Programme specification

1. Overview/ factual information

Programme/award title(s)	BA (Hons) Fine Art
Teaching Institution	Open College of the Arts
Awarding Institution	The Open University (OU)
Date of first OU review	June 2022
Date of latest OU review	
Next review	
Credit points for the award	360
UCAS Code	
JACS Code	
Programme start date	
Underpinning QAA subject benchmark(s)	Art and Design (2019)
Other external and internal reference points used to inform programme outcomes	
Professional/statutory recognition	
Mode(s) of Study (PT, FT, DL, Mix of DL & Face-to-Face)	PT DL
Duration of the programme for each mode of study	
Dual accreditation (if applicable)	N/A
Date of production/revision of this specification	June 2022

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content, and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in student module guide(s) and the students handbook.

The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University and may be verified by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

2.1 Educational aims and objectives

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

2. To offer high quality and stimulating study material and tutor support through which you can develop a specialist understanding of Fine Art practices

3. To provide flexibility for you to meaningfully establish your own creative voice and a personal and/or professional understanding of your own practice

4. To develop you as a learner, capable of applying skills, knowledge and understanding creatively within a range of contexts

5. To develop theoretical, conceptual and contextual understanding of fine art and contemporary debate in the discipline.

6. 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

2.2 Relationship to other programmes and awards

(Where the award is part of a hierarchy of awards/programmes, this section describes the articulation between them, opportunities for progression upon completion of the programme, and arrangements for bridging modules or induction)

Unit/module 2.2 Experimental Encounters is shared with BA (Hons) Music. Students work across both programmes at this point of study with opportunities for collaboration in practice alongside study of the theories of collaborative practice.

Students who choose not to pursue / or are unable to complete the full BA (Hons) award may be considered for an exit award of a CertHE, DipHE or BA.

Students graduating from BA (Hons) Fine Art may choose to progress to MA FIne Art. A programme of MA/BA Level 6 - 7 initiatives and events enable students approaching BA graduation to sample the MA programme.

2.3 For Foundation Degrees, please list where the 60 credit work-related learning takes place
N/A

2.4 List of all exit awards
CertHE Fine Art DipHE Fine Art BA Fine Art BA (Hons) Fine Art

3. Programme structure and learning outcomes					

Programme Structure - LEVEL 4					
Compulsory modules	**Credit points**	**Optional modules**	**Credit points**	**Is module compensatable ?**	**Semester runs in**
Fine Art 1.1: Fine Art Practices; Studios 2D & 3D (FA41SSD)	40	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A
Fine Art 1.2: Fine Art Practices; Studio 4D (FA42SOD)	40			NO	N/A
Fine Art 1.3: Materials and Making (FA43MAM)	40			NO	N/A

Intended learning outcomes at Level 4 are listed below:

Learning Outcomes – LEVEL 4	
3A. Knowledge and understanding	
Learning outcomes:	**Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods**
A1 Demonstrate a personal creative voice through the use of creative, analytical, visual and practical skills, techniques and media	**Course materials** delivered through OCA Learn an online learning environment through a combination of written, audio and audio visual and links to external online content.

Learning Outcomes – LEVEL 4
3A. Knowledge and understanding

A2 Articulate a critical and contextual understanding of contemporary fine art practice and their location within it. A3 Evaluate your own work and that of others critically and objectively A4 Demonstrate informed and rigorous research, enquiry and reflection A5 Understand the relationship your work has to wider contemporary and historical culture	**Activities** such as exercises, research tasks, lectures, seminars, online workshops, forums, digital creative arts studio space and assignments. **Contextual information** is provided within the course materials, online library as written and video content and links to other digital material. **Critical reviews**, either written or audio visual, where students connect practice with research. **Skills Hub** to facilitate all discipline specific skills learning for the application of relevant skills content to students ideas and programme learning. Coursework Self-directed individual learning produced and recorded in the form of a learning log/online blog and portfolio presentation, including a personal framework. **1 - 1 tutorials or written formative feedback**, to reinforce individual understanding and ensure learning is in line with learning outcomes. **Group tutorials** to evaluate and support the development of knowledge and understanding. **Summative assessment** is carried out digitally with students providing links to their online learning logs, images and videos of work and a written or video reflective evaluation

