Programme Specification

MA in Art Museum and Gallery Studies (campus-based)

**Entry Requirements:** A first or second class honours degree and clear evidence of vocational intention and aptitude. If a candidate does not meet this requirement the University will take into account previous training and experience, together with a proven demonstration of the ability to work at postgraduate level.

**Aims and objectives**

Programme aims:
- To provide a programme of study for art graduates who want to develop a career in the arts sector based on leading art museum and gallery studies research and practice.
- To produce employable graduates for the arts sector.
- To provide an inclusive, supportive, and yet challenging, learning environment with access to a range of academic support systems.
- To equip students with the professional knowledge, skills and values appropriate for the needs of a rapidly changing museums and galleries sector.
- To engage students in the critical development of art museum and gallery studies as an emerging academic discipline.
- To prepare students for a research career.
- Foster within students a motivation and aptitude for intellectual enquiry, critical assessment, creative innovation and a commitment to lifelong learning.
- Provide opportunities to develop a variety of personal transferable skills relevant to the needs of a range of employers.

All our graduates (MA/PGDip) should be able to:

- Demonstrate a sophisticated knowledge of and be able to critically engage with major theoretical, methodological and professional themes at the forefront of contemporary museum studies
- Identify a range of museum-related issues, and creatively and thoughtfully apply the knowledge gained from the course within specific professional and academic contexts
- Develop the intellectual skills appropriate to postgraduate study
- Work independently, collaboratively and creatively
- Demonstrate a range of personal transferable skills including communication skills
- Secure relevant employment and perform to a high professional standard
- Plan a response to research questions by formulation of aims, objectives and methodologies based upon a comprehensive understanding of museum and gallery studies research
- Locate, select and analyse information relevant to a research project
- Construct arguments and communicate effectively to specialist and non-specialist audiences

Graduates from our MA in Art Museum and Gallery Studies should be able to:

- Plan, execute and write up an extended research project on a gallery-related topic.

**Programme context and structure**

**The core modules:**
- ‘Art in the public realm’ (25 credits)
- ‘Managing resources in the art museum’ (25 credits)
Interpreting and communicating Art' (25 credits)
'Art Gallery Project', group work (15 credits)
'Art/Gallery Experience', two-month work placement (20 credits)

All students then choose one of the following option modules assessed by completion of an individual 2000 word report/essay/paper:

'Researching in the Art Museum ' (10 credits)
'Museum and Gallery Marketing' (10 credits)
'Museum and Gallery Education' (10 credits)

'Art in the Public Realm', ‘Managing resources in the Art Museum’ and ‘Interpreting and Communicating Art’ are each assessed by course work comprising a 4000 word project report/portfolio/essay. Assessment of the ‘Museum/Gallery Project’ has two components each worth 50% of the overall mark: a group portfolio/product/project; and an individually assessed oral examination. The work experience requirement will be assessed on the basis of a report from the student’s line manager, a short project report by the student which includes a reflection on learning outcomes and experiences.

Students undertake study visits to museums with each module, and also receive regular lectures from working professionals.

The individual learning styles of full- and part-time students are addressed using a diversity of learning environments. Lectures provide core concepts and underlying principles. Workshops, practical sessions, games, seminars, visits and debates are used for reinforcement and development of key concepts and methods. These also encourage the development of problem solving, communication and group skills as well as specific technical knowledge and skills (museum environment, web technologies, documentation, biological fieldwork). Gallery visits and work experience contextualise this understanding. Reading lists and study materials encourage further independent learning. The design of assessments supports this notion of key skill development.

Programme quality indicators

High level of applications: Art Museum and Gallery Studies students come from more than 50 different countries. Approximately one half of full-time students come from the UK. The remainder are international or EU students, of which some are seconded from their employing museums. All student groups are interdisciplinary and include a range of first degrees.

Funded applicants: Nearly all Museum Studies students fund themselves. However, the newly introduced AHRB Professional and Vocational Awards (Competition P) have provided the opportunity for twelve of our applicants this year to apply for funding – of which seven were successful. A small proportion of the overall intake acquire financial support from their employer.

High completion rates: The high quality of our teaching, learning and support systems leads to high completion rates for all existing courses. Of the last three years’ intakes only four students have withdrawn from full-time programmes, usually in the first week due to funding concerns. Over the same period we have lost only four part-time students.

Good performances: On average eleven students on the campus-based courses acquire a distinction on the taught course (a credited-weighted average of 70% or above) each year. On average twelve achieve a distinction in their masters dissertations with 4 achieving a distinction overall.

Excellent first destination statistics: Of those whose career destination is known, 97% of those graduating between 1997 and 1999 were in employment within 6 months. Of these 79% were in museum employment

Subject and Professional Skills

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intended Outcomes</th>
<th>Teaching Methods</th>
<th>How demonstrated</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge:</td>
<td>Lectures, seminars, workshops, study visits, the work placement, feedback on all assessed work, self-directed learning, independent research</td>
<td>Module essays, study visits ‘report-backs’, the group project, the work placement, dissertation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced knowledge of art gallery practice and a range of museum-related issues</td>
<td>Lectures, seminars, workshops, study visits, the work placement, feedback on all assessed work, self-directed learning, independent research</td>
<td>Module essays, study visits ‘report-backs’, the group project, the work placement, dissertation</td>
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</table>

Concepts:
Grasp of major theoretical, 
Lectures, seminars, workshops, study visits, the work placement, feedback on all assessed work, self-directed learning, independent research 
Module essays, study visits ‘report-backs’, the group project, the work placement, dissertation
### Methodological and Professional Principles

- **Techniques:**
  - Mastery of range of techniques related to art gallery work, including museum communication, collections management, collections care and strategic resource development, as well as research methods.
  
