

Programme Specification

BA Art and Philosophy

For students entering Part 1 in September 2025

UCAS Code: VW51

UFFAXPP

This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	4 years
Accreditation	N/A
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	Art & Design; Philosophy

Programme information and content

The BA Art & Philosophy is a unique four-year programme that brings together creative practice in Art with academic knowledge of Philosophy, helping you to become a skilful, informed, and thoughtful creator and scholar. Your learning on this programme supports sustained experimentation and creative enquiry in practical studio modules alongside complementary studies to introduce, develop and master skills and knowledge of art and philosophy.

In Art, the programme aims to provide you with the tools to develop, make and present art. It fosters investigative, critically reflective and independent learning through the study, discussion and practice of contemporary art and its global histories. You will be guided by the diversity of staff expertise in intellectual and technical production to find your own forms and expressions, and to help you to become a skilled and confident creative practitioner.

In Philosophy, we provide a firm foundation for the start of your learning journey, helping you to acquire the skills needed for philosophical enquiry. As you progress through your studies, we provide inclusive learning opportunities helping you to engage with a diverse range of philosophical traditions. We encourage you to shape your programme to your interests and strengths, and to acquire, develop and master skills such as critical thinking, communication, presentation, and problem-solving.

The programme plays a vital role in connecting how people understand and shape the world, and so sustainability, accessibility and social engagement are thoroughly embedded into your studies. You will explore how creative practitioners and scholars respond to and shape our rapidly changing world and develop your ability to make philosophically engaged and creatively ambitious work.

As a graduate of the BA Art & Philosophy you will be equipped to sustain your practice as an artist, writer or curator and will have the employability and entrepreneurial skills needed to start your career in the creative industries or to continue to postgraduate study. You will be practiced at articulating ideas creatively and persuasively and these skills will allow you

to engage with confidence in professional and public discourse. In your personal and working life they will enable you to look beyond immediate tasks and problems to wider social, cultural, civic, and global contexts.

Part 1: In **Art** you are introduced to a range of art making approaches and current discourses through a series of practical projects in different media.

Philosophy introduces the core topics and the basic concepts and methods of critical thinking, basic logic, and the psychology of reasoning. There is a particular emphasis on developing your oral and written skills through small group discussion. You will undertake research to produce coursework essays and to learn how to critically appraise what you discover.

Part 2

In **Art** you are provided with the opportunity to develop your own art project in the studio guided by a series of individual skills training and the opportunity to gain more in-depth knowledge and understanding of art historical issues.

Philosophy provides a deeper awareness of current philosophers, of the skills of argument and presentation, and of the epistemology and methodology of Philosophy. There is a greater emphasis on developing skills of research and enquiry and to presenting arguments in public meetings in an effective way, anticipating and responding to questions, and using a range of means (speaking, summary-writing, essay-writing, presenting, designing slides).

Part 2:

Part 2i

In **Art** you have the resources and opportunities to build on the intellectual and technical skills of Part 2 through increasingly independent art practice and its relation to art history and theory.

In **Philosophy**, you will develop understanding across a broad range of different conceptions of what counts as 'Philosophy'. The emphasis is on developing independent learning, engaging with topics that are of special interest.

Here there will be the possibility for study abroad or work placement (subject to availability).

Part 3: **Art** facilitates your mastery of a sustained and focused studio practice with an emphasis on independent research, critical reflection, production and presentation skills.

In **Philosophy**, you will consolidate skills of personal effectiveness and self-awareness as well as the ability to reflect effectively on progress and strengths and on the goals you wish to achieve, culminating in an written dissertation or further independent learning.

Programme Learning Outcomes - BA Art and Philosophy

During the course of the Programme, you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and attributes (known as learning outcomes) For this programme, these are:

Learning outcomes	
1	Share knowledge of the diversity of art practices, and identify, articulate and reflect the particularity of materials, media, techniques and processes.
2	Demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of the main areas of philosophy and of the views of great figures in the history of philosophy, through acquiring, practising, and mastering the art of concise and accurate description of issues at the forefront of philosophical debate.
3	Show imaginative understanding and engagement of art practices in their relation to their histories and their studies, the contemporary field, current critical theories and discourses.
4	Use materials, media and techniques in informed, effective and skilful ways, committing to sustainability, responsibility and safety.
5	Work critically and independently in your philosophical work, showing your willingness to question the assumptions of any given viewpoint. You will develop and master an alertness to alternative explanations, searching for coherent principles of thought and action.
6	Initiate, manage, and present artworks with appropriate and effective methods, mindful of their context, audience and ethical and sustainable strategies of production and dissemination.
7	Synthesise and simplify complex arguments into a sustained research project, in which you will show your ability to identify strengths and weaknesses in others' writing and practice, and to organise your ideas with clarity and precision, illustrating your understanding through explanation and thought experiments, and your critical skills through the development of your own evaluation and arguments.
8	Master skills such as explanation, evaluation, and argument, illustrated in oral and written presentations
9	Develop transferable skills including: teamwork, independent work, critical thinking, concise written and oral communication, organisational skills, research skills, time management skills, and the use of IT skills to write, present and visualise information.
10	Engage actively in seeking and building new networks and peer relationships to develop and expand self and others in imaginative, meaningful and ethical ways.

