

Programme Specification



1. Programme title	BA Hons Fine Art BA Hons Fine Art with Foundation Year
2. Awarding institution	Middlesex University
3a. Teaching institution 3b. Language of study	Middlesex University London English
4a. Valid intake dates 4b. Mode of study 4c. Delivery method	Autumn Term Full-time or Part-time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On-campus/Blended <input type="checkbox"/> Distance Education
5. Professional/Statutory/Regulatory body	n/a
6. Apprenticeship Standard	n/a
7. Final qualification(s) available	BA Hons Fine Art BA Hons Fine Art with Foundation Year BA Fine Art BA Fine Art with Foundation Year DipHE Fine Art CertHE Fine Art
8. Year effective from	2022/2023

9. Criteria for admission to the programme

An assessment of an applicant's portfolio, preferably but not solely in the context of an interview, is the single most important criterion for admission to the programme. We provide all applicants with guidance of what we are looking for in a portfolio, which includes evidence of self-motivated experimentation across media, research into the field of fine art broadly defined, and contextual awareness. Despite a requirement of a

minimum of 112 UCAS points (or equivalent), we welcome applicants from Foundation, HND, or BTEC courses, with relevant experience from industry, as well as those without evidenced work experience or formal qualifications, as long as they demonstrate an aptitude for learning and a commitment to do so on BA Fine Art. We conduct a great number of portfolio interviews because we believe in their unique capacity to assess potential and suitability for the programme.

10. Aims of the programme

The programme aims to:

- Support students to fulfil their creative potential, through a variety of teaching methods and opportunities for hands-on experimentation across the histories, theories, media, and contexts of contemporary art.
- Equip students with the knowledge, skills, experience, and resilience required to establish a sustainable career in the field of contemporary art and adjacent disciplines post-graduation.
- Promote social responsibility and an ethical orientation within art's complex ecologies, in recognition of the socio-political roles of art and its capacity for positive social change.
- Produce informed and articulate graduates who are skilled communicators and able to work both independently and in collaboration with others.
- Produce well-rounded graduates who combine practical and technological skills, visual and digital literacy, and intellectual agility.

11. Programme outcomes*

A. Knowledge and understanding

On completion of this programme the successful student will have knowledge and understanding of:

1. The practice of art, incorporating a hands-on understanding of its media, techniques, and discourses (PRACTICE).
2. The place of art practice in the context of its histories, the contemporary field, and current critical theories and discourses (HISTORY AND CONTEXT).
3. The role of art in contemporary social, political and cultural formations, and particularly its tested capacity for positive social change (SOCIAL ROLE).

Teaching/learning methods

Students gain knowledge and understanding through:

- An individual art practice and other self-directed learning (including outreach work, gallery visits, library & archive research).
- Practice and theory-based lectures and seminars.
- Individual tutorials.
- Group tutorials, student-led presentations and critiques (peer group learning).
- Workshop inductions to a broad range of technologies and social strategies as appropriate.
- Set and negotiated project work.
- Work-based learning through placements.

<p>4. Research processes and methodologies and their relationship to fine art practice (RESEARCH).</p>	<p>Assessment methods Students' knowledge and understanding is assessed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The sharing of their practice in a formal and purposeful way, through oral presentation, exhibition, or other methods of making public. • Reflective documentation of own art practice in different formats, including oral and scriptovisual. • Writing, including extended writing and short text statements at exhibition.
<p>B. Skills On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrate competence, integrity, and professionalism in the choice and use of a range of appropriate media, processes, and strategies in the making, facilitation, and curation of creative practice (CREATE). 2. Negotiate, organize and manage art projects within specific defined temporal, spatial and resource parameters, individually and in collaboration with others (DELIVER). 3. Evidence a capacity for continuous learning and adaptability, further developing their digital literacy and methodological, technical, and conceptual toolkit (LEARN TO LEARN). 4. Clearly articulate and communicate complex ideas and arguments through appropriate means (COMMUNICATE). 	<p>Teaching/learning methods Students learn skills through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An individual art practice and other self-directed learning (including outreach work, gallery visits, library & archive research). • Practice and theory-based lectures and seminars. • Individual tutorials. • Group tutorials, student led presentations and critiques (peer group learning). • Workshop inductions to a broad range of technologies and social strategies as appropriate. • Set and negotiated project work. • Work-based learning through placements. <p>Assessment methods Students' skills are assessed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The sharing of their practice in a formal and purposeful way, through oral presentation, exhibition, or other methods of making public. • Reflective documentation of own art practice in different formats, including oral and scriptovisual. • Writing, including extended writing and short text statements at exhibition.