3B. Cognitive skills	
Learning outcomes:	**Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods**
B1 Articulate a critical and contextual understanding of contemporary fine art practice and their location within it. B2 Manage the learning process resourcefully and independently and make appropriate use of primary sources and scholarly reviews. B3 Evaluate your own work and that of others critically and objectively B4 Generate creative and innovative ideas and solutions, adapting and translating them into outcomes that communicate effectively B5 Demonstrate informed and rigorous research, enquiry and reflection	**Course materials** delivered through OCA Learn an online learning environment through a combination of written, audio and audio visual and links to external online content. **Activities** such as exercises, research tasks, lectures, seminars, online workshops, forums, digital creative arts studio space and assignments. **Contextual information** is provided within the course materials, online library as written and video content and links to other digital material. **Critical reviews**, either written or audio visual, where students connect practice with research. **Skills Hub** to facilitate all discipline specific skills learning for the application of relevant skills content to students ideas and programme learning. Coursework Self-directed individual learning produced and recorded in the form of a learning log/online blog and portfolio presentation, including a personal framework. **1 - 1 tutorials or written formative feedback**, to reinforce individual understanding and ensure learning is in line with learning outcomes.

3B. Cognitive skills	
	Group tutorials to evaluate and support the development of knowledge and understanding. **Summative assessment** is carried out digitally with students providing links to their online learning logs, images and videos of work and a written or video reflective evaluation

3C. Practical and professional skills	
Learning outcomes:	**Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods**
C1 Demonstrate a personal creative voice through the use of creative, analytical, visual and practical skills, techniques and media C2 Generate creative and innovative ideas and solutions, adapting and translating them into outcomes that communicate effectively	**Course materials** delivered through OCA Learn an online learning environment through a combination of written, audio and audio visual and links to external online content. **Activities** such as exercises, research tasks, lectures, seminars, online workshops, forums, digital creative arts studio space and assignments. **Contextual information** is provided within the course materials, online library as written and video content and links to other digital material. **Critical reviews**, either written or audio visual, where students connect practice with research.

3C. Practical and professional skills	
	Skills Hub to facilitate all discipline specific skills learning for the application of relevant skills content to students ideas and programme learning. Coursework Self-directed individual learning produced and recorded in the form of a learning log/online blog and portfolio presentation, including a personal framework. **1 - 1 tutorials or written formative feedback**, to reinforce individual understanding and ensure learning is in line with learning outcomes. **Group tutorials** to evaluate and support the development of knowledge and understanding. **Summative assessment** is carried out digitally with students providing links to their online learning logs, images and videos of work and a written or video reflective evaluation

3D. Key/transferable skills	
Learning outcomes:	**Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods**
D1 Manage the learning process resourcefully and independently and make appropriate use of primary sources and scholarly reviews.	**Course materials** delivered through OCA Learn an online learning environment through a combination of written, audio and audio visual and links to external online content.
D2 Evaluate your own work and that of others critically and objectively	**Activities** such as exercises, research tasks, lectures, seminars, online workshops, forums, digital creative arts studio space and assignments.

3D. Key/transferable skills
	Contextual information is provided within the course materials, online library as written and video content and links to other digital material. **Critical reviews**, either written or audio visual, where students connect practice with research. **Skills Hub** to facilitate all discipline specific skills learning for the application of relevant skills content to students ideas and programme learning. Coursework Self-directed individual learning produced and recorded in the form of a learning log/online blog and portfolio presentation, including a personal framework. **1 - 1 tutorials or written formative feedback**, to reinforce individual understanding and ensure learning is in line with learning outcomes. **Group tutorials** to evaluate and support the development of knowledge and understanding. **Summative assessment** is carried out digitally with students providing links to their online learning logs, images and videos of work and a written or video reflective evaluation