You will be expected to engage in learning activities to achieve these Programme learning outcomes. Assessment of your modules will reflect these learning outcomes and test how far you have met the requirements for your degree.

To pass the Programme, you will be required to meet the progression or accreditation and award criteria set out below.

In addition to the learning outcomes stated above if you are on a placement or study abroad programme you will have the opportunity to develop the following learning outcome:

Additional Learning outcomes	
N/A	

Module information			
Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.			
Part 1 Modules:			
Module	Name	Credits	Level
FA1ART	Art Studio	40	4
FA1DR1	Drawing	20	4
PP1GW	Great Works in Philosophy	20	4
PP1RA	Reason and Argument	20	4
Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of Philosophy.			
Students with English as a second language who enter the programme with IELTS (or equivalent) below 7.0 will be required to take an additional non-credit-bearing language course provided via the Academic English Programme.			
Part 2 Modules:			
Module	Name	Credits	Level
FA2ART	Art Studio 2	40	5
Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of Philosophy and the Department of Art.			
Part 2 (continued) modules:			
Module	Name	Credits	Level
FA2IART	Art Studio 2b	60	5
FA2ISAP	Situated Art Practice	20	5
Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of Philosophy.			
If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.			
Part 3 Modules:			
Module	Name	Credits	Level
FA3ARTB	Art Studio 3b	80	6

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of Philosophy.

Placement opportunities

Placements:

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a credit-bearing placement as part of your Programme. This will form all or part of an optional module. You will be required to find and secure a placement opportunity, with the support of the University.

Study Abroad:

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a Study Abroad placement during your Programme. This is subject to you meeting academic conditions detailed in the Programme Handbook, including obtaining the relevant permissions from your School, and the availability of a suitable Study Abroad placement. If you undertake a Study Abroad placement, further arrangements will be discussed and agreed with you.

Optional modules:

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your programme can be found online in the Course Catalogue. Details of optional modules for each part, including any additional costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Teaching and learning delivery:

You will experience a range of approaches to teaching which are tailored to the learning outcomes of the subjects you will study and the overall objectives of the programme.

Student-centered learning in **Art** is situated within the art studio, your shared learning space, where you study amongst students from your programme; this core learning environment is informed by group work, collaboration and peer exchange, fostering inclusive and diverse debate.

Your learning will be guided through set practical projects, group and one-to-one feedback, and weekly seminars. You will have the opportunity be inducted in workshop facilities, technical and Health & Safety training. In addition, there are directed study visits to

museums and galleries. Further academic guidance is given through oral and written feedback as part of a series of scheduled meetings with your Academic Tutor.

Your learning will be increasingly self-directed, supported by further training in skills and the deepening of your expertise through exhibiting your artwork, the visiting artist lectures and optional study visits. At this part you have increased optionality in art to support your own individual study path, your interests and strengths to allow you to bridge the two subjects. You consolidate your learning and master your skills and knowledge in a final exhibition.

In **Philosophy** you will be taught a combination of lectures, seminars, and interactive lecture/seminar sessions, mainly delivered in person. Online content, such as 'how-to' videos, and online drop-in advice sessions will be provided to support, but not replace, in-person teaching. In your face-to-face teaching, you will not only discover debates in Philosophy on a wide variety of topics, but also learn how to engage critically in these debates. In many cases, there will be an opportunity to reflect upon how these debates are relevant to real world problems. You will have opportunities to develop your oral presentation and teamwork skills in seminar-style sessions through small group work and reporting back to larger groups. In each module, you will be supported as you gain and develop critical skills which will be useful not only for your time at university but also as you progress beyond university and into employment. For example, you will be encouraged to think critically, learn how to present and defend a strong argument, conduct research and write clearly. Studying Philosophy also encourages you to keep an open mind, and challenge dogmatic views. There is an emphasis on independent research and enquiry through dissertation or an independent learning module.

Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

There are dedicated resources available online via our virtual learning environment, Blackboard, including online video channels of recorded artist lectures.

The scheduled teaching and learning activity hours and amount of technology enhanced learning activity for your programme will depend upon your module combination. In addition, you will undertake some self-scheduled teaching and learning activities, designed by and/or involving staff, which give some flexibility for you to choose when to complete them. You will also be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module study hours including contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details

N/A

Assessment

Assessments in the Art & Philosophy programme are authentic to support your learning. Diverse and inclusive strategies provide real world professional practice and prepare you for the workplace.

Summative assessment points are predominantly coursework (no examinations) as a and combine a range of different assessment methods.

Practical modules support accumulative learning documented through portfolios of practice, combined with written reflective elements, and in larger credit modules, an end-of year group exhibition of your artwork.

Our studio assessment methods provide inclusive and diverse combinations that enable you to demonstrate your skills and knowledge relevant to your individual creative practice and strengths supported through detailed assessment handbooks.

Other forms, such as in-class tests, in-class discussions and oral presentations can be completed alone or with others, and may be presented online or in-person, providing inclusive opportunities for you to engage in your learning.

Academic research, writing and presentation skills are captured alongside knowledge acquisition through journals, essays, and reflective reports, culminating in a written dissertation or independent learning project.

Formative assessment as linked feedback and feedforward in studio modules consists of a series of exhibitions and a mid-module rehearsal of the summative assessment.

Formative assessments include a range of methods to build assessment literacy and competency, including assessment scheduling and briefings, self-assessment based on rubrics, peer-review, presentations, planning and drafting of written work, and revision of past samples of good practice.

Both summative and formative assessment volume and timing are distributed evenly across semesters and are shared from the beginning of the academic year.

Timely feedback and feedforward are both written and verbal:

In studio modules they are ongoing and continuous through one-to-one and small group tutorials; Every learning activity includes an embedded feedforward element.

In 20 credit modules feedback is attached to formative assignments and feedforward in-class advice and discussion or tutorials which support planning towards summative assessment.

Across the programme a series of scheduled Academic tutorials help acknowledge as well as join up and act on formative and summative feedback.

Progression

Part 1

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 1, a student will normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1;
- (ii) Obtain a mark of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in modules amounting to 120 credits.

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must achieve a threshold performance;

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 1 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Students on Joint Honours programmes who achieve the University threshold standard for progression at Part 1 may transfer to a Single Honours degree in one of their joint subject areas if they have achieved at least 40% in 40 or more credits (i.e. 2 x 20 credit modules) of modules in the programme they wish to transfer. In addition, students must also have met any programme specific requirements on the Single Honours programme to which they may wish to transfer. Students should seek advice about the titles of programmes they may be eligible to transfer to.

Part 2

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (ii) Obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits, except that a mark below 30% may be condoned in no more than 20 credits of modules owned by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 2i, a student must achieve a threshold performance;

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 2 qualifies a student for a Diploma of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Part 2i

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 2i, a student shall normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2i; and
- (ii) Obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits taken in Part 2i; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits, except that a mark below 30% may be condoned in no more than 20 credits of modules owned by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

In order to progress from Part 2i to Part 3, a student must achieve a threshold performance.

Classification

Bachelors' degrees

The University's honours classification scheme is based on the following:

Mark Interpretation

70% - 100% First class

60% - 69% Upper Second class

50% - 59% Lower Second class

40% - 49% Third class

35% - 39% Below Honours Standard

0% - 34% Fail

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is:

Four year programmes

Part 2: one-sixth

Part 2i: one-sixth

Part 3: two-thirds

The classification method is given in detail in Section 17 of the Assessment Handbook.

Additional costs of the programme

The Department of Art houses its own art supplies shop that provides a range of materials at subsidised prices. Equipment and software for video and digital media practices are all available to hire at no cost through our student media resource. Due to the individual nature of studio practice, the cost of materials throughout your programme will vary depending on your choice of media. At Part 1 most materials are provided by the department except where students wish to use specialist or unusual materials of their choice. In subsequent years we would suggest an approximate budget of £200 per year to cover basics. For the final year exhibition you may wish to invest more in materials. This is not a necessary requirement and advice should be sought from the module convenor. However a reasonable budgetary expectation would be an additional £200. In addition, students should budget approximately £100 per year for exhibition and museum trips.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. Estimates were calculated in 2024.

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

BA Art and Philosophy for students entering Part 1 in session 2025/26

21 May 2024

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