Course Specification MA Creative Practice

1. General information

Awarding University	Leeds Arts University
University at which course is delivered	Leeds Arts University
Relevant QAA benchmark(s)	UK Quality Code for Higher Education, Master's Degree Characteristics (2015)
Date of most recent review	April 2017
Date of next review	2022-23

Awards	Credits	Duration	Mode of study
MA Creative Practice	180 (90 ECT)	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:

- To create a stimulating environment in which practice is informed by research and advanced scholarship that is underpinned by the university's research culture.

- To further develop the university's externality through the evaluation and imaginative exchange of ideas grounded in theoretical material that relate to sustained, high level, visual/object- based/oral/aural/written work that draws in, informs and is relevant to the creative and cultural industries.

- To create a stimulating environment in which the student, in the context of their peer group, is engaged in the evaluation and imaginative exchange of ideas grounded in theoretical material that relate to sustained, high level, visual/object-based/oral/aural/written work that is relevant to the creative and cultural industries.

- To engender an experimental, critical, and creative engagement with their context of practice through project management and research. Students will acquire self-direction and an awareness of the complex issues that impact upon their practice and the creative industries.

- To 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 visual/object-based/oral/aural/written work.

- To support and promote an independent, analytical, proactive and negotiated approach to practice and professional development.

- To develop and apply a sustained approach that results in the creative use of concepts and research in resolved, coherent and sophisticated visual/object-based/oral/aural/written work.

3. Relationship to Other Awards

Students may progress onto the MA Creative Practice after completion of a BA Hons award preferably in an Art, Design or Media subject; however other degree subjects will be considered if the student currently has a creative practice.

The course provides a Master's level education for graduates of appropriate creative practices who wish to develop their education with more depth and focus. It provides the opportunity for a more specialised study than is available at undergraduate level, thereby meeting the needs of students who wish to continue or return to higher education at the Master's level. For those graduates who take the MA as a means of progress to a research degree, the course provides the skills and intellectual challenges that are the pre-condition for an MPhil or PhD.

4. Distinctive Features of the Course

The MA Creative Practice offers graduates seeking to direct, deepen and develop their practice the opportunity to position themselves, and their practice, in relation to their career aspirations through practice-led/practice-based research. Students will be encouraged to make creative connections between specific practices and/or career orientated aims and researched, informed visual/object-based/oral/aural/written work.

Practice is central and is informed by development planning and the mix of closely tutored, specialist, research-based negotiated learning and independent research-based enquiry. The essential elements of this MA are for each student to develop their creative practice, to underpin this development with a sound theoretical framework, so that practice, research and theory become interdependent, and to be able to relate this development to the contemporary and historical contexts of creative practices.

The student body will play an important part in shaping the course. The links with the cultural and creative industries will reflect students' needs and preferences and will be defined and developed in partnership with the course and the student cohort. Students may, for example, be involved in organising visiting professional talks and online and independent cultural visits.

The course will have close links with the creative and cultural industries, live projects and employment after graduation. The course also has a strong emphasis on developing a close relationship between research, theory and practice, increasingly important to inform art and design practice.

The course structure facilitates simultaneous delivery to both students on one year and two year modes of delivery. Students will be enrolled on the MA award but exit awards of a Postgraduate Certificate and Postgraduate Diploma are available for students who discontinue or are unable to finish the whole award.

The course ends with a 60 credit module which is practice based and allows the students to achieve the master's characteristics cited in FHEQ, 2008, pp.20-21.

5. Course Structure

5a. Module Framework

Level 7	Credit points	ECTS	Learning hours
LAUMACP701 – Research for Practice	30	15	300
LAUMACP702 – Research for Professional Context	30	15	300
LAUMACP703 – Practice Development	30	15	300
LAUMACP704 – Contextualising your Practice	30	15	300
LAUMACP705 – Practice Resolution	60	30	600

5b. Course Map / Structure

Full-time Mode		
		Masters Exit Point (180 Credits)
	Exit Award: PGDIP (120 Credits)	
Exit Award: PGCERT (60 Credits)		
Sep - Dec	**Jan - Apr**	**May - Aug**
LAUMACP701 Research for Practice (30 Credits) LAUMACP702 Research for Professional Context (30 Credits)	LAUMACP703 Practice Development (30 Credits) LAUMACP704 Contextualising your Practice (30 Credits)	LAUMACP705 Practice Resolution (60 Credits)

