PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	**MA History of Art with Collections Management** (Level 7)
Name and title of any exit qualification(s)	Postgraduate Diploma History of Art with Collections Management Postgraduate Certificate History of Art with Collections Management
Awarding Body	University of London
Teaching Institution(s)	Birkbeck, University of London
Home school/other teaching departments	School of Historical Studies
Location of delivery	Central London
Language of delivery and assessment	English
Mode of study, length of study and normal start month	Full-time (1 year) Part-time (2 years) September
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	N/A
QAA subject benchmark group(s) Higher Education Credit Framework for England	N/A
Birkbeck Course Code	TMAAHCOL_C
HECoS Code	100306
Start date of programme	Autumn 1986
Date of programme approval	Summer 1986
Date of last programme amendment approval	March 2023
Valid for academic entry year	**2024-25**
Date of last revision to document	24/03/2023

Admissions requirements

2.2 degree in a relevant subject (other arts and humanities) or equivalent (for example, professional experience).

For students with a degree in a not relevant subject, the one-year part-time Graduate Certificate in History of Art and Architecture can be used as a conversion course. Students who successfully complete the Graduate Certificate with Merit will be guaranteed a place on this programme.

We welcome applicants without traditional entry qualifications as we base decisions on our own assessment of qualifications, knowledge and previous work experience. We may waive formal entry requirements based on judgement of academic potential.

Course aims

Our MA History of Art with Collections Management will absorb you in the rich and dynamic discipline of the history of art as well as preparing you with the skills and experience you need for the museum workplace with an intensive skills-based Collections Management module. You will gain a solid grasp of the key issues and fundamental skills involved in collections management and an insight into the different working practices of various museums and galleries. During an intensive week studying current issues and practices in curating you will meet curators and collections managers in London's thriving museum, galleries and archives sector, and engage in hands-on activities including documentation, cataloguing and issuing loan requests. This MA aims to:

- expose you to key art historical approaches and allow you to focus in depth on areas and periods of particular interest to you in early, modern and contemporary art, through taught options and independent research.
- Develop your visual acuity and your understanding of art's histories, while stimulating critical debate and stretching your research skills.
- offer you the opportunity to study with internationally recognised experts. Our teaching staff are defining the field, conducting ground-breaking research in periods from medieval to contemporary, focusing on painting, sculpture, print culture, architecture, photography, digital art and museology. You will work closely with our staff while also benefiting from our diverse and vibrant student body of all ages and backgrounds.
- offer you the opportunity to apply for a 10-week supervised work placement in a museum, gallery or archive. Previous work placements have been offered at the Tate, British Museum, Whitechapel Gallery and Horniman Museum. Past students have documented collections that were previously uncatalogued, helped design and run schools programmes, conducted visitor research and assisted curators in producing exhibitions.

Our teaching programme is enriched by museum and site visits, visiting speakers, study trips, research events, and the opportunity to undertake a work placement. Many of our graduates progress to careers in arts-related fields or undertake further postgraduate work.

Course structure

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
Full-time – 1 year					
7	ARVC247S7	Frameworks: Histories and Theories of Art, Architecture, Photography	30	Compulsory	T1
7	From a range	Option Module	30	Optional	T1
7	ARVC272S7	Collections Management	30	Compulsory	T2
7	ARVC282S7	Research Exercise OR	30	Compulsory	T2
7	ARVC054S7	Work Placement			T2&3
7	AHVM019D7	Dissertation	60	Core	T3
Part-time- 2 years					
Year 1					
7	ARVC247S7	Frameworks: Histories and Theories of Art, Architecture, Photography	30	Compulsory	T1
7	ARVC272S7	Collections Management	30	Compulsory	T2
7	ARVC282S7	Research Exercise OR	30	Compulsory	T3
7	ARVC054S7	Work Placement			T2&3
Year 2					
7	From a range	Option Module	30	Optional	T1
7	AHVM019D7	Dissertation	60	Core	T2&3

