



Open  
College  
of the Arts



## UNIVERSITY FOR THE CREATIVE ARTS

### PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION FOR:

### BA (HONS) FINE ART<sup>1</sup>

#### **PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION [ACADEMIC YEAR 2021/22]**

*This Programme Specification is designed for prospective students, current students, academic staff and potential employers. It provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the intended learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the teaching, learning and assessment methods, learning outcomes and content of each unit can be found in the Unit Descriptors.*

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<sup>1</sup> Course curriculum running out from 2022/23

## Section A – Material Course Information

Validating Body	University for the Creative Arts <sup>2</sup>			
Teaching Body	OCA – OPEN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS			
Final Award Title and Type	BA (Hons)			
Course Title	Fine Art			
Course Location and Length	Campus: OCA/Open and Flexible Learning		Length: Maximum time allowed to complete the programme is 12 years	
Mode of Study	Full- time		Part-time	✓
Period of Validation	2021/22 – 2025/26			
Name of Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body	Not Applicable			
Type of Accreditation	Not Applicable			
Accreditation due for renewal	Not Applicable			
<p>Entry criteria and requirements<sup>3</sup></p> <p>Level 4 courses are open access, so no prior qualifications are required. In order to progress to Level 5, you must have gained 120 credits at Level 4, through study or by Accreditation of Prior Learning.</p> <p>In addition to prior qualifications and learning accreditation, OCA specifies three general requirements for admission to degree programmes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English language competency;</li> <li>• access to a desktop computer or laptop with internet access*;</li> <li>• the ability to easily manage a range of basic functions through information and communications technology</li> </ul> <p>Full details on each of these requirements can be found in the OCA Student Regulations in the section Admission Requirements.</p> <p>Please be aware of online network etiquette and security considerations when using email and the internet. There is a section in OCA's Student Regulations about online etiquette.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a Data Protection and Confidentiality Policy appended to the Student Regulations.</li> </ul>				

<sup>2</sup> Regulated by the Office for Students

<sup>3</sup> This should be the standard University Criteria unless otherwise approved by the Academic Board and include UCAS entry profile for undergraduate courses.

OCA takes these issues seriously. Data protection rules form part of OCA's Conditions of Enrolment. In addition to the information located in our student documentation OCA is developing short videos to explain 'netiquette' and online security.

An unaccredited OCA Foundation Certificate is available, if you need to develop technical and visual awareness skills before embarking on degree study.

\*This requirement may be waived, on rare occasions, by the Head of Learner Support if negotiated prior to the start of the course. Typically, exemptions are only given to students with specific disabilities or to those studying in prison.

### *Specific requirements*

In addition to meeting the admission requirements for all courses, you should ensure that you understand the nature of the challenges and requirements of the course you are enrolling on, as outlined on the OCA website.

### *Disabled students*

If you are disabled, applications are considered using the same criteria and principles as all other applicants. All students with a disability are encouraged to indicate this on their application form in order that advice can be offered on the facilities and services available.

- If you experience a disability, you are encouraged to discuss your requirements with the Head of Learner Support at the earliest opportunity.

### *Maximum period of registration*

The maximum period of registration for the course is 12 years.

### *UCAS entry profile:*

n/a

Overall methods of assessment <sup>4</sup>	Written exams:	Practical exams:	Coursework:
Stage 1	0%	0%	100%
Stage 2	0%	0%	100%
Stage 3	0%	0%	100%
Overall Learning & Teaching hours <sup>5</sup>	Scheduled:	Independent:	Placement:
Stage 1	17.5%	82.5%	0%
Stage 2	210 hours	990 hours	0 hours
	15.0%	85.0%	0%
	180 hours	1020 hours	0 hours

<sup>4</sup> As generated by the most popular unit descriptors and calculated for the overall course stage data.

<sup>5</sup> As generated by the most popular unit descriptors and calculated for the overall course stage data.