Part-time Mode				
Year 1			**Year 2**	
			Masters Exit Point (180 Credits)	
		Exit Award: PGDIP (120 Credits)		
Exit Award: PGCERT (60 Credits)				
Sep - Dec	**Jan - Apr**	**May - Aug**	**Sep - Dec**	**Jan - Aug**
LAUMACP701 Research for Personal and Practice Development (30 Credits)	LAUMACP702 Research for Professional Context (30 Credits)	LAUMACP703 Practice Development (30 Credits)	LAUMACP704 Contextualising your Practice (30 Credits)	LAUMACP705 Practice Resolution (60 Credits)

6. Course Learning Outcomes

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

Experimentation and Resolution

CP7A1: Knowledge of, and the ability to evaluate critically upon, image/making techniques and the technologies appropriate to high-level practice within their chosen field.

CP7A2: Development of, and the ability to evaluate critically upon, image/making techniques and the technologies appropriate to high-level practice within their chosen field.

CP7A3: Discernment and distinctiveness in practice that employs a comprehensive understanding of advanced techniques, processes and technologies appropriate to professional, high-level practice.

Project Management

CP7B1: Recognise and validate problems related to the management of own learning.

CP7B2: The ability to act autonomously in the application of relevant critical perspectives as a means of analysis in the planning for, and execution of, resolved verbal and/or written work.

CP7B3: The management of own learning and the self-directed identification of appropriate sources of information.

CP7B4: The management of own development through an open minded, flexible, creative and innovative approach to self-directed, identifiable practice-based objectives.

Research

CP7C1: Manage practice and professional development through research in relation to identifiable objectives and realisable goals.

CP7C2: A critically informed understanding of the value and role of interdisciplinary contact and discussion in ideas generation that is relevant to recent advances in the chosen field of study.

CP7C3: Research skills and research activity leading to sophisticated verbal presentations and written work/presentation that informs practice.

CP7C4: The relationships between theoretical understanding, practice and self-direction in the application of theory and research to practice.

CP7C5: Research methods and their appropriate application to the production of resolved work.

CP7C6: The management and production of professional work that demonstrates a synthesis of research, ideas, materials and processes.

Evaluation and Critical Analysis

CP7D1: The ability to systematically and creatively make sound judgements leading to the production of distinctive work.

CP7D2: The ability to summarise, document, report on, and reflect meaningfully upon one's own practice-based research.

CP7D3: The critical evaluation of the relationships between theoretical material and practice and the distinctive, in depth utilisation of those relationships in own work.

CP7D4: The evaluation of self-directed research.

CP7D5: The complex relationships between theoretical understanding, critical analysis and practice.

CP7D6: Originality in the application of problem solving and meaningful, critical thinking to the self-directed evaluation of one's own creative work.

Subject Knowledge

CP7E1: A critically informed understanding of the diverse policies and activities of organisations supporting and promoting the creative industries in local, national, intercultural and global contexts.

CP7E2: A systematic understanding of theoretical perspectives that relate to complex issues.

CP7E3: In-depth knowledge relating to complex issues impacting upon specific areas of creative specialist practice, and the ability to make judgements relating to those issues.

CP7E4: An in-depth and systematic understanding of current theoretical perspectives that relate to specific creative specialist practice.

CP7E5: An in-depth and systematic understanding of professional career and/or practice development in local, national, and global, contexts.

7. Learning and Teaching Strategies

Throughout your course of study, the following methods of learning and teaching may be employed both online and in-person (blended). The Module Specifications detail the particular learning and teaching strategy appropriate to the module and content.

- Negotiated assignment submissions that are generated from your research interests. You will initiate investigations and sustain the development of a project supported by staff.
- Peer group support and, where appropriate, collaborative practice fostered through structured student-initiated encounters with theoretical material and primary sources which can be applied to generate concepts that are explored through discussion leading to individual creative practice.
- One-to-one tutorial support during which, you will develop negotiated assignment activities with tutors focusing upon practice development and/or career planning through the evaluation and critical analysis of your own work.
- Opportunities for considered, exploratory and pro-active links with external contexts and communities of practice that lead to original integrated, resolved, conceptual visual/object-based/oral/aural/written work with relevance to the market(s) and/or audiences you have identified and investigated.