Indicative list of option modules

7	ARVC230S7	This is Tomorrow: Architecture and Modernity in Britain and its Empire, 1930-1960	30	Optional	T1 or T2
7	ARVC143S7	Art and Photography since the 1970s	30	Optional	T1 or T2
7	ARVC118S7	Art and Devotion in Fifteenth-Century Italy	30	Optional	T1 or T2
7	ARVC076S7	Exhibiting the Body	30	Optional	T1 or T2
7	ARVC002S7	Gothic in England: Architecture, Liturgy and Identity 1170-1360	30	Optional	T1 or T2
7	ARVC222S7	Photography in the Archives: Issues for Nineteenth-Century Photography	30	Optional	T1 or T2
7	ARVC114S7	Space and Politics in Modernity	30	Optional	T1 or T2
7	ARVC252S7	The Country House Experience	30	Optional	T1 or T2
7	ARVC276S7	Micromuseums	30	Optional	T1 or T2

Core: *Module must be taken and passed by student*
Compulsory: *Module must be taken but can be considered for compensated credit (see CAS regulations paragraph 24)*
Option: *Student can choose to take this module*

PG Diploma History of Art with Collections Management - Students who successfully complete the following modules can exit with PG Diploma History of Art with Collections Management:
• Frameworks: Histories and Theories of Art, Architecture, Photography (ARVC247S7)
• Collections Management (ARVC272S7)
• 1 Level 7 Option Module
 • Work Placement (ARVC054S7) Or Research Exercise (ARVC282S7)

PG Cert History of Art with Collections Management - Students who successfully complete the following modules can exit with PG Certificate History of Art with Curating
• Frameworks: Histories and Theories of Art, Architecture, Photography (ARVC247S7)
• Collections Management (ARVC272S7)

How you will learn

Your learning and our teaching are organised to help you meet the learning outcomes of the course indicated below. As a student, we expect you to be an active learner and to take responsibility for your learning, engaging with all of the material and sessions arranged for you.

The course is divided into modules. You will find information on the virtual learning site (Moodle, see Academic Support below) about each of your modules, what to expect, the work you need to prepare, links to reading lists, information about how and when you will be assessed.

Your learning for this course will be organised around the activities outlined below.

The majority of our sessions are seminar-based, which means you are expected to come having done the reading or other preparation required, which is also essential to engage with and progress through the course. The seminar component of each session enables you to explore ideas and methods, to discuss both the required reading and the results of your personal research and study, and to refine your own skills of argument, communication and presentation. Seminars may include structured or open debate, a close analysis of textual or visual material, small group discussions and task-based work. Classroom based work is supported and enhanced by visits to archives, museums and galleries.

The Collections Management module is taught over one intensive week, morning in class and afternoon on visits, field trips and workshops. You will meet collections managers in London's thriving museum, galleries and archives sector, and engage in hands-on activities including documentation, cataloguing and issuing loan requests. You are expected to have done all the preparatory reading and some of the set work on a Collections Management Project in advance.

As the MA progresses you are expected to become increasingly an independent researcher. This is reflected in the fact that both the research exercise and dissertation are largely self-defined rubrics with guidance from academic members of staff.

Further support and expansion of your areas of interest comes in the form of opportunities to present and discuss with your lecturer and peer-group ideas and plans for essays, the research exercise (or the work placement essay) and the dissertation. Work on the dissertation is further enhanced by work-in-progress seminars in the summer term.

Research seminars, symposia and lectures delivered by relevant guest speakers provide students with an opportunity to engage with current developments and debates in the field.

How we will assess you

The course will use a variety of assessment methods. Assessment is used to enhance your learning rather than simply to test it. For most of the modules associated with this course, your assessment will be through essays which will develop in length and expected complexity as you progress through your studies. The Curating module is assessed via an Collection Management Project.

