

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School/Department:	Communications & The Arts
Programme:	MA in Visual Arts Management and Curating
FHEQ Level:	7
Course Title:	Professional Research Project
Course Code:	VAM 7500
Student Engagement Hours:	400
Independent / Guided Learning:	400
Semester:	SUMMER
Credits:	40 UK CATS credits 20 ECTS credits 8 US credits

Course Description:

For students working independently on their Masters professional research project. The professional research project encourages students to study intensively a topic agreed with a supervisor, and so develop skills and experience which can be applied in work placements or further graduate work. Students apply their knowledge from across the fall and spring semesters to researching a topic on visual arts management and curating, which may relate to the internship. This course is comprised of intensive and regular meetings on a group and one-to-one (by appointment) basis with a project supervisor to discuss the progress of research, development and writing.

Pre-requisites:

MA Visual Arts Management and Curating students only

Aims and Objectives:

- For the supervisor to guide the student, as a junior research colleague, through the research, writing and production of an MA level professional research project of 10- 12,000 words (or the equivalent of)
- For the student to undertake independent/autonomous research on a professional topic which makes a valuable contribution to the field
- To develop professional skills and experience which can be applied in work placements or further graduate work

Programme Outcomes:

At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following programme outcomes: B1, B2, B3, B4, B6

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification. This is maintained by Registry and located at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

- demonstrate critically engaged visual literacy including formal analysis
- show systematic, critical engagement with texts and objects
- conduct successful and original research, including the application of appropriate methodologies for locating, assessing and interpreting primary sources
- show excellent writing skills including logical and structured narratives and arguments supported by relevant primary and secondary evidence

Indicative Content:

- production of a professional research project equivalent to a 10-12,000 word Masters thesis, suitably illustrated, evidencing:
 - intensive autonomous study of a topic agreed with a supervisor
 - primary research making a valuable contribution to the field
 - a coherent argument
 - appropriate, critical use of secondary sources
 - footnotes and a bibliography complying with the Chicago Manual of Style
 - satisfactory presentation and scholarly apparatus

Assessment:

This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and are located at <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies>.

FHEQ level	Richmond/UK Level	Normal Number of Items (including final exam)*	Total assessment
LEVEL 7	R500/UK MA	2-3	5000-7000 words

Note: the required word count of the professional research project is 10-12,000 words.

Teaching Methodology:**AUTONOMOUS RESEARCH AND RESEARCH SUPERVISION**

The course will require independent research overseen by a thesis supervisor, tutorial opportunities including with specialist faculty for more specific academic guidance, including comments on draft materials, and faculty and peer review feedback at a thesis conference.

Bibliography:

- Barnet, S. A Short Guide to Writing About Art (Fifth Edition) (New York: Longman, 1997).
- Rountree, K. Writing by Degrees: A Practical Guide to Writing Theses and Research Papers. (Auckland: Longman Paul, 1996).
- Turabian, K.L. A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations (Sixth Edition) (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996[1937]).

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry