

# BA (HONS) FINE ART

## Institute of Education, Arts & Society

Academic Level:	6	Credits:	360
UCAS Code:	W100		
Awarding Body:	University of Cumbria		
Delivery Site:	Brampton Road campus, Carlisle		
Programme Length:	Standard full time registration period is 3 years with a maximum registration period of 7 years		
Mode of Delivery:	Face-to-Face		
Pattern of Delivery:	Full time		
	Total weeks of study:	24 weeks	
	Delivery pattern:	2 x 12-week semesters	
	Standard semester dates:	Yes	
Placement:	N/A		
PSRB:	N/A		
	Date of accreditation:	Accreditation period:	
Programme Webpage:	<a href="https://www.cumbria.ac.uk/study/courses/undergraduate/fine-art/">https://www.cumbria.ac.uk/study/courses/undergraduate/fine-art/</a>		

### Entry Criteria

The University's standard criteria for admissions apply. Please refer to the [Applicant Information](#) pages of the University website for more information. For [APL](#), please refer to the University website.

The Fine Art programme has Articulation Agreements with The Reykjavik School of Visual Arts in Iceland and Edinburgh College, Scotland. These agreements are underpinned by specific APL conditions as related to an applicant's potential entry into Level 6 of the programme.

Detailed criteria for admission to this programme can be found on the programme webpage.

## PROGRAMME AIMS AND OUTCOMES

### Programme Aims

By the end of this programme learners will be able to:

1. Function as a creative individual with the capacity for independent judgement, initiative, innovation, flexibility, ambition and with a responsible awareness of the social, cultural and ethical contributions of your work.
2. Apply confident, imaginative and creative approaches to problem solving through enquiry, research, understanding, and the use of critical judgement.
3. Make appropriate use of developing technologies and develop your digital capabilities to communicate effectively as a socially responsible global citizen.
4. Work across disciplines, collaboratively and to be open to new ideas, responsive to change and evolve in relation to the developments in fine art practice.
5. Develop appropriate self-reflective approaches to practice, production, research, analysis and presentation.
6. Develop the skills, knowledge and personal/professional confidence that will enable you to identify, generate and access opportunities in the art world, creative industries or in continuing education.
7. Apply, through increased opportunities for student-centred learning, qualities of personal initiative, self-motivation, reflection, management and self-discipline.

### Programme Outcomes – Knowledge and Understanding

The programme provides opportunities for you to develop and demonstrate the following:

**After 120 credits of study (CertHE) you will be able to demonstrate:**

- K1.** knowledge of the range of Fine Art media, methods and approaches to practice.
- K2.** an awareness of the relationship between theory and practice, as it relates to your practice.
- K3.** an understanding of how art practice is mutable and translatable, and the ways in which it relates to broader society.

**After 240 credits of study (DipHE) you will be able to demonstrate:**

- K4.** an assured command of Fine Art media and the way they may be utilised towards a defined aim.
- K5.** knowledge and understanding of conceptual, historical and theoretical contexts, and how these may be applied to inform your practice and viewer engagement.
- K6.** an understanding of the challenges of presentation and exhibition as a practitioner, individually and within a group setting.

**After 360 credits of study (BA Hons) you will be able to demonstrate:**

- K7.** the confidence, self-awareness and expertise to allow for independent production of a substantial, reflective and critically conscious body of work.
- K8.** a critical synthesis and the application of a theoretical and contextual understanding appropriate to a mature and articulate practice.

**K9.** the capacity to apply principles of professional practice including self-promotion, transferable skills, career planning and working with others towards a common goal.

### **Programme Outcomes – Skills and other Attributes**

The programme provides opportunities for you to develop and demonstrate the following:

**After 120 credits of study (CertHE) you will be able to demonstrate:**

- S1.** competence in the selection and application of a range of media, towards achieving prescribed goal/s.
- S2.** effective research, evaluative and reflective skills in relation to your own work and Fine Art assessment procedures.
- S3.** the ability to articulate the concerns of your art practice, verbally, visually and in written form.