	Stage 3	12.5%	87.5%	0%
		150 hours	1050 hours	0 hours
General level of staff delivering the course <sup>6</sup>	OCA requires Tutors and Programme Leaders (PLs) to have knowledge of their subject area, proven communication skills, experience of delivering learning and teaching, and a first degree or postgraduate or equivalent, and/or substantial professional experience to support their roles. Tutors and PLs are encouraged to obtain professional recognition by the Higher Education Academy at an appropriate level. All Tutors engage with an induction process, an annual 'Tutor Team Meeting' and 1-2-1s, and are provided with guidance on Formative Feedback, Group Work, and Summative Assessment			
Language of Study	English			
Subject/Qualification Benchmark Statement: QAA Art & Design				
Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)				

### The course structure

The structure of all OCA undergraduate awards awarded by the University complies with the [Academic Regulatory Framework](#). The Academic Regulatory Framework includes information about the:

- Rules for progression between the stages of a course;
- Consequences of failure for reassessment and exit awards;
- Calculation and classification of awards;

**Appendix 1 – Table of Units for students registering on the BA (Hons) Fine Art from the academic year - 2021/22 onwards:**

Unit codes and titles	Level	Credit value	Elective/ Core	Most popular student choice of optional elective	Order of Units

<sup>6</sup> Include general information about the experience or status of the staff involved in delivering the course, for example Professor, Course Leader, Senior Lecturer

				<b>units or elective options in core units?</b>	
<b>Year/Stage 1</b>					
FA4DPE – Fine Art 1: 4D Practice (OFAR415 3)	4	40	Elective	No	1 or 2
SC4SCL - Sculpture 1: Starting out in 3D (OFAR411 4)	4	40	Elective	No	1 or 2
PT4UPM - Painting 1: Understanding Painting Media (OFAR413 3)	4	40	Elective	Yes	1 or 2
DR4EDM - Drawing 1: Exploring Drawing Media (OFAR414 1)	4	40	Elective	No	1 or 2
PM4PM - Printmaking 1: Introduction to Printmaking (OFAR411 3)	4	40	Elective	Yes	1 or 2
AH4UVC - Visual Studies 1: Understanding Visual Culture (OFAR411 8)	4	40	Core	Yes	3
<b>Year/Stage 2</b>					

DR5DRA - Drawing 2: Investigating Drawing (OFAR5103)	5	60	Elective	Yes	4 or 5
PT5STP - Painting 2: Studio Practice (OFAR5125)	5	60	Elective	Yes	4 or 5
PM5PMD - Printmaking 2: Developing your Style (OFAR5113)	5	60	Elective	No	4 or 5
SC5STP - Sculpture 2: Studio Practice (OFAR5129)	5	60	Elective	No	4 or 5
DR5PAD - Drawing 2: A Personal Approach to Drawing (OFAR5133)	5	60	Elective	No	4 or 5
AH5UVC Visual Studies 2: Understanding Visual Culture (OFAR5131)	5	60	Elective	No	4 or 5
<b>Year/Stage 3</b>					
FA6APR - Fine Art 3: Advanced Practice (OFAR6135)	6	40	Core		6 and 7
FA6RES - Fine Art 3: Research (OFAR6153)	6	40	Core		6 and 7

FA6SYP - Fine Art 3: Sustaining your Practice (OFAR6137)	6	40	Core		8
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**Appendix 2 – Table of Units for students registering on the BA (Hons) Fine Art from the academic year 2020/21 onwards:**

Unit codes and titles	Level	Credit value	Elective/ Core	Most popular student choice of optional elective units or elective options in core units?
<b>Year/Stage 1</b>				
FA4DPE – Fine Art 1: 4D Practice (OFAR4153)	4	40	Elective	No
AH4UVC - Visual Studies 1: Understanding Visual Culture (OFAR4118)	4	40	Core	Yes
SC4SCL - Sculpture 1: Starting out in 3D (OFAR4114)	4	40	Elective	No
PT4UPM - Painting 1: Understanding Painting Media (OFAR4133)	4	40	Elective	Yes
DR4EDM - Drawing 1: Exploring Drawing Media (OFAR4141)	4	40	Elective	No
PM4PM - Printmaking 1: Introduction to Printmaking (OFAR4113)	4	40	Elective	Yes
<b>Year/Stage 2</b>				
DR5DRA - Drawing 2: Investigating Drawing (OFAR5103)	5	60	Elective	Yes
PT5STP - Painting 2: Studio Practice (OFAR5125)	5	60	Elective	Yes
PM5PMD - Printmaking 2: Developing your Style (OCAR5113)	5	60	Elective	No
SC5STP - Sculpture 2: Studio Practice (OFAR5129)	5	60	Elective	No
DR5PAD - Drawing 2: A Personal Approach to Drawing (OFAR5133)	5	60	Elective	No

AH5UVC Visual Studies 2: Understanding Visual Culture (OFAR5131)	5	60	Elective	No
<b>Year/Stage 3</b>				
FA6APR - Fine Art 3: Advanced Practice (OFAR6135)	6	40	Core	
FA6RES - Fine Art 3: Research (OFAR6153)	6	40	Core	
FA6SYP - Fine Art 3: Sustaining your Practice (OFAR6137)	6	40	Core	

**Appendix 3 - Table of Units for students registering on the BA (Hons) Fine Art from the academic year 2019/20 onwards:**

Unit codes and titles	Level	Credit value	Elective/ Core	Most popular student choice of optional elective units or elective options in core units?
<b>Year/Stage 1</b>				
DR4DRS - Drawing 1: Drawing Skills (OFAR4105)	4	40	Elective	Yes
AH4UVC - Visual Studies 1: Understanding Visual Culture (OFAR4118)	4	40	Core	
SC4SCL - Sculpture 1: Starting out in 3D (OFAR4114)	4	40	Elective	No
PT4POP - Painting 1: The Practice of Painting (OFAR4109)	4	40	Elective	Yes
PT4UPM - Painting 1: Understanding Painting Media (OFAR4133)	4	40	Elective	No
DR4EDM - Drawing 1: Exploring Drawing Media (OFAR4141)	4	40	Elective	No
PM4PM - Printmaking 1: Introduction to Printmaking (OFAR4113)	4	40	Elective	No
<b>Year/Stage 2</b>				
DR5DRA - Drawing 2: Investigating Drawing (OFAR5103)	5	60	Elective	Yes
PT5STP - Painting 2: Studio Practice (OFAR5125)	5	60	Elective	Yes
PT5EXM - Painting 2: Exploring Media (OFAR5141)	5	60	Elective	No



PM5PMD - Printmaking 2: Developing your Style (OCAR5113)	5	60	Elective	No
SC5STP - Sculpture 2: Studio Practice (OFAR5129)	5	60	Elective	No
DR5PAD - Drawing 2: A Personal Approach to Drawing (OFAR5133)	5	60	Elective	No
AH5UVC Visual Studies 2: Understanding Visual Culture (OFAR5131)	5	60	Elective	No
<b>Year/Stage 3</b>				
FA6APR - Fine Art 3: Advanced Practice (OFAR6135)	6	40	Core	
FA6RES - Fine Art 3: Research (OFAR6153)	6	40	Core	
FA6SYP - Fine Art 3: Sustaining your Practice (OFAR6137)	6	40	Core	

**Appendix 3 – Table of Units for students registering on the BA (Hons) Fine Art from the academic year 2018/19 onwards:**

Unit codes and titles	Level	Credit value	Elective/ Core	Most popular student choice of optional elective units or elective options in core units?
<b>Year/Stage1</b>				
DR4DRS - Drawing 1: Drawing Skills (OFAR4105)	4	40	Core	
AH4UVC - Visual Studies 1: Understanding Visual Culture (OFAR4118)	4	40	Core	
SC4SCL - Sculpture 1: Starting out in 3D (OFAR4114)	4	40	Elective	No
PT4POP - Painting 1: The Practice of Painting (OFAR4109)	4	40	Elective	Yes
PT4UPM - Painting 1: Understanding Painting Media (OFAR4133)	4	40	Elective	No
CA4CAT - Visual Studies 1: Creative Arts Today (OFAR4103)	4	40	Elective	No
DR4EDM - Drawing 1: Exploring Drawing Media (OFAR4141)	4	40	Elective	No
PM4PM - Printmaking 1: Introduction to Printmaking (OFAR4113)	4	40	Elective	No

<b>Year/Stage 2</b>				
DR5DRA - Drawing 2: Investigating Drawing (OFAR5103)	5	60	Elective	Yes
PT5STP - Painting 2: Studio Practice (OFAR5125)	5	60	Elective	Yes
PT5EXM - Painting 2: Exploring Media (OFAR5141)	5	60	Elective	No
PM5PMD - Printmaking 2: Developing your Style (OCAR5113)	5	60	Elective	No
SC5STP - Sculpture 2: Studio Practice (OFAR5129)	5	60	Elective	No
DR5PAD - Drawing 2: A Personal Approach to Drawing (OFAR5133)	5	60	Elective	No
<b>Year/Stage 3</b>				
FA6APR - Fine Art 3: Advanced Practice (OFAR6135)	6	40	Core	
FA6RES - Fine Art 3: Contextual Studies (OFAR6136)	6	40	Core	
FA6SYP - Fine Art 3: Sustaining your Practice (OFAR6137)	6	40	Core	