Exit Award at Stage 1 (HE4) CertHE Fine Art

3. Programme structure and learning outcomes

Programme Structure - LEVEL 5						
Compulsory modules	**Credit points**	**Optional modules**	**Credit points**	**Is module compensatable ?**	**Semester runs in**	
Fine Art 2.1: Ideas, Research and Writing (FA51IRW)	40	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	
Fine Art 2.2 Experimental Encounters (FA52EES)	40			NO	N/A	
Fine Art 2.3 Presenting the Narrative (FA53PTN)	40			NO	N/A	

Intended learning outcomes at Level 5 are listed below:

Learning Outcomes – LEVEL 5	
3A. Knowledge and understanding	
Learning outcomes:	**Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods**
A6 Demonstrate a personal creative voice through the use of creative, analytical, visual and practical skills, techniques and media	**Course materials** delivered through OCA Learn an online learning environment through a combination of written, audio and audio visual and links to external online content.

Learning Outcomes – LEVEL 5	
3A. Knowledge and understanding	
A7 Articulate a critical and contextual understanding of contemporary fine art practice and their location within it. A8 Evaluate your own work and that of others critically and objectively A9 Demonstrate informed and rigorous research, enquiry and reflection A10 Understand the relationship your work has to wider contemporary and historical culture A11 Select and apply creative, visual, technical and analytical skills in the realisation and presentation of ambitious work to a professional standard. A12 Demonstrate a breadth of inventiveness, ideas generation and techniques in the creation of creative work. A13 Develop an autonomous, sustainable and reflective practice that can be applied to professional, post-graduate and/or personal development contexts	**Activities** such as exercises, research tasks, lectures, seminars, online workshops, forums, digital creative arts studio space and assignments. **Contextual information** is provided within the course materials, online library as written and video content and links to other digital material. **Critical reviews**, either written or audio visual, where students connect practice with research. **Skills Hub** to facilitate all discipline specific skills learning for the application of relevant skills content to students ideas and programme learning. Coursework Self-directed individual learning produced and recorded in the form of a learning log/online blog and portfolio presentation, including a personal framework. **1 - 1 tutorials or written formative feedback**, to reinforce individual understanding and ensure learning is in line with learning outcomes. **Group tutorials** to evaluate and support the development of knowledge and understanding.

Learning Outcomes – LEVEL 5	
3A. Knowledge and understanding	
	Summative assessment is carried out digitally with students providing links to their online learning logs, images and videos of work and a written or video reflective evaluation

3B. Cognitive skills	
Learning outcomes:	**Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods**
B6 Articulate a critical and contextual understanding of contemporary fine art practice and their location within it.

B7 Manage the learning process resourcefully and independently and make appropriate use of primary sources and scholarly reviews.

B8 Evaluate your own work and that of others critically and objectively

B9 Generate creative and innovative ideas and solutions, adapting and translating them into outcomes that communicate effectively

B10 Demonstrate informed and rigorous research, enquiry and reflection | **Course materials** delivered through OCA Learn an online learning environment through a combination of written, audio and audio visual and links to external online content.

Activities such as exercises, research tasks, lectures, seminars, online workshops, forums, digital creative arts studio space and assignments.

Contextual information is provided within the course materials, online library as written and video content and links to other digital material.

Critical reviews, either written or audio visual, where students connect practice with research. |

3B. Cognitive skills	
B11 Select and apply creative, visual, technical and analytical skills in the realisation and presentation of ambitious work to a professional standard. B12 Demonstrate a breadth of inventiveness, ideas generation and techniques in the creation of creative work.	**Skills Hub** to facilitate all discipline specific skills learning for the application of relevant skills content to students ideas and programme learning. Coursework Self-directed individual learning produced and recorded in the form of a learning log/online blog and portfolio presentation, including a personal framework. **1 - 1 tutorials or written formative feedback**, to reinforce individual understanding and ensure learning is in line with learning outcomes. **Group tutorials** to evaluate and support the development of knowledge and understanding. **Summative assessment** is carried out digitally with students providing links to their online learning logs, images and videos of work and a written or video reflective evaluation

3C. Practical and professional skills	
Learning outcomes:	**Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods**
C3 Demonstrate a personal creative voice through the use of creative, analytical, visual and practical skills, techniques and media	**Course materials** delivered through OCA Learn an online learning environment through a combination of written, audio and audio visual and links to external online content. **Activities** such as exercises, research tasks, lectures, seminars, online workshops, forums, digital creative arts studio space and assignments.

