5

In the second year of study the articulation of **Theory Through Practice** as a key concept in the production of art work is the overarching challenge set for consideration and materialisation. It is expected that your studio practice will become more complex. You will undertake a core series of research studies seminars taught by the course team tutors throughout the year. These will support

the development of your understanding of the relationship between the theoretical and practical contexts of your own work. In the second year these seminars address key themes and theories that have been used to write about art and critique contemporary practice. There are opportunities for the testing of ideas in the context of material outcomes using staged writing tasks. To ensure you understand your progress with your strengths and weaknesses as a learner there is an in-year point of formal formative feedback where oral and written comment is given. The development of studio practice is underpinned by individual tutorial and group critique. Enhancement of material skills is supported by specialist practices in the university workshops.

Practice and Professional Contexts 2 continues the development of your fine art practice within an externally positioned context of markets and audiences. As in Level 4 it is live throughout the year as you engage with practice talks by research active course tutors, industry speakers, gallery visits and exhibition skills by project. However, within this module you are encouraged to make a greater analysis of promotional materials made and used by artists and undertake employability activities. You will undertake specific classes to support you to in communicating your work through photography and digital platforms to compete in the wider world. You will devise and make a pertinent web presence for your emerging practice. In this way the course explicitly acknowledges the University's commitment to embed employability skills within the curriculum and foster your abilities to effectively communicate with others. Your developing professional awareness is linked to your studio practice at all times. The reflective practices at the core of the studio teaching support your achievement in this aspect also.

Level 6

The final year of the course takes your own negotiation of individual interests and aims as an emerging practitioner as its central theme in the learning and teaching dialogue between you and the tutorial staff. It is a development divided between two modules. The first of which, **Negotiated Practice**, focuses intently on your positioning both practically and theoretically. You will avail of regular one to one tutorials and the group seminar culture continues. In Level 6 these concentrate on embedding communication skills. Building upon your understanding of key theories surrounding fine art practice, study of the variety of ways in which artists now write forms the content of this series. The intention of this is to place emphasis on nurturing your ability to articulate your understanding, awareness and judgements made in the production of your art practice. You will undertake a staged writing task to enable you to articulate your positioning as an artist. This is supported through studio tutorial and critiques. Formative feedback is continuous throughout the first module to feed forward your development and there will be one point of formal feedback where oral and written evaluation are given. You will complete the first module mid-year to ensure you have timely indication of your performance against the aims and expectations of the level. You will then embark on the final module **Exhibition Practice**, which will focus on a public moment of aesthetic encounter between your artwork and audience. Continuous evaluation of your aims, intentions, action planning and time management will be privileged in the teaching and learning at this point. You will complete a Graduate Level Application which is relevant to your own practice and postgraduate aims. This final module culminates in your presentation of a final exhibition of your work.

Throughout the module delivery you will be encouraged to undertake independent study to supplement and consolidate what is being learnt and taught.

6b. Assessment

The aim of assessment is to inform you of your individual progress as you work through the course. Feedback is an essential element of assessment and explained in more detail in 6c. Assessment also ensures that you are meeting the required academic standards for the award.

Assessment reflects the teaching and learning content and is an integral part of the learning process. Specific assessment strategies and submission requirements are explained in the briefs that you will receive at the start of each module. Assessment is designed to reflect creative and

academic practice and is aligned with the appropriate level of study. As far as possible assessment will be authentic in simulating professional practices.

Your creative output, therefore, is the performance of your learning, and will demonstrate the extent to which you have learned, developed, assimilated and mediated your knowledge, understanding and skills into appropriate forms for submission requirements. You will evidence module expectations, as expressed as 'what you are expected to learn' in module specifications.

The assessment of the modules is holistic; all material presented for assessment in each module is taken as a whole and a single mark is arrived at. Most assessment is by portfolio submission, the exact nature and content of which is determined by the subject matter, content and learning expectations for each module and is specified in your module briefs.

Your work will be assessed holistically according to the undergraduate Assessment Criteria and Marking Scheme. These criteria are used to evaluate your learning against the learning expectations specified for each module. Levels are clearly differentiated by learning outcomes, module expectations, teaching and learning approaches and assessment design.

6c. Feedback

Tutors will provide feedback, both in support of your ongoing development, as well as in direct response to your work formally within assessment contexts.

Provision of ongoing feedback - defined as information communicated to students with the intention of improving learning - is a significant and distinctive strength of the course. It is demonstrated through frequent and ongoing discussions between staff and students.

Formative

You will receive formative feedback on your progress throughout the module in a number of ways. You will partake in ongoing evaluation within the teaching and learning on the course, developing skills in reflection and dialogue and receive ongoing formative feedback from the teaching staff and peers. All the modules on this course contain formal formative feedback sessions where you will receive feedback on your progress to meet this developmental aim.

Examples of formative feedback include (without being limited to):

- Peer Reviews
- Group Tutorials
- Individual Progress Tutorials

Summative

At the end of the module, you will receive summative feedback represented by a grade with tutor comments on your work. This feedback will help you to understand how you performed on the module, clarify your strengths and identify areas for further consideration.