Learning outcomes (what you can expect to achieve)

'Learning outcomes' indicate what you should be able to know or do at the end of your course. Providing them helps you to understand what your teachers will expect and also the learning requirements upon which you will be assessed.

At the end of this course, you should be able to:

Subject Specific
- Demonstrate you have developed postgraduate level acuity in observing visual culture
- Demonstrate you have developed an enhanced understanding of this visual culture within the social and cultural context of its production
- Engage constructively in current debates concerning the discipline and its changing nature.
- Demonstrate you have a solid grasp of key issues in collections management
- Demonstrate you have foundational skills in collections management
- Demonstrate you have insight into the different working practices of various museums and galleries
- Skills in research, writing, and documentation that are specifically geared to a museums or galleries context

Intellectual
- Research, select and acquire relevant visual and textual material and evidence and to analyse, present and interpret this as appropriate within the context of the course
- Research, select and develop appropriate historical and theoretical methodological frameworks and approaches
- Understand advanced abstract material and demonstrate critical awareness and distance

Practical
- Undertake short and extended-length academic writing
- Communicate ideas effectively, both in writing and verbally

Careers and further study

You will find Birkbeck's Art History graduates in the following kinds of roles:

- Work in art galleries, museums, archives and arts organizations.
- Work in organizations that offer financial, legal, logistic, catering, travel or public relations services to the art world.
- Public relations sector.
- Teaching art and art history in school, colleges, further or higher education.
- Running their own practice or businesses in any of the above.

Birkbeck's Art History graduates will complete with a set of valuable attributes, for example:

- The ability to work as part of a team
- High-level oral and written communication skills in English
- Research skills
- Skills in evaluating and assessing types of information
- The ability to present yourself and an argument

Birkbeck offers a range of careers support to its students. You can find out more on the careers pages of our website.

Academic regulations and course management

Birkbeck's academic regulations are contained in its Common Award Scheme Regulations and Policies published by year of application on the Birkbeck website.

You will have access to a course handbook on Moodle and this will outline how your course is managed, including who to contact if you have any questions about your module or course.

Support for your study

Your learning at Birkbeck is supported by your teaching team and other resources and people in the College there to help you with your study. Birkbeck uses a virtual learning environment called Moodle and each course has a dedicated Moodle page and there are further Moodle sites for each of your modules. This will include your course handbook.

Birkbeck will introduce you to the Library and IT support, how to access materials online, including using Moodle, and provide you with an orientation which includes an online Moodle module to guide you through all of the support available. You will also be allocated a personal tutor and provided with information about learning support offered within your School and by the College.

You will be also assigned a personal tutor you can contact to discuss your general progress on the course, or to seek help accessing other forms of support.

Please check our website for more information about student support services. This covers the whole of your time as a student with us including learning support and support for your wellbeing.

Quality and standards at Birkbeck

Birkbeck's courses are subject to our quality assurance procedures. This means that new courses must follow our design principles and meet the requirements of our academic regulations. Each new course or module is subject to a course approval process where the proposal is scrutinised by subject specialists, quality professionals and external representatives to ensure that it will offer an excellent student experience and meet the expectation of regulatory and other professional bodies.

You will be invited to participate in an online survey for each module you take. We take these surveys seriously and they are considered by the course team to develop both modules and the overall courses. Please take the time to complete any surveys you are sent as a student.

We conduct an annual process of reviewing our portfolio of courses which analyses student achievement, equality data and includes an action plan for each department to identify ongoing enhancements to our education, including changes made as a result of student feedback.

Our periodic review process is a regular check (usually every four years) on the courses by department with a specialist team including students.

Each course will have an external examiner associated with it who produces an annual report and any recommendations. Students can read the most recent external examiner reports on the course Moodle pages. Our courses are all subject to Birkbeck Baseline Standards for our Moodle module information. This supports the accessibility of our education including expectations of what information is provided online for students.