3C. Practical and professional skills	
C4 Generate creative and innovative ideas and solutions, adapting and translating them into outcomes that communicate effectively C5 Select and apply creative, visual, technical and analytical skills in the realisation and presentation of ambitious work to a professional standard. C6 Demonstrate a breadth of inventiveness, ideas generation and techniques in the creation of creative work. C7 Develop an autonomous, sustainable and reflective practice that can be applied to professional, post-graduate and/or personal development contexts	**Contextual information** is provided within the course materials, online library as written and video content and links to other digital material. **Critical reviews**, either written or audio visual, where students connect practice with research. **Skills Hub** to facilitate all discipline specific skills learning for the application of relevant skills content to students ideas and programme learning. Coursework Self-directed individual learning produced and recorded in the form of a learning log/online blog and portfolio presentation, including a personal framework. **1 - 1 tutorials or written formative feedback**, to reinforce individual understanding and ensure learning is in line with learning outcomes. **Group tutorials** to evaluate and support the development of knowledge and understanding. **Summative assessment** is carried out digitally with students providing links to their online learning logs, images and videos of work and a written or video reflective evaluation

3D. Key/transferable skills	
Learning outcomes:	**Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods**
D3 Manage the learning process resourcefully and independently and make appropriate use of primary sources and scholarly reviews. D4 Evaluate your own work and that of others critically and objectively D5 Select and apply creative, visual, technical and analytical skills in the realisation and presentation of ambitious work to a professional standard.	**Course materials** delivered through OCA Learn an online learning environment through a combination of written, audio and audio visual and links to external online content. **Activities** such as exercises, research tasks, lectures, seminars, online workshops, forums, digital creative arts studio space and assignments. **Contextual information** is provided within the course materials, online library as written and video content and links to other digital material. **Critical reviews**, either written or audio visual, where students connect practice with research. **Skills Hub** to facilitate all discipline specific skills learning for the application of relevant skills content to students ideas and programme learning. Coursework Self-directed individual learning produced and recorded in the form of a learning log/online blog and portfolio presentation, including a personal framework. **1 - 1 tutorials or written formative feedback**, to reinforce individual understanding and ensure learning is in line with learning outcomes.

3D. Key/transferable skills	
	Group tutorials to evaluate and support the development of knowledge and understanding.
	Summative assessment is carried out digitally with students providing links to their online learning logs, images and videos of work and a written or video reflective evaluation

Exit Award at Stage 2 (HE5) DipHE Fine Art

3. Programme structure and learning outcomes					
Programme Structure - LEVEL 5					
Compulsory modules	**Credit points**	**Optional modules**	**Credit points**	**Is module compensatable?**	**Semester runs in**
Fine Art 3.1: Practice and Research (FA61PAR)	40	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A
Fine Art 3.2 External Projects (FA62EPS)	40			NO	N/A
Fine Art 3.3 Major Project (FA63MPT)	40			NO	N/A

Intended learning outcomes at Level 6 are listed below:

Learning Outcomes – LEVEL 6
3A. Knowledge and understanding

Learning outcomes:	Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods
A14 Demonstrate a personal creative voice through the use of creative, analytical, visual and practical skills, techniques and media A15 Articulate a critical and contextual understanding of contemporary fine art practice and their location within it. A16 Evaluate your own work and that of others critically and objectively A17 Demonstrate informed and rigorous research, enquiry and reflection A18 Understand the relationship your work has to wider contemporary and historical culture A19 Select and apply creative, visual, technical and analytical skills in the realisation and presentation of ambitious work to a professional standard.	**Course materials** delivered through OCA Learn an online learning environment through a combination of written, audio and audio visual and links to external online content. **Activities** such as exercises, research tasks, lectures, seminars, online workshops, forums, digital creative arts studio space and assignments. **Contextual information** is provided within the course materials, online library as written and video content and links to other digital material. **Critical reviews**, either written or audio visual, where students connect practice with research. **Skills Hub** to facilitate all discipline specific skills learning for the application of relevant skills content to students ideas and programme learning. Coursework Self-directed individual learning produced and recorded in the form of a learning log/online blog and portfolio presentation, including a personal framework.

