

Course Specification MA Illustration

1. General information

Course Title	MA Illustration
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 (2020)
Date of most recent review	N/A
Date of next review	2023-24

Awards	Credits	Duration	Mode of study
MA Illustration	180 (90 ECT)	1 year 2 years	Full time Part time
PGDip in Illustration*	120		Full time Part time
PGCert in Illustration*	60		Full time Part time
*Exit Award only			

2. Course Aims

This course aims to:

- Advance innovative, resourceful and authorial approaches to illustration.
- Assert illustration as a self-generative practice through rigorous and conscientious research methods.
- Systematically explore methods of dissemination through critical and considered understanding of the application of work in context.
- Promote ethically driven; ecologically, culturally and socially aware practices.
- Encourage interconnected approaches to research, practice and communication.
- Engender autonomy and agency through exploration of idiosyncratic, experimental and innovative approaches to illustration.
- Contribute to, challenge and deepen the understanding of the illustrative discourse at local, national and international levels.

3. Distinctive Features of the Course

The course pursues the need for a more authorial, comprehensive and expansive understanding of contemporary illustration through an open, inquisitive and explorative programme of study. Through in-depth examination and experimentation of interdisciplinary practical and theoretical research methods, you will question and expand existing approaches to illustration. The course establishes a stimulating and open thinking-space for speculation, collaboration and investigation into the idiosyncrasies of practice-led research. Through active engagement with practical and theoretical research methods, as well as innovative modes of dissemination, you will be the

generator of your own content with a critical understanding of situated illustration, narrative and storytelling. By positioning illustrators as communicators who see the world through a lens of intense detail, the course will deepen your own sense of ecological, cultural and social awareness so that the stories you tell are increasingly conscientious, nuanced and refined. A systematic understanding of the relationship between research, practice and communication will see you situating your work in context through the design of sequential imagery (comics, children's books, visual essays or other graphic formats) critical writing and presentations, digital and screen formats, workshop, community-based or exhibitable practices. The course begins with practical and theoretical experimentation; emerging to work situated in context and culminates with the realisation of a project that synthesises these practice-led components.

4. Course Structure

4a. Module Framework

Level 7	Credit points	ECTS	Learning hours
LAUMAIL701 - Processes and Practices	30	15	300
LAUMAIL702 - Research for Professional Context	30	15	300
LAUMAIL703 - Narratives and Networks	30	15	300
LAUMAIL704 - Contextualising your Practice	30	15	300
LAUMAIL705 - Illustration as Authorship	60	30	600

4b. Course Map / Structure

Full Time Mode			
LAUMAIL701 Processes and Practices (30 Credits)	LAUMAIL703 Narratives and Networks (30 Credits)	LAUMAIL705 Illustration as Authorship (60 Credits)	180 Credits
LAUMAIL702 Research for Professional Context (30 Credits)	LAUMAIL704 Contextualising your Practice (30 Credits)		
Part Time Mode			
Year 1	LAUMAIL701 Processes and Practices (30 Credits)	LAUMAIL704 Contextualising your Practice (30 Credits)	90 Credits
	LAUMAIL702 Research for Professional Context (30 Credits)		
Year 2	LAUMAIL703 Narratives and Networks (30 Credits)	LAUMAIL705 Illustration as Authorship (60 Credits)	90 Credits

5. Course Learning Outcomes

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

Category		Module
Experimentation and Resolution		
7A1	Deal with complex issues systematically and creatively, make sound judgments in the absence of complete information, and communicate your creative conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences.	705 Illustration as Authorship
7A2	Demonstrate the application of a comprehensive range of material techniques and processes appropriate to your creative arts discipline and practice.	701 Processes and Practices
7A3	Deploy a sophisticated approach to the recording and presentation of information from a range of relevant sources.	703 Narratives and Networks
Project Management		
7B1	Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and resolving creative arts challenges, and act autonomously in planning and implementing your practice at a professional or equivalent level.	705 Illustration as Authorship
7B2	Demonstrate initiative, independence and professionalism in managing workloads, meeting deadlines and setting realistic goals and schedules.	701 Processes and Practices 703 Narratives and Networks
7B3	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.	702 Research for Professional Context
7B4	The management of own learning and the self-directed identification of appropriate sources of information.	704 Contextualising Your Practice
Research		
7C1	Evidence a comprehensive understanding of the techniques applicable to their own research or advanced scholarship within their practice or discipline.	701 Processes and Practices
7C2	Analyse, evaluate and reflect on your personal practice through appropriate methods of research and reflection that allow for critique and development of that practice.	703 Narratives and Networks
7C3	A critically informed understanding of the value and role of subject specialist contact and discussion in ideas generation that is relevant to recent advances in the chosen field of study.	705 Illustration as Authorship
7C4	Research skills and research activity (e.g. action research and reflective practice) leading to sophisticated verbal presentations and written work/presentation that informs practice.	702 Research for Professional Context
7C5	Research methods and their appropriate application to the production of resolved work.	704 Contextualising Your Practice

Evaluation and Critical Analysis		
7D1	Demonstrate a systematic knowledge, understanding and critical awareness of contemporary debates within their discipline and professional practice, much of which is at or informed by the forefront of the field.	705 Illustration as Authorship
7D2	Demonstrate a critical understanding of appropriate areas of your discipline and practice and locate them within the creative industries and cultural environment both nationally and internationally.	703 Narratives and Networks
7D3	The ability to summarise, document, report on, and reflect meaningfully upon one's own practice-based research.	702 Research for Professional Context
7D4	The evaluation of self-directed research.	701 Processes and Practices
7D5	The complex relationships between theoretical understanding, critical analysis and practice.	704 Contextualising Your Practice
Subject Knowledge		
7E1	Demonstrate originality in applying knowledge to your specialist practice, together with a deep understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret and creatively articulate/promote/perform that knowledge.	705 Illustration as Authorship
7E2	The continuing advancement and development of your specialist knowledge and understanding.	701 Processes and Practices 703 Narratives and Networks
7E3	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.	702 Research for Professional Context
7E4	A systematic understanding of theoretical perspectives that relate to complex issues.	702 Research for Professional Context
7E5	An in-depth and systematic understanding of current theoretical perspectives that relate to specific creative specialist practice.	704 Contextualising Your Practice

6. 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.