12. Programme structure (levels, modules, credits and progression requirements)

12. 1 Overall structure of the programme

Level	Year of study FT	Full-time				Part-time				Year of study PT
		Practice		Visual Culture	Professional Development	Practice		Visual Culture	Professional Development	
		Self-directed	Specialisms and Media			Self-directed	Specialisms and Media			
4	1	FNA1103	FNA1203	FNA1903	FNA1303	FNA1103		FNA1903		1
4							FNA1203		FNA1303	2
5	2	FNA2103	FNA2203	FNA2903	FNA2303 placement	FNA2103		FNA2903		3
5							FNA2203		FNA2303 placement	4
6	3	FNA3106		FNA3903	FNA3303	FNA3103		FNA3903		5
6						FNA3203			FNA3303	6

All modules are long and thin, lasting from the start of the Autumn term to the end of the Spring Term. Summer term is reserved for assessment, including crucially end-of-year exhibitions.

Exit awards:

BA Hons Fine Art (with 360 credits, i.e. upon completion of all modules listed above in either FT or PT mode)
BA Hons Fine Art with Foundation Year (upon completion of all modules listed above, plus 120 credits from Foundation, Level 3)

BA Fine Art (ordinary degree, with 300-359 credits)

BA Fine Art with Foundation Year (as above, plus 120 credits from Foundation, Level 3)

DipHE Fine Art (upon completion of all Level 4 and Level 5 modules)

CertHE Fine Art (upon completion of all Level 4 modules)

Pass/fail modules:

All Level 4 modules (FNA1103, FNA1203, FNA1303, FNA1903) are pass/fail rather than graded, to encourage experimentation and ease pressure during our students' transition to HE learning. Students receive qualitative feedback as well as an indication of attainment, using the Middlesex grading scale.

Note on module codes: the first digit designates year of study in FT mode, the second digit stands for different programme threads, while the last two digits represents the credit weighting if flipped (i.e. xx03 = a 30-credit module; xx06 = a 60-credit module). The programme threads are as follows:

- 1: independent/self-directed practice
- 2: practice specialisms and media
- 3: professional awareness, development and employability
- 9: visual culture, incl. research, contextualisation, and analysis

In Fine Art, all practice is 'independent' by definition. However, since a growing number of our applicants come directly from A-Levels, we support them to initiate and sustain their own art projects from conception to completion, without themed briefs or prompts, through thread 1, which will help equip them with the necessary skills, experience, and confidence to develop their practice in a self-directed way. Thread 1 will emphasise workshop inductions and one-to-one tutorials. Thread 2 is likewise practice-focused but will also include seminars on different media and practices and will emphasise group crits. At level 6 the distinction between threads 1 and 2 is no longer relevant, as students will have either developed a post/cross-media self-directed practice or will be working in particular media; either way, level 6 students will be assigned tutors in alignment with their evolving practice.

Visual culture modules will focus on the development of research, critical, and communication skills with emphasis on the production of illustrated text, broadly and inclusively approached. They will be carefully planned alongside thread 2 so that they're mutually supportive and enriching: for example, students will be introduced to social art practice in both threads at the same time and have the opportunity to approach it from different perspectives, from historical research to hands-on experimentation.