Learning Outcomes – LEVEL 6

3A. Knowledge and understanding	
A20 Demonstrate a breadth of inventiveness, ideas generation and techniques in the creation of creative work. A21 Develop an autonomous, sustainable and reflective practice that can be applied to professional, post-graduate and/or personal development contexts	**1 - 1 tutorials or written formative feedback**, to reinforce individual understanding and ensure learning is in line with learning outcomes. **Group tutorials** to evaluate and support the development of knowledge and understanding. **Summative assessment** is carried out digitally with students providing links to their online learning logs, images and videos of work and a written or video reflective evaluation

3B. Cognitive skills	
Learning outcomes:	**Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods**
B13 Articulate a critical and contextual understanding of contemporary fine art practice and their location within it. B14 Manage the learning process resourcefully and independently and make appropriate use of primary sources and scholarly reviews. B15 Evaluate your own work and that of others critically and objectively	**Course materials** delivered through OCA Learn an online learning environment through a combination of written, audio and audio visual and links to external online content. **Activities** such as exercises, research tasks, lectures, seminars, online workshops, forums, digital creative arts studio space and assignments. **Contextual information** is provided within the course materials, online library as written and video content and links to other digital material.

3B. Cognitive skills	
B16 Generate creative and innovative ideas and solutions, adapting and translating them into outcomes that communicate effectively B17 Demonstrate informed and rigorous research, enquiry and reflection B18 Select and apply creative, visual, technical and analytical skills in the realisation and presentation of ambitious work to a professional standard. B19 Demonstrate a breadth of inventiveness, ideas generation and techniques in the creation of creative work.	**Critical reviews**, either written or audio visual, where students connect practice with research. **Skills Hub** to facilitate all discipline specific skills learning for the application of relevant skills content to students ideas and programme learning. Coursework Self-directed individual learning produced and recorded in the form of a learning log/online blog and portfolio presentation, including a personal framework. **1 - 1 tutorials or written formative feedback**, to reinforce individual understanding and ensure learning is in line with learning outcomes. **Group tutorials** to evaluate and support the development of knowledge and understanding. **Summative assessment** is carried out digitally with students providing links to their online learning logs, images and videos of work and a written or video reflective evaluation

3C. Practical and professional skills	
Learning outcomes:	**Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods**
C8 Demonstrate a personal creative voice through the use of creative, analytical, visual and practical skills, techniques and media C9 Generate creative and innovative ideas and solutions, adapting and translating them into outcomes that communicate effectively C10 Select and apply creative, visual, technical and analytical skills in the realisation and presentation of ambitious work to a professional standard. C11 Demonstrate a breadth of inventiveness, ideas generation and techniques in the creation of creative work. C12 Develop an autonomous, sustainable and reflective practice that can be applied to professional, post-graduate and/or personal development contexts	**Course materials** delivered through OCA Learn an online learning environment through a combination of written, audio and audio visual and links to external online content. **Activities** such as exercises, research tasks, lectures, seminars, online workshops, forums, digital creative arts studio space and assignments. **Contextual information** is provided within the course materials, online library as written and video content and links to other digital material. **Critical reviews**, either written or audio visual, where students connect practice with research. **Skills Hub** to facilitate all discipline specific skills learning for the application of relevant skills content to students ideas and programme learning. Coursework Self-directed individual learning produced and recorded in the form of a learning log/online blog and portfolio presentation, including a personal framework. **1 - 1 tutorials or written formative feedback**, to reinforce individual understanding and ensure learning is in line with learning outcomes.

