

MODULE SPECIFICATION PROFORMA

<b>Module Title:</b>	Research Methods & Applications	<b>Level:</b>	7	<b>Credit Value:</b>	40
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<b>Module code:</b>	ART712	<b>Is this a new module?</b>	YES	<b>Code of module being replaced:</b>	ART701 & ART702
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<b>Cost Centre:</b>	QAAA	<b>JACS3 code:</b>	W100, W200
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<b>Trimester(s) in which to be offered:</b>	1	<b>With effect from:</b>	September 2016
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<b>School:</b>	Creative Arts	<b>Module Leader:</b>	Steve Keegan
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Scheduled learning and teaching hours	45 hrs
Guided independent study	355 hrs
Placement	0 hrs
<b>Module duration (total hours)</b>	<b>400 hrs</b>

<b>Programme(s) in which to be offered</b>	Core	Option
MA Art Practice	✓	
MA Design Practice	✓	

<b>Pre-requisites</b>

Office use only	
Initial approval September 16	
APSC approval of modification	Version 1
Have any derogations received SQC approval?	No

**Module Aims**

The module aims to:

Develop reflective and critical skills in relation to creative practice in a range of contexts.

Develop competence, knowledge and understanding in using research methods and practices in Art & Design and related subject areas.

Identify and evaluate information sources and demonstrate a range of research methods with an awareness of academic protocols which are appropriate to individual specialist practice.

**Intended Learning Outcomes**

Key skills for employability

- KS1 Written, oral and media communication skills
- KS3 Opportunity, creativity and problem solving skills
- KS4 Information technology skills and digital literacy
- KS5 Information management skills
- KS6 Research skills
- KS9 Learning to learn (managing personal and professional development, self-management)
- KS10 Numeracy

At the end of this module, students will be able to

Key Skills

At the end of this module, students will be able to		Key Skills	
1	Identify major sources of information to be interpreted and applied to a context appropriate to the studio practice.	KS1	
		KS2	
		KS4	
2	Develop a relevant literature review including electronic, digital, broadcast, CD/DVD resource review relative to the critical, ethical and philosophical aspects of research and apply a problem-solving approach to research relevant to the chosen direction of specialist practice.	KS6	
		KS9	
3	Use a systematic approach to research, formulate and manage an action plan within available resources and time limits.	KS5	
4	Analyse research and apply methods to specialist practice by developing a rationale and then a structured approach for the planning and production of a negotiated research project at post graduate level.	KS10	

Transferable/key skills and other attributes

**Derogations**

None

**Assessment:**

The module will have two elements, both of which must be attempted by the student. The studio practice is required to demonstrate that it has been informed through a research protocol to gather and evaluate findings that are influencing the creative decisions evidenced through studio practice.

The Project Proposal will be an organised and critical evaluation of the work of others, set within the context of the studio practice, in which the student is expected to review the works of others, identify key knowledge holders and influential material used in the rationale for a proposed body of work to develop in the dissertation stage of the programme.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting (%)	Duration (if exam)	Word count (or equivalent if appropriate)
1	1, 3	Studio Practice	50%		
2	2, 4	Project Proposal	50%		2500

**Learning and Teaching Strategies:**

The students will be introduced to the key methods of setting a research topic and then developing the findings from which analytical thinking and creativity can follow. This will include art and design methods, methods adopted from the social sciences and some standard quantitative methods of dealing with data. Most of this will be delivered through a combination of presentations and un-assessed tasks, aimed at permitting the student to test a research method to evaluate its potential application and relevance to practice.

**Syllabus outline:**

The student will be presented with a range of research methods, some of which will be action based, others will be rooted in academic reasoning (theory). The student will consider the role and importance of "observation" - how observation is used by artists and designers, and how observation is used in social sciences.

The "case study" will feature large in the consideration of formal methods to harvest information, with particular concentration on the sub categories of comparable case study, paradigmatic case study, critical case study and deviant case study, as these have been widely used by students previously in written works.

The students will be introduced to the protocol for developing a Grounded Theory approach to managing a research activity through production of notes and memo clusters.

Some quantitative analysis will be introduced in the analysis of data gathered through open and closed questionnaires, with an exploration of Simpson's Paradox distorting the reliability of an over estimation of the application of numerical data in certain contexts. Students will also look at managing time effectively through the introduction of learning contracts and Gantt Charts.

**Bibliography:**

**Essential reading**

Gray, C. and Malins, J. 2004 *Visualizing Research: a guide to the research process in Art and Design*, Ashgate  
 Rose, G. 2000 *Visual Methodologies: An Introduction to Interpreting Visual Objects*, Sage Publications Ltd  
 Sullivan, G. 2005 *Art Practice as Research: Inquiry in the Visual Arts*, Sage Publication

**Other indicative reading**

Allison, B. (et al) 1996, *Research Skills for Students*, London: Kogan Page  
 Sturken, M. & Cartwright, L. 2000 *Practices of Looking: An Introduction to Visual Culture*, Oxford University Press  
 Van Leeuwen, T. (Ed.) 2001 *The Handbook of Visual Analysis*, Sage Publications