

Programme Specifications

MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY IN THE HISTORY OF ART AND ARCHITECTURE

1	Awarding body	University of Cambridge
2	Teaching institution	Faculty of Architecture and History of Art
3	Accreditation details	None
4	Name of final award	Master of Philosophy
5	Programme title	History of Art and Architecture
6	JACS code(s)	V350
7	Relevant QAA benchmark statement(s)	History of Art, Architecture and Design
8	Qualifications framework level	7 (Masters)
9	Date specification was produced/ last revised	June 2014
10	Date specification was last reviewed	July 2015

Entry Requirements

Typical offer: First or high 2.i degree or equivalent (average of 67% minimum, or GPA 3.75) in History of Art or a closely related subject. Definition of a closely related subject will be judged on an individual basis, since it will depend on the area and type of art history that the candidate proposes to research. This is a research degree with taught methodological elements, not a conversion course for students whose first degree lies in another subject. All admissions are scrutinized and authorized in the first instance by a University Teaching Officer (UTO's), i.e. University Professors, Readers and Lecturers.

Teaching Provision and Facilities

In addition to supervision of assessed coursework (see 'Teaching' below) a wide variety of members of the University, including graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, Research Fellows and staff of the Fitzwilliam Museum and Kettle's Yard, and others without formal university affiliation, teach in supervisions and assist with the programme.

The Department forms part of the Faculty of Architecture and History of Art, situated at nos. 1-5 Scroope Terrace, in Trumpington Street, Cambridge, where it has a lecture room and a seminar room. There is a graduate centre opposite at 4A Trumpington Street, with a seminar room. The Faculty has a well-stocked library with about 35,000 volumes, including many rare books.

Educational aims of the programme

The course aims:

- i) to provide teaching and learning to post-graduate students in the History of Art and Architecture in a range of fields linked to the research interests of the staff;
- ii) to provide high-calibre students with training in relevant research skills and to offer excellent specialist supervision of their individual research in these fields;

- iii) to provide a stimulating environment in which students can reach their full intellectual potential;
- iv) to help students develop a wide range of intellectual abilities and skills which will enable them to make a significant contribution in their chosen careers and walks of life, including academic teaching and research.

On completion of the MPhil, students should have

- 1 made the transition in learning style and pace from undergraduate to postgraduate level;
- 2 acquired the necessary research skills in the use of bibliographical, archival and museum resources as relevant to their field of study;
- 3 gained practice in the use of the languages and archival skills relevant to their chosen research area;
- 4 gained confidence in the choice and use of different methodological approaches and theoretical perspectives;
- 5 refined their critical skills in the examination, recording and analysis of works of art and/or architecture, especially at first-hand (through travel and fieldwork if appropriate);
- 6 gained experience in oral and written presentation, and in a sustained piece of research in the form of a dissertation of not more than 15,000 words;
- 7 acquired the proficiency needed to present in writing a coherent and sustained piece of academic research.

Teaching

The teaching timetable is set out in an annual MPhil coursebook.

Central to teaching provision is the working relationship between student and supervisor: the MPhil is research-led, the assessed work being closely supervised throughout the year. The supervisors are drawn from the core teaching staff of 7 University Teaching Officers (UTO's), i.e. University Professors, Readers and Lecturers.

Teaching is also delivered through a series of seminars and reading groups held in the Department in the Michaelmas and Lent Terms, focusing on salient critical and theoretical issues in the discipline. Some seminars are plenary and are intended for all students in the MPhil programme. Others are reading groups divided approximately into Medieval/Early Modern and Modern strands, suited to the needs of students actually on the course. A student is welcome to attend any reading group, but the expectation is that they will attend at least one group in those weeks when such groups are convened. Students are also expected to deliver presentations in class, on their work in progress.

With the consent of their supervisor and of the host Faculty, students may audit graduate classes in another Faculty, if this is relevant to the individual candidate's research interests. These classes may not be substituted for either the required seminars in the Department of the History of Art.

Throughout the taught course, students are encouraged to undertake independent reading and study, in order to consolidate what is under discussion in the seminars. In addition they attend the Department's weekly public Graduate Research Seminar organised by the graduate students, and may attend other lectures and seminars in the Department and elsewhere in the University.

Students are given regular individual research supervision by their supervisor throughout the year. They should expect to meet their supervisor for 45-60 minutes at least once every two weeks in the Michaelmas and Lent Terms.

Assessment

Assessment is based on :-

- two essays, each of not more than 6000 words including footnotes, one to be submitted in the Michaelmas Term and one in the Lent Term;
- a dissertation of not more than 15,000 words submitted by a date in late May set annually;
- a viva voce examination on the dissertation, if required by the examiners, which would be held in June

An overall mark of 70% or above is required in the MPhil by those wishing to proceed to the PhD degree.

Skills

On completion of the course, the University expects students to have acquired the following skills.

- i) Intellectual skills: intellectual mastery of the chosen research field; the ability to carry out research independently; knowledge of the primary and secondary sources and their relative status and value; the ability to make measured critical judgements; the ability to organise a mass of material in the form of a coherent argument; the ability to write lucidly and elegantly.
- ii) Practical Skills: use of libraries, archives and museums and their catalogues; use of on-line research tools; working knowledge of the necessary languages; palaeography (if needed); the planning and carrying out of independent fieldwork; photographic and survey techniques (if needed); the ability to assess the condition of a work of art or a building (if needed).
- iii) Transferable skills: the ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing; to analyse and respond critically to visual images; to work to deadlines and under pressure; to manage time; to set priorities; to formulate an argument; to work independently and with initiative; IT skills (use of databases, on-line bibliographies, presentation software such as PowerPoint, scanning & etc); critical analysis; to present papers in a seminar context; linguistic skills, if appropriate; skills of analysis and interpretation; self-discipline, self-direction; and respect for the views of others.

Career Destinations

The MPhil is intended both as an independent qualification, and to prepare students for entry into a PhD programme. Its satisfactory completion (at a minimum overall mark of 70%) is a condition of entry into the Department's PhD degree for those without previous Masters-level qualifications in a relevant field. Students intending to progress to the PhD must establish in

good time that a supervisor is able to admit them. Under Faculty policy, only UTO staff may supervise PhD dissertations.

Those who do not wish to continue to further research may embark on teaching in a school or further education college, or sometimes at university level. Other subject-related careers include arts journalism and broadcasting, museum and gallery curatorship, tourism, and heritage management and conservation. The transferable skills are useful preparation for a wide variety of other professions such as the civil service, personnel work, media, business and management.

Quality Management

The Faculty Board is responsible for all teaching in the Department. The quality of the course is maintained by:

- i) scrutiny of the reports of the External Examiner by the Faculty and by the General Board's Education Section. Suggestions by them for improvement are acted on where necessary;
- ii) student logbooks recording progress and giving details of meetings with supervisors;
- iii) student feedback through questionnaires;
- iv) student participation in the Staff-Student Committee and the Faculty Board;
- v) appraisal and evaluation of staff, and the provision of staff development programmes; and
- vi) the General Board's programme for reviewing Faculties and Departments every six years.

NEEDS UPDATING Indicators of Quality

(1998) QAA score: 22

(2014) Cambridge University Teaching and Learning Review:
Standards of courses excellent

(2014) Faculty of Architecture and History of Art REF score:
50% 4*, 38% 3*, 9% 2*, 3% 1*, 0% U

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this programme specification. At the time of publication, the programme specification has been approved by the relevant Faculty Board (or equivalent). Programme specifications are reviewed annually, however, during the course of the academical year, any approved changes to the programme will be communicated to enrolled students through email notification or publication in the Reporter. The relevant faculty or department will endeavour to update the programme specification accordingly, and prior to the start of the next academical year.

Further information about specifications and an archive of programme specifications for all awards of the University is available online at: www.admin.cam.ac.uk/univ/camdata/archive.html