**Appendix 4 – Table of Units for students registering on the BA (Hons) Fine Art from the academic year 2016/17 to 2017/18:**

<b>Unit codes and titles</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Credit value</b>	<b>Elective/ Core</b>	<b>Most popular student choice of optional elective units or elective options in core units?</b>
<b>Year/Stage1</b>				
DR4DRS - Drawing 1: Drawing Skills	4	40	Core	
AH4UVC - Visual Studies 1: Understanding Visual Culture	4	40	Core	
SC4SCL - Sculpture 1: Starting out in 3D	4	40	Elective	No
PT4POP - Painting 1: The Practice of Painting	4	40	Elective	Yes
PT4UPM - Painting 1: Understanding Painting Media	4	40	Elective	No
AH4WSA - History of Art 1: Understanding Western Art	4	40	Elective	No
PT4EXM - Painting 1: Exploring Media	4	40	Elective	No

CA4CAT - Visual Studies 1: Creative Arts Today	4	40	Elective	No
DR4EDM - Drawing 1: Exploring Drawing Media	4	40	Elective	No
PM4PM - Printmaking 1: Introduction to Printmaking	4	40	Elective	No
<b>Year/Stage 2</b>				
DR5DRA - Drawing 2: Investigating Drawing	5	60	Elective	Yes
PT5STP - Painting 2: Studio Practice	5	60	Elective	Yes
PT5CIP - Painting 2: Concepts in Practice	5	60	Elective	No
PM5PMD - Printmaking 2: Developing your Style	5	60	Elective	No
SC5STP - Sculpture 2: Studio Practice	5	60	Elective	No
DR5PAD - Drawing 2: A Personal Approach to Drawing	5	60	Elective	No
<b>Year/Stage 3</b>				
FA6APR - Fine Art 3: Advanced Practice	6	40	Core	
FA6RES - Fine Art 3: Contextual Studies	6	40	Core	
FA6SYP - Fine Art 3: Sustaining your Practice	6	40	Core	

## Section B - Course Overview

The BA (Hons) Fine Art degree offers you opportunities to gain knowledge and understanding of fine art as a creative, technical and intellectual activity.

The course offers an accessible, flexible, and well-supported means of study through which you can develop your creative voice, through different media with specialist support within the discipline.

It is an academically rigorous course that integrates theory and practice and develops autonomous learning skills within a stimulating learning environment.

It supports the development of a sustainable and reflective creative practice for your professional career, further study, or continued personal development.

The OCA attracts a diverse range of students, who are at various stages of their lives and careers and are motivated by professional and/or personal aspirations. The course philosophy is informed by OCA's charitable commitment to provide a flexible and open learning experience that supports a broad range of students and their needs.

The course offers an accessible entry point to Art Education through part-time and distance learning. Additional support and resources are in place to ensure students are at an appropriate level of study to succeed.

The curriculum focuses on both subject and media that represent Contemporary Fine Art practices across 2D, 3D and 4D, for example Painting, Sculpture, Printmaking and time based media.

Respecting and acknowledging historical fine art practices, the course builds on the traditional, exploring contemporary approaches. This course will appeal to you if you want to study a chosen media in depth, establishing a knowledge base from where you can explore and innovate.

#### Level 4 : Developing Concepts and Skills

At Level 4, you will establish your visual communication in 2D media such as drawing, printmaking or painting, sculpture and/or 4D, (including, for example, video, live art and sonic work) alongside the study of visual culture, thereby establishing a practical and contextual understanding that is mutually supportive. Level 4 unit assignments support you and your developing work through a series of investigations to application

#### Level 5: Intermediate stage

At Level 5, students progress in their chosen discipline, with each Level 5 unit taking you on a journey towards greater autonomy and a wider awareness of the contemporary practice of fine art. These units encourage you to investigate media beyond the studio considering what fine art practice can be in the 21st Century.