3C. Practical and professional skills	
	Group tutorials to evaluate and support the development of knowledge and understanding.
	Summative assessment is carried out digitally with students providing links to their online learning logs, images and videos of work and a written or video reflective evaluation

3D. Key/transferable skills	
Learning outcomes:	**Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods**
D6 Manage the learning process resourcefully and independently and make appropriate use of primary sources and scholarly reviews.	**Course materials** delivered through OCA Learn an online learning environment through a combination of written, audio and audio visual and links to external online content.
D7 Evaluate your own work and that of others critically and objectively	**Activities** such as exercises, research tasks, lectures, seminars, online workshops, forums, digital creative arts studio space and assignments.
D8 Select and apply creative, visual, technical and analytical skills in the realisation and presentation of ambitious work to a professional standard.	**Contextual information** is provided within the course materials, online library as written and video content and links to other digital material.
	Critical reviews, either written or audio visual, where students connect practice with research.

3D. Key/transferable skills	
	Skills Hub to facilitate all discipline specific skills learning for the application of relevant skills content to students ideas and programme learning. Coursework Self-directed individual learning produced and recorded in the form of a learning log/online blog and portfolio presentation, including a personal framework. **1 - 1 tutorials or written formative feedback**, to reinforce individual understanding and ensure learning is in line with learning outcomes. **Group tutorials** to evaluate and support the development of knowledge and understanding. **Summative assessment** is carried out digitally with students providing links to their online learning logs, images and videos of work and a written or video reflective evaluation

Exit Award at Stage 3 (HE6) BA Fine Art

Exit Award at Stage 3 (HE6) BA Hons Fine Art

4. Distinctive features of the programme structure

- **Where applicable, this section provides details on distinctive features such as:**

- **where in the structure above a professional/placement year fits in and how it may affect progression**

- **any restrictions regarding the availability of elective modules** where in the programme structure students must make a choice of pathway/route

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

The course offers an accessible, flexible, and well-supported course of study through which you can develop your creative voice in media of your choice within a specialist understanding of the discipline.

The curriculum focuses on subject and media that represent contemporary fine art practice. Three virtual studio spaces are dedicated to 2D, 3D and 4D practices, each acts as a repository for relevant material, information and interactive content whilst functioning simultaneously as a place for dialogue, exchange and communities of practice. Within the course it is recognised that a studio can take on different guises and this is reflected in the content of each virtual space.

During **Stage 1**, the course supports the acquisition of techniques and skills, establishing a knowledge base from where you can explore and innovate. In addition, practices of art writing and curation together with collaborative practice and process form course content in Stage 2. The course will appeal to those who wish to study their chosen media in depth alongside those who choose a more varied approach.

This is an academically rigorous course in which you will integrate theory and practice and develop independent learning skills within a stimulating learning environment. You will be encouraged to experiment as a way to develop your creative thinking and will receive guidance at all stages from your tutor's feedback.

At **Stage 2,** you will have the opportunity to study the theory of collaboration, and to actively collaborate with other students, through an innovative unit/module mirrored with BA (Hons) Music. development.

The BA (Hons) Fine Art approach to learning encourages an active, flexible and engaged community of students that acknowledges, and champions practice based methods, techniques, broad encounters with various media and critical theories across a diverse global student population. The course recognises interdisciplinary and intercultural learning as being an active space that reflects

outwardly facing, real world attributes (Last J, Lewis S, and Wade S, 2008). While we acknowledge historic precursors and theoretical groundings with respect, students interrogate what Fine Art practice is and can be for the 21st Century.

The overall aims of the course are to enable and support you to develop your own visual language - your creative voice - towards a sustainable and reflective creative practice for a professional career, further study, or continued personal development

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

Stage 1 : Developing concepts and skills

At Stage 1, you will establish your visual communication in 2D, 3D and 4D media such as drawing, printmaking or painting, sculpture, video and sonic work alongside the study of visual culture, thereby establishing a practical and contextual understanding that is mutually supportive. You will be introduced to the Fine Art virtual studios where you can access relevant material and connect with your peers. Stage 1 unit assignments support you through a series of investigations that help you to apply your learning and to present your ideas and work

Stage 2: Intermediate stage

At Stage 2, you will progress in your chosen discipline, with each Stage 2 unit taking you on a journey towards greater autonomy and a wider awareness of the contemporary practice of fine art. The Stage 2 units encourage you to investigate contemporary fine art practice more widely, going beyond your own studio, or place of production to explore what fine art practice is more globally.

