

CREATIVE
ARTS
BUSINESS
TECHNOLOGY

Course Information

Interior Decoration and Styling MA

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MA Interior Decoration and Styling

Our MA Interior Decoration and Styling, based in the Canterbury School of Architecture and Design, is a course that will allow you to develop deep specialisms in your knowledge of crafting interior styles. During the course you will be exposed to rich variations of interior contexts, such as retail and commercial, aspirational domestic, and heritage vernacular, as avenues of investigation.

The Interior Decoration and Styling course, within its stimulating, creative and supportive environment, will see you formulate an individualised approach to style design. Through research-led practice and experimental design, you will be able to develop and demonstrate specialist expertise and knowledge and showcase your designed outcomes in a refined final portfolio.

Our postgraduate degree can be a launchpad to potential higher level interior and spatial styling careers. You will have access to advanced forms of fabrication and testing, the latest scanning and VR technology, and a suite of traditional craft-based workshops, photography studios, and print facilities, all of which will allow you to bring your design proposals to life. You will have the freedom to establish your own unique specialisms, such as materials specification and performance, or brand-led style composition and photography, and you will develop your own highly individualised design identity and style. Specialist areas you might choose to focus on in your projects could include sustainable material choices for retail interiors, lighting and visual spectacle, or style innovation through digital experiences. You can work with interesting material and sustainability questions, engaging with both contemporary technology and traditional production crafts throughout your studies.

You will be taught through one-to-one tuition, seminars and self-directed study in our dedicated studio spaces and workshops, engaging with practitioners and academics who offer expert industry and research intelligence. The course includes regular reviews with visiting critics from across relevant industry sectors and international study visits.

On this challenging journey, you'll develop your research, conceptual, self-management, technical and communication skills, and graduate well-equipped to enter the global market.



Awarded by
UCA



Taught by
UCA



Location
Farnham



Language
English



Duration
Full time – over 1 year



Recognition/Accreditation
Not Applicable



Regulation
The University for the Creative Arts and its courses are regulated by the Office for Students.

This course has been designed in line with national standards and reference points, including the [Master's Degree Characteristics Statement](#)

For further information about how the course is quality assured see UCA's Quality Assurance Handbook

Term 1:

You'll be introduced to the Canterbury School of Architecture and Design and the technical workshops and facilities available to you. The first term includes a range of lectures and seminars and you'll start to explore your creative practice.

Contexts and Methods: We will challenge you to address core thinking and practices within contemporary and historical architecture, fine art and design. We will cover key thematic debates related to the interior; historic movements, concepts of cultural production, spatial perception and cognition, material tactility and embodied relations. These form a critical intellectual context for you to contemplate your particular research agendas.

Exploratory Practice: Immerse yourself in creative studio practice in this unit, and maybe even begin formulating your ideas for the latter stages of your MA. You'll also be introduced to the complexities, demands and moments of failure inherent in self-managing and delivering ambitious spatial proposals including material specification and fabrication.

Term 2:

During term two you begin developing your MA project, evaluating and testing out the aims of your proposal over a sustained period of self-directed study.

Project Development: Work that you undertake during this unit builds upon what you learned in the first term - you'll be expected to integrate strands of theoretical and applied or practical research into a considerably more resolved and advanced line of enquiry that can sustain the remainder of your MA project.

Term 3:

In the third term of the course, you'll apply the knowledge gained through your research to create a final body of work.

Final Realisation: This unit is the culmination of the MA programme of study and so forms an exposition and practical manifestation of ideas, concepts, and degrees of sophisticated practice achieved. It should achieve a resolution to investigations initiated in all previous units and deliver a single body of work that demonstrates advanced conceptual, technological and practical capability.

Student Support

We aim to ensure, where possible, personal tutors remain with a student throughout their degree studies to discuss all matters relating to student well-being and academic support. Personal tutors and the Careers & Employability Team will also support students in discussions around their potential or preferred career direction.

Students are further supported by:

- Unit leader for each unit
- School support staff
- Personal academic tutors
- Careers and Employability Services
- Technical support with IT and software
- My UCA - a versatile online learning environment
- Induction and ongoing re-induction sessions
- Student Staff Course Boards
- Library and Learning Resources
- Gateway Services including support for finance, regulations, disability, well-being, accommodation, and international students
- UCA Students' Union

International students receive additional support from our International Office and specialist administrative staff not only when they first arrive but also throughout their programme of study.

Our Commitment

University for the Creative Arts (UCA) is committed to sustainable development and reducing the environmental impact of activities through our teaching, research and day to day operations. Our courses align to Education for Sustainable Development as defined by UNESCO (2019): 'Education for Sustainable Development empowers learners to take informed decisions and responsible actions for environmental integrity, economic viability and a just society, for present and future generations, while respecting cultural diversity. It is about lifelong learning, and is an integral part of quality education. ESD is holistic and transformational education which addresses learning content and outcomes, pedagogy and the learning environment. It achieves its purpose by transforming society.' Equality, diversity and inclusion are fundamental to our commitment to the extraordinary creativity of our staff and students. In the UK the standards we are required to adhere to are embodied in the 2010 Equality Act. Equally importantly is how these standards are evidenced through the values and behaviours of the University and the individuals of which it is comprised. As well as compliance with these standards we should in my opinion all be exemplars and role models. In terms of everyday actions, this means we should treat others with respect and dignity, and value their contributions because of, and not despite, our differences. The Vice-Chancellor is personally committed to diversity and in this regard the University has the highest expectations of every employee and student alike.