**After 240 credits of study (DipHE) you will be able to demonstrate:**

- S4.** the ability to identify and understand the approaches of artists, to interpret, apply and test methodologies as a means of developing your practice.
- S5.** the acquisition, development and use of specialist languages, appropriate to your research territory and practice.
- S6.** how your practice is situated in a contemporary Fine Art context.

**After 360 credits of study (BA Hons) you will be able to demonstrate:**

- S7.** a sophisticated understanding of Fine Art practice, its making, installation, curation and the artist/artwork/audience relationship.
- S8.** The ability to apply theory to making, by means of synthesis of critical, analytical and practical ideas.
- S9.** the effectiveness of your practice in a contemporary Fine Art context by the ability to mobilise subject-specific, cognitive and transferable skills and problem-solving strategies to a range of appropriate professional and entrepreneurial contexts.

## PROGRAMME FEATURES

### Programme Overview

The Fine Art Programme at the University of Cumbria Institute of Education, Arts & Society is an artist-taught, socially purposive course whose aim is to create artists capable of reenergising and enriching our communities. Through a theory-in-practice method the programme provides a comprehensive practical training in 2D/3D hand skills, digital skills and the ability to relate art-making to its social, cultural, economic and political contexts.

#### Who We Are

Our distinctive programme offers a practice-led, student-centred approach to the study of Fine Art. Firstly, our focus is on the student's acquisition of the fundamental skills of drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, installation, lens-based media and digital technologies. This provides a basis from which students can fabricate artworks whilst developing their critical, contextual and research skills. Grounded in an understanding of the self as a historical subject, the programme is based on knowing oneself as a product of one's particular moment in time.

As such, our curriculum enables you to become an expert practitioner and critical thinker. Informed by the clear integration of practice and method, the course provides you with the skills, knowledge and cultural capital relevant to a range of professional contexts.

#### Vibrant Curriculum

Underpinned by a sensitive exploration of our lived histories, the practical elements of the course are supported by a curriculum comprising historical, critical, theoretical and professional practice modules. As such, the programme enables you to explore a range of perspectives, received wisdoms and common values in order to create cultural artefacts and narratives relevant to today's society. This socially engaged approach is supported by a comprehensive range of tutor-led workshops, group tutorials, discussions, one-to-one conversations and lectures, along with detailed and timely feedback at assessment. In addition, the course provides you with key business and entrepreneurial skills and an understanding of the creative economy. In short, the course will provide you with the practical and critical skills necessary to be a confident independent practitioner.

Year 1: Foundations and Exploration:

**2D and 3D Modules:** You will begin your journey by delving into the fundamental principles of two-dimensional and three-dimensional art-making techniques. Through hands-on exploration of various mediums and processes, you will develop a strong foundation in artistic practice.

**Critical Contexts:** This module introduces you to key theoretical frameworks and critical debates in contemporary art, providing context and insight into the broader cultural, social, and historical factors that shape artistic expression.

**Collaborative Practice:** You will engage in collaborative projects that foster teamwork, communication, and interdisciplinary collaboration. By working alongside your peers, you will gain valuable insights into diverse artistic perspectives and approaches.

Year 2: Specialisation and Expansion:

**XD (Time-Based Media) Module:** Year two expands your horizons by introducing you to cross-disciplinary approaches, particularly in time-based media. Through exploration of video, performance, installation, and other time-based mediums, you will experiment with new forms of artistic expression.

**Historical and Contextual Studies:** This module provides you with a comprehensive understanding of the historical, cultural, and theoretical frameworks that inform artistic practice. Through lectures, seminars, and independent study, you will explore key movements, artists, and critical debates in art history, contextualising your own artistic practice within broader cultural and historical contexts.

**Critical Debates:** This module delves deeper into critical theory and contemporary debates within the art world, challenging you to think critically and analytically about art's role in society and culture.

**Transcription:** You will learn to translate and interpret ideas, images, and concepts across different mediums and formats, honing their skills in visual communication and artistic interpretation.

**Year 3: Professionalisation and Specialisation:**

**Professional Practice:** Year three focuses on preparing you for the professional art world, with an emphasis on portfolio development, exhibition planning, and self-promotion. You will learn practical skills and strategies for navigating the art world and establishing yourselves as professional artists.