#### Level 6: Becoming an independent practising artist

Level 6 represents the culmination of your enquiry. You will be encouraged to analyse the contemporary art world and your position within it and to use this knowledge to present your work professionally and coherently.

Unit 1 Advanced Practice is complimented and informed by Unit 2 Research.

- You will present plans and negotiate your research in your own specialist subject area.
- Art practice and writing become mutually dependent as creative work is underpinned by growing knowledge and understanding, and through analysis of contextual influences and studio methodologies, you will develop your writing possibilities.
- At this level, you are encouraged to expand definitions of fine art, and challenge your expectations for your own work, by exploring contemporary fine art practice beyond the frame and gallery.

The integration of theory and practice (in the course) is supported by critical reflection, widening the cultural, social and political contexts that frames your understanding of Fine Art and your own work.

- This critical and contextual reflection is evidenced through research and reflective tasks at HE Level 4, critical writing at Level 5 and a body of visual and written research for Level 6.

The course provides stimulating and high quality learning materials, tutor support and resources to help develop a sense of visual and intellectual enquiry. Learning materials are authored by a team of educators and/or practitioners, drawing on current academic research and teaching practice in the discipline.

The course team is made up of a range of appropriately qualified and experienced tutors who are all either current practitioners within the field of fine art and/or lecturing in the subject at other UK art colleges or Universities.

This learning environment provides opportunities to join and contribute to a diverse learning community through forum discussions, study visits and other platforms that allows for wider interaction, networking, collaboration and reflection.

The course encourages you to develop a sustainable approach to your practice by establishing studio spaces, support networks and by setting up individual or collaborative exhibitions and/or publications.

#### Progression

You may choose to complete the Foundation in Drawing course before starting BA Fine Art. This course introduces you to drawing, collage, printmaking, mixed media, painting and textiles and assists in helping students to assess where your interests lie in mediums and ways of visual expression. This diagnostic course helps you to identify your own areas of strength and OCA tutors and student support advisors will assist you to make appropriate choices for the progression of your studies.

BA Fine Art sits alongside a degree in Painting and in Drawing and shares a range of learning material, resources and tutors.

Shared units at HE Level 4 provide a variety of entry points onto the degree, and allow students the option to identify, refine and consolidate an area of specialism.

On completion of BA Fine Art, you may wish to continue study at a higher level, and you can progress onto OCA's MA Fine Art course, subject to selection. MA Fine Art at OCA is cohort based, and enables you to develop and deepen your ideas in media and subject of your choice supported by specialist tutors, course materials and real time sessions. The course supports collaborative working, exhibiting and other forms of presentation of works, that you can continue to develop as you establish your own professional practice.

### Section C - Course Aims

#### *List course aims*

- To widen access to Creative Arts Education at Undergraduate level through flexible supported open learning

- To offer high quality and stimulating study material and tutor support through which you can develop a specialist understanding of Fine Art practices
- To provide flexibility for you to meaningfully establish your own creative voice and a personal and/or professional understanding of your own practice
- To develop you as a learner, capable of applying skills, knowledge and understanding creatively within a range of contexts
- To develop theoretical, conceptual and contextual understanding of fine art and contemporary debate in the discipline.
- To develop autonomous application of intellectual and practical skills in a chosen fine art medium appropriate to enjoyment, your further study or life-long learning

### **Section D - Course Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of the course students are able to:

#### **Knowledge**

- LO1 Demonstrate a personal creative voice through the use of creative, analytical, visual and practical skills, techniques and media.
- LO2 Articulate a critical and contextual understanding of contemporary fine art practice and their location within it.
- LO3 Manage the learning process resourcefully and independently and make appropriate use of primary sources and scholarly reviews.
- LO4 Evaluate your own work and that of others critically and objectively

#### **Understanding**

- LO5 Generate creative and innovative ideas and solutions, adapting and translating them into outcomes that communicate effectively
- LO6 Demonstrate informed and rigorous research, enquiry and reflection.
- LO7 Understand the relationship your work has to wider contemporary and historical culture

#### **Application**

- LO8 Select and apply creative, visual, technical and analytical skills in the realisation and presentation of ambitious work to a professional standard.
- LO9 Demonstrate a breadth of inventiveness, ideas generation and techniques in the creation of your own creative work.

LO10 Develop an autonomous, sustainable and reflective practice that you can apply to professional, post-graduate and/or personal development contexts

## Section E - Learning, Teaching and Assessment

### Learning and Teaching Strategy

The Open College of the Arts (OCA) strategic vision is “to be at the forefront of student-led creative arts education through open, enhanced, & supported distance learning, for an evolving society”. OCA is a non-profit educational charity, whose purpose is to widen participation in arts education through open flexible distance and online learning.

OCA uses a learning design process to consider the content, activities, and support needed to deliver course aims. This flexible approach recognises and supports a diverse range of student experiences, ambitions, and needs. In line with OCA’s core values, it also considers how to encourage more open, empowering, engaging, social, sustainable and evolving approaches to learning, teaching, and assessment.

As distance learners, students you will need to work independently and to develop appropriate research and study skills.

An induction programme and ‘Getting Started’ introductions are in place to support you to do this, and to help establish relationships with peers and tutors. Ongoing study skills support is available through #weareoca, OCA’s blog content, and other cross-curriculum study skills resources.

OCA’s virtual learning environment, OCA Learn, provides a platform for content, activities, and support for each unit. A dedicated Degree Space is in place to foster course wide dialogue and peer support through forum activities and shared resources.

OCA has a responsibility to ensure all learning environments, content, and communication are as accessible as possible for individuals who have sensory, cognitive, neurological, physical, or other disabilities, and to provide an inclusive learning environment that acknowledges the diversity of our students’ experiences.

OCA’s Student Engagement Strategy places a key focus on accessibility, with provision for designing learning materials with enhanced operability for mobile devices, which conform to all appropriate accessibility standards.

Course content is delivered through a range of learning materials, including written, video, and interactive media. These learning materials provide introductions and framing of subject related content, technical guidance, case studies, and other appropriate information. Materials are primarily accessed through OCA Learn, as well as #weareoca, which provides opportunities for current tutor and student-led content and debate.

Accompanying activities, such as exercises, research tasks, and assignments, encourage students you to work independently and flexibly by selecting, testing, and interpreting relevant research, and applying understanding of critical thinking and creativity. Through these activities, students you will begin to identify, develop and manage their own projects and document their progress through a learning log, or similar format. Learning logs are provided through OCA Spaces.

Students are expected to have a basic grasp of any software required for their course and to learn more complex usage as necessary as they progress. OCA provides students with G Drive online storage which includes word processing, presentation, drawing, and mind mapping tools. While OCA does not provide a help desk service to you for software, learning activities provide structured context for software learning at staged points throughout the course, and forums provide opportunities for peer support.

Learning is supported by tutors who provide timely, well-grounded and constructive formative feedback that aims to stretch and challenge learners at staged points within the unit. In parallel, tutor and student-led learning takes place through online group work. Group work offers opportunities to discuss and shape ideas, and share and support approaches to learning within video, webinar, study events, and/or forum activities and support. Critically reflecting on work through self-evaluation provides a valuable way for students to observe and learn from their peers, to develop increasingly professional personal and graduate skills, and to develop a deepening recognition of subject boundaries. Students are encouraged to do this through their learning log, reflective assessment presentations, and by reflecting on formative feedback.

Student Services provide study planning and pastoral support for any student who requests it. This is available personally via telephone, online, or within student forums, or more generally through additional resources, signposted through OCA Learn and/or #weareoca.

You will engage with a range of academic literature throughout the course, supported through library access and seminars. Essential and recommended reading lists have been selected for their academic currency, and from authors and practitioners across a range of viewpoints, ethnicities, identities, and cultures. All reading lists can be accessed through the digital library services and eBooks. Additional online texts and journals are also available via UCA's online library. All students are supported through OCA's Link Librarian via OCA Learn and #weareoca content and debate.

As you progress, your research will become more self-directed. Independent research and projects will be undertaken alongside a consideration of any ethical issues. Guidance, resources, and support for any external and/or collaborative projects are available through the Enterprise Hub and in discussion with tutors.

In addition to OCA's core support, OCA's Student Association (OCASA) provides opportunities to physically engage with cross-curriculum Study Events, asynchronous Virtual Study Events, or to become involved in wider student discussions or other events.

#### Assessment Strategy



OCA's assessment strategy is based on an assessment for learning model which emphasises assessment *for* learning rather than assessment *of* learning. Therefore, assessment is seen as an integrated and meaningful part of the learning journey.