Unit/module 2.2 provides an opportunity to extend personal practice into collaboration, working alongside peers in order to take a more experimental approach to work. This unit/module serves as a test bed for the development of creative practice, where students will work together in order to explore and develop and reflect on new ideas and innovative approaches that may incorporate risk taking as a way to learn and try out new approaches. Unit/module 2.2 is underpinned by an exploration of collaborative methods and theories to help inform an academic understanding of collaborative practices.

Stage 3: Becoming an independent practising artist

The final stage **(Stage 3)** represents the culmination of your creative and academic enquiry. You will be encouraged to analyse the contemporary art world and your position within it and to use this knowledge to present yourself and your work professionally. Unit/module 3.1 Practice and Research is complimented and informed by Unit/module 3.2 External Projects; you will plan and negotiate your research into your own specialist subject area; practice and writing become mutually dependent as creative work is underpinned by growing knowledge and understanding, through analysis of contextual influences and studio methodologies.

To frame your understanding of theory and practice, you will be supported to become increasingly critical, and to reflect on the cultural, social and political contexts that frames fine art and your own work. Critical and contextual reflection is developed and evidenced through research and reflective tasks at Stage 1, critical writing at Stage 2 and a body of visual and written research for Stage 3.

Approach to learning

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. The learning environment provides opportunities for you to join and contribute to a diverse learning community through forum discussions, virtual study and studio visits and other platforms that allow for wider interaction, networking, collaboration and reflection. The course encourages you to develop a sustainable approach to your practice by establishing shared 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 you 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.

A Fine Art sits alongside a degree in Painting and in Drawing and shares a range of learning material, resources and tutors. Shared units/modules at HE Level 4 (Stage 1) 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.

5. Support for students and their learning

OCA Learn, provides an accessible virtual learning environment for learning materials, support, and other resources. Through OCA Learn you will access your course content and activities, submit your work for feedback from tutors, and engage in online group activities.

Course content is provided through written materials, lectures, and/or case studies, and is designed to be engaging and accessible. Course activities provide learning opportunities that are relevant, engaging, and adaptable. Both course content and activities offer a starting point to undertake self-directed learning to achieve your learning outcomes.

Tuition is provided at set points in your course by academic staff, through a mix of:

- **Feedback reports** offered as written or verbal formats.
- **Tutorials** as 1-2-1 online sessions.
- **Synchronous group activities** offered as live events with supporting forums.
- **Asynchronous group activities** within forums or other online platforms.

All forms of tuition offer formative feedback through constructive and well-grounded comments that aims to stretch and challenge learners at set points within the course. The balance of feedback reports, tutorials, and group activities may differ from course to course.

Students should expect 6 hours of tuition per 40 credit unit/module. Tuition is the amount of contact time academic staff will offer to students to deliver formative feedback.

Your degree has an online Department space, within OCA Learn, to help encourage academic dialogue and develop a learning community. This space

will offer an overview of your degree, regular group activity opportunities, spaces to ask questions, signposting to additional support and/or resources, and access to your Programme Leader.

Online library access, reading lists, and additional resources are available via the Library page on OCA Learn. Library support is offered by a librarian, via 'Ask the Librarian' forums. Key reading lists are accessible electronically.

OCA Spaces provides students with a secure online journal service, to be used during your studies, and for tutor feedback and assessment. Templates are provided relevant to your course, along with guidance and support on setting up your online journal or learning log.

The Student Handbook, on OCA Learn, provides additional guidance, information, and support to all students to cover study skills, time management, and academic skills, and signposting to appropriate wellbeing, pastoral, or other support, provided by the Learner Support Team.

The Enterprise Hub, on OCA Learn, offers guidance on sustaining your creative practice, careers, employability, and other enterprise related opportunities throughout your studies. Group activities support the Enterprise Hub.