**Independent Practice:** This module allows you to pursue your own artistic projects and interests under the guidance of the programme team, fostering autonomy, creativity, and self-direction in your artistic practice.

**Independent Research Paper:** In your final year, you will undertake an independent research project culminating in a dissertation. This allows you to explore a topic of personal interest in depth, demonstrating your ability to conduct rigorous research and engage critically with theoretical concepts.

**Unique Selling Points (USPs):**

**Practising Artist Faculty:** All staff members are practicing artists educated to MA or PhD level, bringing a wealth of professional experience and expertise to the program.

**Close Relationships with Arts Organizations:** The program has close relationships with regional arts organizations and national and international arts institutes, providing students with opportunities for networking, collaboration, and exposure to diverse artistic perspectives.

**Enriched Student Experience:** The program welcomes students from national and international arts institutes at Level 5 and 6, enriching the student experience through cultural exchange, collaboration, and exposure to diverse artistic practices and traditions.

### **Specialist Art Studios, Workshops and Resource Areas**

Our dedicated studios and workshops enable you to be ambitious and innovative in your practice.

Our open access workshops and resource areas are staffed by highly skilled technicians so you can master a full range of art disciplines and develop an ambitious and adaptable art practice.

- Our Sculpture Workshop provides the opportunity to fabricate works in wood, metal and plastics using a range of machinery and technical processes.

- Our Print Studio supports a range of specialist techniques such as mono and relief printing, collagraph, photoetching, screen printing, lithography, aquatint, and traditional etching.
- Our bespoke Life Room is dedicated to mastering the fundamentals of figure-drawing.
- Our Photographic department provides professional standard cameras and comprehensive processing facilities for both digital and analogue approaches.
- Our MacLab provides access to Macs and related current, industry standard software such as Adobe Suite.
- Our Audio and Visual Workshop enables students to create moving image works and access recording studios and post-production facilities.
- Our Ceramic Studio enables students to cast, throw, glaze and fire ceramic objects.
- We also offer easy access to additional equipment and facilities, such as 3D Printers, laser cutting, vacuum forming and drone-mounted cameras.

### **Small Class Sizes & Mixed Studios**

Small class sizes form the core of our programme and ensures tutorial support is tailored to the needs of each individual student. These tutorials provide opportunities for formal and informal technical demonstrations and critical guidance; and our mixed studios, in which students from all three-year groups work alongside one another, facilitate open discussions within a close-knit and supportive community.

### **The Creative Industries Inform your learning**

The Fine Art Programme considers it essential to maintain an awareness of contemporary developments within the broader subject area, and to this end, in addition to our expert artist-lecturers, the course invites a wide-range of guest lecturers, including contemporary artists, arts professionals and local arts organisations.

Overall, the BA (Hons) Fine Art course at University of Cumbria offers a dynamic and enriching educational experience that prepares students to thrive as contemporary artists in a rapidly evolving global art landscape.

## **Learning and Teaching**

Here's what you can expect from our comprehensive learning, teaching, and assessment strategy:

### **Introduction to Fine Art**

We begin with a thorough overview of art history and contemporary practices. You'll explore key art movements, influential artists, and significant works. This foundational knowledge will help you, and your fellow students, to contextualise your own artistic practice within a broader historical and cultural framework.

### **Studio Practice**

A key part of your learning will be hands-on studio practice in various mediums such as drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, and digital art. This practical approach allows you to develop essential technical skills and express your creativity, providing a solid foundation in fine art practices.

### **Critical and Contextual Studies**

You'll engage in critical and contextual studies, learning to analyse and critique artworks while understanding the cultural, social, and theoretical contexts of art production. This will hone your analytical and research skills, which are crucial for academic success.

#### Research Skills

Our programme places a strong emphasis on research skills. You'll learn how to find and evaluate academic sources, write scholarly papers, and cite sources correctly.

#### Personal Development

Throughout the programme, you'll participate in workshops focused on time management, project planning, presentation skills, and self-promotion. These activities are designed to support your overall personal and professional growth.