A placement has been introduced in Term 2 of Year 2 in consultation with marketing, who note that not many of our competitors embed it in their 3-year programme, and MDX Works, who are experienced in supporting placements across the university. The professional development thread will start off with an orientation in art's contemporary ecologies, move on to researching particular institutions, organisations, and ways of working, culminating in a purposefully chosen short placement in Y2 FT, and conclude with a consolidation of professional skills and employability in Y3 FT, which may be evidenced and assessed by the production of a professional website, for example, which our students can continue to build on and use post-graduation.

The proposed review rationalises part-time study by recognising that practice forms the backbone of the programme, so that part-time students continue to develop and are assessed for their practice throughout their studies. The integration of part-time students is promoted through module-sharing with the FT cohort at levels 4 and 5, which is made possible thanks to our long and thin modules. At Level 6, PT-only modules FNA3103 (Y5) and FNA3203 (Y6) correspond to FT module FNA3160. Part-time students on FNA3103 and FNA3203 will be co-taught alongside full-time students on FNA3160: PT students enrolled on FNA3103 and FNA3203 will attend FNA3160 sessions (which are weekly for FT students), on a fortnightly basis and will receive additional support through individual tutorials. FNA3103 (PT Y5) is assessed through an exhibition of work-in-progress, while the assessment of FNA3203 (PT Y6) involves participation in the degree show.

12.2 Levels and modules		
Level 4		
COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL *	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
Students must take all of the following: FNA1103: Establishing a self-directed practice FNA1203: Introduction to Media, Sites and Situations FNA1303: Art Ecologies: Orientation FNA1903: Art and Visual Culture	NONE	Attaining 120 Level 4 credits
Level 5		
COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL *	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
Students must take all of the following: FNA2103: Developing a self-directed practice FNA2203: Media, Sites and Situations FNA2303: Art Ecologies: Placement FNA2903: Research and Critical Analysis	NONE	Attaining 120 Level 5 credits
Level 6		
COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL *	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
Students must take all of the following: FNA3106: Self-Directed Practice and Making Public FNA3303: Working in the Arts FNA3903: Self-Directed Research and Thesis In the part-time route, FNA3106 is replaced by the following two 30-credit modules: Year 5: FNA3103: Self-Directed Practice Year 6: FNA3203: Self-Directed Practice and Making Public (part-time)	NONE	Attaining 120 Level 6 credits

12.3 Non-compensatable modules	
Module level	Module code
	ALL

13. Information about assessment regulations

This programme will run in line with general University Regulations:

https://www.mdx.ac.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0031/623758/Regulations-2021-22-V1.12.pdf

14. Placement opportunities, requirements and support (if applicable)

FNA2330: Art Ecologies (Placement) is the 2nd year module in professional studies and employability, which will involve a short placement between 1 and 4 weeks, to be sourced by each student. Placements will be supported by MDXWorks, who have extensive relevant experience, as well as academics with relevant expertise. This new module is specific to the field of Fine Art and introduces students to the history and practices of artists' placements broadly defined, including the work of the Artists' Placement Group (APG) and Dr Loraine Leeson, as well as supporting them in finding, holding and critically reflecting on their own placement.

15. Future careers / progression

It is widely recognised that global communications and community-building on- and off-line show a growing reliance on visual culture. BA Hons Fine Art furnishes graduates with visual literacy, creative competence, and resourcefulness, all of which are highly valued by a great range of employers. In addition to a list of professional roles for which BA Hons Fine Art prepares its graduates (<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree/fine-art>), our graduates secure various mainstream graduate jobs and training in a range of industries, such as banking, insurance, media and public relations, where a BA Fine Art degree makes them stand out as creative and resourceful candidates.

Our recent graduates are gainfully employed across the creative industries, art therapy, and secondary schools, while some go on to further study at world-class institutions including the Royal College of Art. Others, like Dr Hayley Newman (<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/slade/people/academic/profile/HJENE78>), have gone on to be successful practising artists who combine their practice with teaching in Higher Education. Our graduate Kelvin Okafor is a celebrated portraitist and entrepreneur who has received art commissions by the House of Commons (UK Parliament), among other prestigious institutions (<https://www.mdx.ac.uk/about-us/our-people/made-in-middlesex/portrait-of-success>). Another recent graduate, Joe Hill, is the director and CEO of Towner Gallery in Eastbourne (<https://townereastbourne.org.uk/>), which was awarded the title of Museum of the Year by Art Fund in 2020.