OCA Discuss, offers a forum platform to all students, to help encourage peer support.

WeAreOCA, provides a dynamic and collaborative space, across OCA learning communities, to test, discuss, showcase, journal, and support experiences of learning, teaching, and/or practices within the creative arts.

At the end of your course, you will submit your work for summative assessment. The Assessment Guidance page, on OCA Learn, provides information on assessment, how best to prepare, and a forum to ask questions. Support for assessment will be provided through group activities via your Department space.

6. Criteria for admission

All applicants must be aged 18 or over at point of over admission to the course

OCA is an open access provider of courses; this means that evidence of prior qualifications to study OCA courses is not required to enrol at Stage 1 (HE4).

OCA specifies four general requirements for students to be admitted to its programmes:

1. **English language competency**
2. **Access to a desktop computer or laptop with internet access**
3. **Access to basic technology to document work,**
4. **The ability to easily manage a range of basic functions through ICT (information and communications technology**

Full details on each of these requirements can be found in the OCA Admissions Policy

As part of some course units/modules at undergraduate level, students are required to use specified applications in addition to those referred to above. For example; Photoshop image editing software for photography course units; Final Cut Pro or similar for moving image course units/modules; scorewriter programme Sibelius or Dorico for music course units/modules; vector graphics software Adobe Illustrator for visual communications and graphic design course units/modules.

Students and prospective students are required to self certify their ability and confidence with Information Technologies as set out above as part of their application and enrolment to OCA. OCA bears no liability in this regard.

Students may apply for an ICT Exemption where they have a medical reason, or disability, or other compelling reason (for example, service overseas) that may prohibit them from using ICT or be detrimental to them to use ICT. Cases for ICT exemption are considered by the Learner Support team, and evidence will be requested in support of your application. This may include medical documentation, Needs Assessments, or other documentation depending on the nature of your application

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

Applications from students with disabilities 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. Prospective students with a disability will be encouraged to discuss their requirements with learnersupport@oca.ac.uk.

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<tr><td>7. Language of study</td></tr>
<tr><td>English</td></tr>
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<tr><td>8. Information about non-OU standard assessment regulations (including PSRB requirements)</td></tr>
<tr><td>N/A</td></tr>
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<tr><td>9. Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning.</td></tr>
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Effective learning and teaching is underpinned by regular quality checks, as outlined in the Quality Handbook, and routine evaluation and monitoring of provision, learning, teaching, and assessment.

Quality checks take place when course content and activities are initially designed. These ensure that learning materials meet the expectations of validated documents, assessment requirements, accessibility requirements, and are in line with the QAA Quality Code.

Annual Monitoring provides a quality process through which the curriculum, learning, teaching, and assessment are evaluated by your Programme Leader. Annual Monitoring reports are reviewed by senior members of OCA staff, and an action plan established to help improve the course over the following academic year.

OCA collects feedback from students, formally and informally, to contribute to the Annual Monitoring process. OCA runs two internal surveys, the Unit Evaluation

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Survey which gathers feedback and opinions on individual unit/module experiences, and the Stage Analysis Survey which looks at perspectives across a whole stage of study. Informal evaluation and monitoring also takes place through the ongoing dialogue between students and academic staff. This is facilitated through group activities, student surveys, and forums. We also collect feedback from External Examiners that is outside the remit of the assessment process and academic standards of the course, which is communicated to the Programme Leaders and OCA Directors to note.

Feedback reports are subject to routine checks by OCA staff to ensure accuracy and consistency.

OCA uses a Peer Supported Review (P-SR) process to evaluate and develop teaching practices. This offers teaching observations, peer-to-peer discussions, and self-reflections, with a view to developing and enhancing teaching skills and knowledge.

Effective learning and teaching is informed through reflective practice. OCA supports academic staff to engage in relevant professional development through access to appropriate staff development opportunities. Training for academic staff is provided to fulfil the main duties of their roles. Where appropriate, further professional development will be provided. Reflective practice is supported through academic team meetings, and through the Higher Education Academy Fellowship scheme.

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10. Changes made to the programme since last (review

N/A