#### Support Services

You'll have access to a range of support services, including academic advisors, financial advice, disability support, study support, and counselling. These services are here to help you navigate any challenges you might face during your transition to higher education.

#### Diversity and Inclusion

Our inclusive curriculum reflects a variety of artistic perspectives and cultural backgrounds. This creates a welcoming environment for all students, regardless of nationality or background.

#### Progressive Development of Research Skills

##### Early Stages (L4)

You'll start by learning foundational research methods, such as using library databases and academic journals.

##### Middle Stages (L5)

As you progress, you'll engage in more advanced research practices, including critical analysis of art theory and historical contexts relevant to your practice.

##### Later Stages (L5 & L6)

You'll take dedicated modules focused on historical and contextual analysis, research methodologies, and essay writing. The Critical Debates module will emphasise researching and presenting coherent arguments.

#### Independent Research and Final Project

##### Independent Practical Research

You'll undertake practical research projects, developing your ability to formulate research questions, gather information, and critically evaluate sources.

##### Dissertation/Final Project

By the time you reach your final project, you'll be equipped with comprehensive research skills, enabling you to conduct in-depth and meaningful investigations within your chosen artistic field.

We look forward to supporting you on your journey through the BA (Hons) Fine Art programme and helping you develop as an artist and scholar.

#### Teaching

Teaching takes place via specialist workshops, lectures, one-to-one tutorials, group tutorials, and seminars supported by Fine Art lecturers and technical staff.

At Level 4 you typically have around 12 contact hours per week, typically consisting of:

- 4 hours of lectures
- 2 hours of seminars
- 6 hours of practical workshops
- 0.25 hour(s) of personal tutoring

At Level 5 you typically have around 9 contact hours per week, typically consisting of:

- 3 hours of lectures
- 2 hours of seminars
- 4 hours of practical workshops
- 0.25 hour(s) of personal tutoring

At Level 6 you typically have around 9 contact hours per week, typically consisting of:

- 2 hours of lectures
- 3 hours of supervised studio time
- 4 hours of practical workshops
- 0.25 hour(s) of personal tutoring

### **Independent Learning**

When not attending scheduled learning activities you will be expected to continue learning independently through self-study.

### **Teaching Staff**

The academic team are practising artists with over 90 years of collective experience making and exhibiting art, whilst our technical staff have expertise in a broad range of Art & Design processes.

## **Assessment**

### **Formative assessments**

At the mid-point of each semester, we will evaluate your work via interim studio review, group crit, oral presentation and drafts of critical writing.

### **Summative assessments**

Year 1:

2D and 3D Modules: Assessment may include portfolio submissions showcasing your artwork, reflective journals documenting the creative process, and critiques where you will present and discuss your work with peers and lecturers.

Critical Contexts: Assessment may involve essays or presentations exploring key concepts and theories in art history and critical theory, as well as participation in seminar discussions.

Collaborative Practice: Assessment may include group projects or presentations, individual reflections on collaboration experiences, and peer evaluations.

Year 2:



XD (Time-Based Media) Module: Assessment may include the creation of time-based artworks such as videos or performances, written reflections on experimental processes, and presentations showcasing conceptual development.

Historical and Contextual Studies: Assessment may involve critical analysis and presentation of key movements or artists within a chosen time frame, and a critical essay exploring key concepts and theories within contemporary fine art.

Critical Debates: Assessment may involve portfolio of research and planning to inform debate participation or critical analyses of contemporary art debates, as well as participation in group discussions and debates.

Transcription: Assessment may include the creation of artworks inspired by existing works or concepts, along with written reflections on the process of translation and interpretation.

Year 3:

Professional Practice: Assessment may include the development of a professional portfolio showcasing your artwork, written reflections on career goals and strategies, and presentations on exhibition planning or self-promotion.

Independent Practice: Assessment may involve the creation of a body of independent artwork, accompanied by artist statements or project proposals, as well as peer critiques and self-assessments and presentations on exhibition planning.

Independent Research Paper (Dissertation): Assessment may include the submission of a research paper exploring a specific topic in depth, along with a literature review, methodology section, and critical analysis of findings.