- Assessment outcomes encourage you, as learners, to critically reflect on their progress and to articulate ideas and outcomes effectively through appropriate presentation formats.

Assessment criteria focus on:

- the extent to which knowledge of relevant concepts, practices, theories, and contexts are demonstrated,
- the level of understanding demonstrated through the testing and application of knowledge,
- and the degree to which knowledge and understanding are demonstrated through the application of technical, communication, personal, transferable, and graduate skills.

To help articulate these, assessment criteria are presented at each level through a set of range statements.

Summative assessment can take place online or at a physical assessment event. You will submit work in line with course assessment guidelines, and will be assessed through group marking overseen by the Programme Leader.

Quality assurance is provided through moderation of marks, internal verification of the assessment process, parity checks to ensure grades are consistent across OCA, plagiarism checks, and scrutiny by External Examiners. You will be provided with summative marks and clear feedback at the end of each unit.

#### Costs of additional materials/resources

##### Software and digital equipment

As part of some units, students are required to use specialist applications. Students are responsible for sourcing and, where necessary, purchasing any additional software specified. Where possible, open or freeware equivalents will be discussed alongside industry standard options. You are eligible for any student discounts on computer equipment and software.

##### Materials and resources

Students are responsible for sourcing and purchasing the materials, resources, and any additional equipment used in the production of their work. These costs will differ from student to student, depending on each student's area of focus.

##### Transportation of work

You are responsible for any postage costs of work to/from tutors or OCA for formative feedback and/or assessment. OCA will charge students for any excess postage payable on work submitted for formal assessment which exceeds the maximum permitted weight. Alternatively, students can submit work digitally for free.

##### Learner Support Scheme

In line with OCA's Access and Participation Plan, the College continues to invest in schemes to improve engagement into creative arts from those from low socio-economic backgrounds through a bursary fund.

For further details on your specific course costs, please visit [www.oca.ac.uk](http://www.oca.ac.uk).

## Section F - Employability

OCA recognises that its current student body holds a broad range of employment and enterprise aspirations. Many students have established careers, see their studies as a change in direction, and for an increasing number of younger students, as a first step into a creative career.

As distance learners, OCA students are located across the UK and internationally and consequently have differing levels of resources and opportunity. In order to provide meaningful and consistent educational experiences and outcomes for all of these students, OCA encourages students to interpret the concept of 'enterprise' in ways that are personally relevant to their particular aspirations, social contexts, and locations.

As a charity, OCA supports a curriculum that has a positive impact upon people's lives and society as a whole, and encourages engagement with enterprise that has a clear societal impact. This means undertaking external projects that can have a wider social benefit, and developing practices that are socially aware and environmentally sustainable.

To encourage this, learning materials and activities provide a framework for students to begin to define, establish and sustain their practices at a variety of scales and ambitions, and encourage students to think about freelance, employment, social enterprises, or entrepreneurship outcomes. A focus on research and ethics helps to frame these activities within wider social contexts.

- You are also encouraged to undertake collaborative projects with other students, and to work on competition briefs or other external opportunities.

A key benefit of distance learning is in allowing self-sustaining ways of developing a creative practice to build over time, and by balancing study/work/life commitments. You are encouraged to establish studio spaces and build resources throughout their studies, to feel prepared and equipped at the end of their course. Therefore, enterprise related themes are embedded through the course to encourage this sustainable approach.

An Enterprise Hub will provide a central online resource to support self-directed student activities. The Hub will provide guidance and resources on key enterprise themes, such as establishing and undertaking external projects/work-related learning, working collaboratively, establishing business or enterprise opportunities such as external exhibitions, business plans, or social enterprises, and connecting to appropriate professional networks.

OCA will use the Enterprise Hub to help establish relationships with other organisations, businesses, and funding opportunities. These in turn will provide the

potential for business incubators, mentoring options, internship opportunities and enable access to seed-funding for students

### **Section G - Enhancing the Quality of Learning and Teaching**

The course is subject to the University's rigorous quality assurance procedures which involve subject specialist and internal peer review of the course at periodic intervals, normally of 5 years. This process ensures that the course engages with the applicable national Subject Benchmarks and references the National Framework for Higher Education Qualifications.

In addition all courses are monitored on an annual basis where consideration is given to:

- External Examiner's Reports
- Key statistics including data on retention and achievement
- Results of the Student Satisfaction Survey
- Feedback from Student Representatives