Highlights

The course is strategically situated within the Canterbury School of Architecture and Design at UCA, accessing industry leading resources in digital design, fabrication, and spatial interaction. The School has a long history of developing and nurturing well rounded, confident, and highly skilled graduates.

Within the School of Architecture and Design, the course leverages a holistic “art school” approach to teaching design and technology that enables delivery of an innovative curriculum. You will develop a critical methodology in skill acquisition and project development, greatly enhancing employability and adaptability within an ever-evolving industry. All courses in the school are taught through a “studio centric” approach, emphasising the importance of cross disciplinary skill sharing, as much as space and resource sharing. This cross-discipline studio culture enables exciting opportunities for collaboration and experimentation to occur organically.

In particular the MA Interior Decoration and Styling shares a common structure with the MA Interior Design and MA Product Design, offering a high degree of scope for collaboration across disciplines.

The course culminates in the well-respected Canterbury MA Graduation show. As such it provides, prepares, and requires students to address the challenge of independently realising and comprehensively articulating full-scale spatial installations for a high profile and public arts event.

Who teaches this course?

All permanent members of the academic team hold a postgraduate qualification in a related discipline, as well as a teaching qualification or fellowship of the Higher Education Academy. Two members have completed PhD's and are active within the research community, and three further members of staff are in the process of developing or completing their PhD's.

Working alongside the permanent staff are a team of Associate Lecturers, who you will encounter on a regular basis delivering design studio tutorials, workshops, and live projects. Our Associate Lecturer colleagues are active design practitioners and bring with them a wealth of knowledge, experience, and industry connections.

You will also be supported in your learning by an extensive technical team with vast technical and practical knowledge to share with you.

What will learning look like?

Learning and teaching within the MA is founded upon a pedagogic implementation of aspects of conversation theory and second order cybernetic discourse. Key to the approach is the primacy of establishing an intellectual creative space for individual learners to form a feedback loop between the practices of embodied making, reflective thought and public critical dialogue. The course encourages candidates to develop individual creative methodologies and research agendas that can drive such a process; to empower them to take full ownership of them; and to assume responsibility for delivering ambitious, self-managed, final outcomes.

In order to facilitate the above emergence, the MA units generally move from periods of more structured teaching and explicit exploration in the early stages of the year, towards increasingly self-directed independent project work. Course staff carefully observe and support a learner's progress towards such capabilities. The following structured teaching techniques are generally utilised during the MA year:

- Weekly one to one studio based design tutorials in which the 'tutor' aim is to act as a conversational guide and creative facilitator; explicitly stepping back from the literal dictation of ideas to require a student to find their own way to determining and agreeing future courses of action.
- Regular constructive critical reviews and public debate; at key design stages and concerning personal research avenues, to refine communication and aid a culture of interdisciplinary exchange at post graduate level and beyond.
- Lectures and student led seminars for the presentation of theoretical issues and their extended discussion relative to studio research and practice.
- Repeated emphasis on the importance of physical fabrication and practical testing to encourage haptic discoveries, material techniques and real delivery as an inherent part of the generation of design research thinking.
- An encoding of degrees of iterative failure and the recognition of how these have resulted in learning as a recognised deliverable within each unit.

The nature of the MA candidate profile is such that a proportion of learners originate from cultural, linguistic and creative contexts that are in practice alien to the course ethos. To both utilize such diversity and facilitate best possible engagement methods, formal unit teaching on the course is supplemented by a planned series of seminars and group conversations, run weekly by UCA Learning Enhancement and Support staff, within the MA space and reflecting upon studio preoccupations. Engagement with such opportunities can be extended to meet particular individual student needs as and where appropriate.

By the end of the course you will be able to:

This information will be provided once the course is validated.

Our approach to employability is to:

Due to the course length and intensity, a defined period of work placement or specific work placement unit is not offered. Students may negotiate short absences in order to gain work experience where appropriate. In addition, the course has a high degree of engagement with industry; from visits to practitioners' studios; to a wide range of guest critics and lecturers engaging with the course at review and presentation moments; and finally by virtue of its location within Canterbury School of Architecture and exposure to the 'Multistory' annual guest lecture series.

MA INTERIOR DECORATION AND STYLING

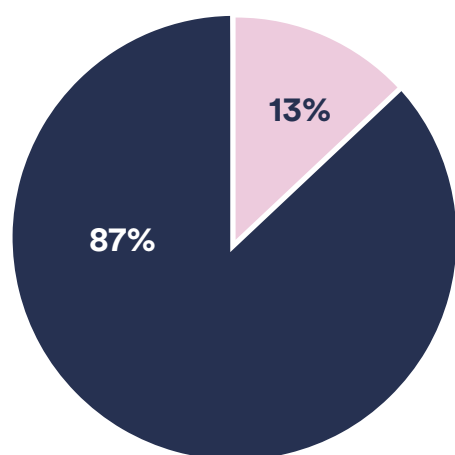
Academic Year 2022/23

Full-time Autumn starts

ENROLMENT AND INDUCTION WEEK	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
	Contexts and Methods [30 credits] [15 weeks]															Project Development [60 credits] [15 weeks]															Final Realisation [60 credits] [15 weeks]														
Exploratory Practice [30 credits] [15 weeks]																																													

Overall methods of assessment	Written exams	Practical exams	Coursework
Level 7	0%	0%	100%

Study hours



■ Structured
 ■ Independent
 ■ Placement or Live Professional Activity

Additional Course Costs

This information will be provided once the course is validated.

Equipment/materials recommended

This information will be provided once the course is validated.

Visits

This information will be provided once the course is validated.

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