Overall, assessment methods across the BA (Hons) Fine Art program are designed to evaluate your artistic skills, critical thinking abilities, theoretical knowledge, and professional readiness, while also providing opportunities for self-reflection, peer feedback, and creative expression.

### **Feedback**

Feedback is provided within 20 working-days in either written or oral form.

## **Graduate Prospects**

As a graduate of Fine Art from the University of Cumbria Institute of the Arts you will hold a holistic view, not only of the functions of art and its potential to affect change in the world, but also of your own interests in relation to your own artistic practice. As a consequence, as a successful graduate you will have gained skills far beyond those more conventionally associated with an art programme, including crucial communication, analytical and critical skills, conceptual learning and lateral thinking skills. A degree in Fine Art becomes a passport to enter an extensive range of careers throughout the creative industries.

### **Transferable Skills**

Our Fine Art Programme provides you with the opportunity to gain a broad range of transferable skills and an entrepreneurial perspective that suits you to a wide range of career options, enabling

you to make the most of opportunities as they arise - and to create others. These transferable skills include:

- Working independently/Working with others
- Verbal and written communication
- Time management
- Presentational skills
- Editing and production skills
- Self-evaluation
- Technical, research, critical and analytical skills
- Problem solving

### **Progression Routes**

Upon successfully completing the BA (Hons) Fine Art program, you will possess the skills needed to pursue an MA and subsequently a PhD.

Recent graduates from our Fine Art Programme have undertaken postgraduate programmes at UK institutions such as Goldsmiths College, London; Central St Martin's School of Art, London; University of Northumbria, Newcastle University, Hull University, Winchester School of Art (Barcelona), Glasgow School of Art, Royal College of Art London and University of Cumbria Institute of the Arts. Other recent graduates have followed PGCE programmes at the University of Cumbria and nationally.

### **Examples of Fine Art Graduate Achievements**

Many fine art graduates are self-employed artists and creative practitioners who have cut their teeth as artist-organisers and curators here in Carlisle, with the support of the course. Recent artist-run spaces, studios & collectives originating with our students include The Pharmacy, The Fisher Street Collective, Gallery Number 3 and The Galley (all Carlisle). Many graduates continue to have considerable success within the art world as exhibitors and national prize winners e.g. at Glasgow International, Venice Biennale, BP National Portrait Awards, Berlin Film Festival, Liverpool Biennale, LUX Scotland and Title Art Prize. Other occupations taken up graduates include Exhibitions Organiser for the United Nations, Geneva, Gallery Administration at Tate Britain, London and The Scottish National Gallery, Edinburgh, Curator for the Chinese Art Centre, Manchester; intern at Aperture in New York City, British Council cultural links with China, writer for Glasgow School of Art Exhibitions Department and Garden Designer for the World Peace Temple, Manjushri. Our graduates have been Artists in Residence at Christ Hospital School, at Base Camp, Everest, at Grizedale Arts and with UZ Arts, Sura Medura, Sri Lanka.

### **Your Employability Skills**

By studying Fine Art, you will not only be gaining extensive theoretical knowledge of your chosen topic of study, but you will also be developing a range of relevant skills which you can use to gain work during and after your study. Completion of our programme will contribute to your professional development, career planning and progression. These skills include:

- A broad range of practical, analytic, academic, and communication skills to enable the articulation of identifiable concerns within the production and study of art.

- A development of an awareness of practical methods, their interaction and potential across a range of specialist resources, and the safe, ethical & confident handling of technical processes.
- A critical approach to the production of and debate within contemporary fine art practices, models of approach, objects and contexts.
- analytical and critical skills for the study and practice of fine art activities as a basis for undergraduate, and post-graduate research.
- theoretical underpinning of Fine Art practice as a cultural, intellectual, and scholarly activity.
- A professional approach to safe working practices
- an ethical framework for practice
- the ability to work independently and to confidently and critically question received wisdom
- a resilient and thoughtful approach to working with others, as a leader and a contributor, with a socially aware outlook and integrity of approach.
- Independent and innovative working practices, underpinned by effective self-management skills.

## MODULES

Year 1			
Code	Title	Credits	Status
FINE4100	2D	40	Compulsory
FINE4200	3D	40	Compulsory
UCIA4030	Cultural Contexts	20	Compulsory
UCIA4020	Collaborative Practice	20	Compulsory
Students exiting at this point with 120 credits would receive a CertHE in Fine Art			

Year 2			
Code	Title	Credits	Status
FINE5150	XD	40	Compulsory
FINE5160	Historical and Contextual Studies	20	Compulsory
FINE5170	Transcription	40	Compulsory
FINE5180	Critical Debates	20	Compulsory
Students exiting at this point with 240 credits would receive a DipHE in Fine Art			

Year 3			
Code	Title	Credits	Status
FINE6090	Independent Practice 1	40	Compulsory
ARTD6000	Independent Research Paper	20	Compulsory
FINE6100	Independent Practice 2	40	Compulsory
FINE6080	Professional Practice	20	Compulsory
Students exiting at this point with 300 credits would receive a BA Fine Art degree			
Students exiting at this point with 360 credits would receive a BA Hons Fine Art degree			

Key to Module Statuses	
Compulsory modules	Must be taken although it may possible to compensate as a marginal fail (within the limits set out in the Academic Regulations and provided that all core or pass/fail elements of module assessment have been passed).

Timetables
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Timetables are normally available *in August each year*. Please note that while we make every effort to ensure timetables are as student friendly as possible, scheduled learning can take place on any day of the week.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Student Support

The [Student Enquiry Point](#) is a simple way to contact Student Services. Using the Student Enquiry Point tile on the Student Hub you can submit an enquiry to any of the Student Services teams, which includes:

- [Careers and Employability](#)
- [Chaplaincy](#) for faith and spiritual wellbeing
- [Mental Health and Wellbeing](#)
- [Digital Skills](#)
- [Disability and Specific Learning Difficulty \(SpLD\)](#)
- [International Student Support](#)
- [Library](#)
- [Money Matters](#)
- [Safeguarding](#)
- [Skills@Cumbria](#)
- [Sports and Fitness Facilities](#)
- [University Student Accommodation](#)

As a student at the University of Cumbria you automatically become a member of the Students' Union. The Students' Union represents the views and interests of students within the University.

The Students' Union is led by a group of Student Representatives who are elected by students in annual elections. They also support approximately 400 Student Academic Reps within each cohort across the entire University. The Students' Union represent the views of their cohort and work with academic staff to continuously develop and improve the experience for all University of Cumbria students. You can find out more about who represents you at [www.ucsu.me](http://www.ucsu.me).

You can email at any time on [studentvoice@cumbria.ac.uk](mailto:studentvoice@cumbria.ac.uk).

### Course Costs

#### Tuition Fees

Course fees can be found at <https://www.cumbria.ac.uk/study/courses/undergraduate/fine-art/>

The following course-related costs are included in the fees:

- Use of equipment, technical resources and course trips.

#### Additional Costs

The following course-related costs are not included in the fees:

- Additional course-related costs include materials, books and additional field trips amounting to approximately £200 per year.

## Exceptions to the Academic Regulations

This programme operates in accordance with the University's Academic Regulations and Academic Procedures and Processes.

## External and Internal Benchmarks

QAA Subject Benchmark Statement: Fine Art (2019).

<https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/>

<http://www.arts.wales/>

<https://visualartists.ie/>

<http://www.creativescotland.com/>

<https://www.a-n.co.uk/news/>

<https://www.artquest.org.uk/>

<https://www.artsprofessional.co.uk/>

Other internal reference points may include:

- [UoC Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy](#)
- UoC Institutional Business Plans
- [UoC Academic Regulations and Academic Procedures and Processes](#)
  - UoC Collaborative Provision Strategy

## Disclaimer

This programme has been approved (validated) by the University of Cumbria as suitable for a range of delivery modes, delivery patterns, and delivery sites. This level of potential flexibility does not reflect a commitment on behalf of the University to offer the programme by all modes/patterns and at all locations in every academic cycle. The details of the programme offered for a particular intake year will be as detailed on the programme webpage:

<https://www.cumbria.ac.uk/study/courses/undergraduate/fine-art/>