  - Lectures, seminars, workshops, study visits, the work placement, feedback on all assessed work, self-directed learning, independent research.

- **Critical Analysis:**
  - Ability to apply understanding of concepts and techniques with independence, rigour and self-reflexivity.
  
  - Lectures, seminars, workshops, study visits, the work placement, feedback on all assessed work, self-directed learning, independent research.

- **Presentation:**
  - Ability to organise research material in a manner appropriate to the medium that is to be assessed; to distinguish between relevant and non-relevant material; to write-up and deliver oral reports on findings to a professional standard.
  

- **Appraisal of Evidence:**
  - Ability to analyse and assess a variety of complex museological and practical museum issues and concepts. Ability to mount and sustain an independent level of inquiry at an advanced level.
  

### Transferable Skills

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Intended Outcomes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Managing Learning</strong></td>
<td>Research Methods Handbook, Research Methods Lectures, the group project, module essay feedback, dissertation feedback.</td>
<td>The group project, module essays, dissertation.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Research Skills</strong></td>
<td>Through progressive modes of assessment, culminating in dissertation supervision.</td>
<td>First ‘practice essay’, module essays, the group project (including its oral exam component), specialist option essay and dissertation.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Working Relationships</strong></td>
<td>Seminars (and other interactive sessions, such as ‘buzz groups’), the group project, the work placement, dissertation supervision</td>
<td>Tutorial contributions, group project submission (including peer review statements), study visit ‘report backs’, the work placement review, dissertation.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Data Presentation</strong></td>
<td>Research Methods Handbook,</td>
<td>Module essays, the group project.</td>
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and effectively using appropriate IT resources  

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<th>and effectively using appropriate IT resources</th>
<th>Research Methods Lectures, the group project, self-directed learning, essay feedback, oral exam feedback, dissertation feedback.</th>
<th>(including its oral exam component) and dissertation.</th>
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**Communication Skills**

| Ability to deliver oral presentation to professional standard, ability to respond to questioning, ability to write cogently and clearly. | Research Methods Handbook, Research Methods Lectures, tutorials, seminars, oral exam briefing lecture, module essay feedback, oral exam feedback, dissertation supervision, dissertation feedback. | Oral exam component of the group project, study visit ‘report backs’, module essays, dissertation. |
M.A./Postgraduate Diploma in Art Museum and Gallery Studies

Period of Registration: One year full-time.

Entry Requirements: Candidates should have at least a good second-class honours degree or equivalent and clear evidence of vocational intention and aptitude. If a candidate does not meet this requirement the University will take into account previous training and experience, together with a proven demonstration of the ability to work at postgraduate level. Where English is not a candidates first language applicants will be required to provide evidence of appropriate language skills.

Curriculum: In addition to the taught modules candidates for the Masters degree also undertake a dissertation or project on an approved topic.

Assessment: The pass mark at postgraduate level is 50%. The details of the assessments for individual modules are set out in the relevant Module descriptions. All programmes within the Department of Museum Studies follow Scheme B of the Postgraduate Scheme of Assessment.

Qualifications Awarded:
(i) Candidates who accumulate 120 credits from the taught modules and satisfy the examiners in each of the modules will be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma.

(ii) Candidates who accumulate 180 credits, satisfy the examiners in each of the modules and submit a satisfactory dissertation/project will be awarded a Masters degree.

Notes:
(i) Candidates may only be awarded the Postgraduate Diploma or the Masters degree. No candidate may be awarded more than one of the above qualifications.

(ii) The Masters degree may be awarded with merit or distinction in accordance with the relevant scheme of assessment.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MU7029</td>
<td>Museum/Gallery Experience</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MU7030</td>
<td>Art in the Public Realm</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MU7031</td>
<td>Managing Resources in the Art Museum</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>MU7032</td>
<td>Interpreting and Communicating Art</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MU7022</td>
<td>*Dissertation</td>
<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td>MU7011</td>
<td>Archaeological Curatorship</td>
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<tr>
<td>MU7013</td>
<td>Museum and Gallery Marketing</td>
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<tr>
<td>MU7014</td>
<td>Natural Science Curatorship</td>
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<tr>
<td>MU7015</td>
<td>Curating the Art Museum</td>
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<tr>
<td>MU7023</td>
<td>Museum and Gallery Communication and Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>MU7040</td>
<td>Digital Media and Curatorship</td>
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<tr>
<td>MU7041</td>
<td>World Arts/Museum Ethnography</td>
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<tr>
<td>MU7042</td>
<td>Museum Management: Politics and Policy</td>
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