16. Particular support for learning (if applicable)

The programme relies on regular access to the university's world-class production facilities in the Grove (notably 3D, print rooms, dark room) to deliver its learning outcomes, as well as daily use of an allocated studio space for each student. We will also continue to rely on our virtual learning environment My Learning, with regular support from CAPE; the library and our subject librarian; and Academic Writing and Language tutors.

17. HECos code(s)	HECos: 100059
18. Relevant QAA subject benchmark(s)	https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/sbs-art-and-design-17.pdf?sfvrsn=71eef781_16

19. Reference points
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for Art and Design, https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/sbs-art-and-design-17.pdf?sfvrsn=71eef781_16 • Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications, file:///C:/Users/My%20PC.000/Downloads/qualifications-frameworks.pdf • Middlesex University Regulations, https://www.mdx.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0031/623758/Regulations-2021-22-V1.12.pdf

20. Other information
N/A

Please note programme specifications provide a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information about the programme can be found in the rest of your programme handbook and the university regulations.

21. Curriculum map for *BA Fine Art*

This section shows the highest level at which programme outcomes are to be achieved by all graduates, and maps programme learning outcomes against the modules in which they are assessed.

Programme learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding	
A1	PRACTICE: The practice of art, incorporating a hands-on understanding of its media, techniques, and discourses.
A2	HISTORY & CONTEXT: The place of art practice in the context of its histories, the contemporary field, and current critical theories and discourses.
A3	SOCIAL ROLE: The role of art in contemporary social, political and cultural formations, and particularly its tested capacity for positive social change.
A4	RESEARCH: Research processes and methodologies and their relationship to fine art practice.
Skills	
B1	CREATE: Demonstrate competence, integrity, and professionalism in the choice and use of a range of appropriate media, processes, and strategies in the making, facilitation, and curation of creative practice.
B2	DELIVER: Negotiate, organize and manage art projects within specific defined temporal, spatial and resource parameters, individually and in collaboration with others.
B3	LEARN TO LEARN: Evidence a capacity for continuous learning and adaptability, further developing their digital literacy and their methodological, technical, and conceptual toolkit.
B4	COMMUNICATE: Clearly articulate and communicate complex ideas and arguments through appropriate means.

Programme outcomes							
A1	A2	A3	A4	B1	B2	B3	B4
Highest level achieved by all graduates							
6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6

Module Title	Module Code by Level	A1	A2	A3	A4	B1	B2	B3	B4
Establishing a self-directed practice	FNA1103 L4	x			x	x	x	x	x
Introduction to Media, Sites and Situations	FNA1203 L4	x		x	x	x	x	x	x
Art Ecologies: Orientation	FNA1303 L4		x	x	x			x	x
Art and Visual Culture	FNA1903 L4		x	x	x			x	x
Developing a self-directed practice	FNA2103 L5	x			x	x	x	x	x
Media, Sites and Situations	FNA2203 L5	x		x	x	x	x	x	x
Art Ecologies: Placement	FNA2303 L5		x	x	x		x	x	x
Research and Critical Analysis	FNA2903 L5		x	x	x			x	x
Self-Directed Practice and Making Public	FNA3106 L6	x			x	x	x	x	x
Working in the Arts	FNA3303 L6		x	x	x			x	x
Self-Directed Research and Thesis	FNA3903 L6		x		x			x	x
Self-Directed Practice	FNA3103 PT-only L6 (in lieu of 3106)	x			x	x		x	x
Self-Directed Practice and Making Public (part-time)	FNA3203 PT-only L6 (in lieu of 3106)	x			x	x	x	x	x