

School of Fine Art, History of Art and Cultural Studies

FACULTY OF ARTS, HUMANITIES AND CULTURES



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS



Undergraduate Courses

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Cover Image: *Fold VII*
Acrylic paint, calico, netting, electrical cord,
Polly Cornthwaite, 2017

Image on page 7: Zoë Carlon, winner of the 2017 FUAM Graduate Art Prize.
Photo courtesy of The Stanley & Audrey Burton Gallery.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Information provided by the University such as in presentations, University brochures and the University website, is accurate at the time of first disclosure. However, courses, University services and content of publications remain subject to change. Changes may be necessary to comply with the requirements of accrediting bodies or to keep courses contemporary through updating practices or areas of study. Circumstances may arise outside the reasonable control of the University, leading to required changes. Such circumstances include, industrial action, unexpected student numbers, significant staff illness (where a course is reliant upon a person’s expertise), unexpected lack of funding, severe weather, fire, civil disorder, political unrest, government restrictions and serious concern with regard to the transmission of serious illness making a course unsafe to deliver. After a student has taken up a place with the University, the University will look to give early notification of any changes and try to minimise their impact, offering suitable alternative arrangements or forms of compensation where it believes there is a fair case to do so. Offers of a place to study at the University will provide up to date information on courses. The latest key information on courses, entry requirements and fees can be found at courses.leeds.ac.uk. Please check this website before making any decisions.



Welcome

Welcome to the School of Fine Art, History of Art and Cultural Studies. We are an internationally recognised leader in research and research-led teaching in the history of art, art gallery and museum studies, cultural and media studies and fine art.

The research focus of the School allows us to offer expertise in a wide range of interdisciplinary fields. These include Western and non-Western art history, museum and curatorial studies, critical analysis and theoretical cultural and media studies, as well as fine art practice in all media.

In addition to the many resources of the School and University, we maintain teaching and research partnerships with local, national and international museums, galleries and heritage institutions. We also offer an extensive range of visiting artists and speakers, research salons and seminars, and study trips.

The University is one of the UK’s largest research-led higher education institutions, and a member of the Russell Group of leading UK universities. We have been recognised for the high quality of our education, ranking 3rd in the UK for student experience (Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey, 2018), achieving the 2017 University of the Year award (The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide), and we’re also proud to have achieved a Gold rating in the 2017 Teaching Excellence Framework.

The Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Cultures has been ranked 51st for Arts and Humanities worldwide (QS World Rankings by Subject 2018).

Choosing what to study, and where to study it, are among the most important decisions you will make. We hope that you will choose to study in the School of Fine Art, History of Art and Cultural Studies at the University of Leeds.

Studying at Leeds

FACILITIES AND RESOURCES

Our School is housed in a single site at the heart of campus which has been designed to best meet the needs of our students. Here you can find light, open studios, versatile exhibition spaces, welcoming social areas, and a range of dedicated facilities which can be accessed 24 hours a day. These include iMac and PC computer suites for video editing, animation and image manipulation; printmaking workshops for etching, relief and screen printing; a woodworking and casting area; and a photography darkroom for film developing and printing. Additional facilities for digital and 3D printing are available nearby.

Leeds University Library is a world-class research library that invests around £5 million a year in developing its extensive printed and digital collections so that we can offer extensive resources to our students. The Library ranks as one of the best in the UK for the provision of electronic books, journals and databases, and has a wealth of manuscript, archive and early printed material in its Special Collections. A range of different spaces for working either alone or in a group, along with generous opening hours, allow you to study in the way that best suits you.

In addition to the wide range of museums and galleries in the city and beyond, the University campus features The Stanley & Audrey Burton Gallery, the Treasures of the Brotherton Gallery, the Museum of the History of Science, Technology and Medicine, the Marks & Spencer Company Archive, and ULITA – an Archive of International Textiles.

JOINT HONOURS

You can study History of Art with English, Philosophy or History as part of a joint honours course, allowing you to study your chosen subjects in depth and graduate with an honours degree covering two disciplines. You will study the same compulsory modules as single honours students but fewer optional and discovery modules.

www.fine-art.leeds.ac.uk

STUDY ABROAD

Spending time studying abroad can be a rewarding and life-changing experience, giving you a unique opportunity to explore the world, discover different cultures and enhance your career prospects. The University has partnerships with more than 400 universities worldwide and popular destinations for our students include Europe, the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Hong Kong, South Africa and Latin America. You do not need to decide whether you would like to pursue this opportunity before you come to Leeds. You will usually study abroad during your third year, before returning to Leeds to complete your studies.

www.leeds.ac.uk/studyabroad

“Leeds as a city is great, with a range of things to do including a fantastic night life, an exceptional music scene and a thriving art scene which would be of great interest to anyone interested in studying for an undergraduate degree in the School of Fine Art, History of Art and Cultural Studies.”

Joshua Vargas Garcia, BA History of Art

YEAR IN INDUSTRY

You can also apply to spend a year working in a graduate-level role anywhere in the world, usually in your third year. This presents a fantastic opportunity to gain confidence and experience before graduating. As with study abroad, you do not have to decide whether to pursue a year in industry before you come to Leeds.

www.leeds.ac.uk/work_experience



Which course is for me?

Depending on your interests and career plans, you can choose one of six courses. Each constitutes a particular pathway but also offer flexibility, allowing you to select from many optional modules.

BA FINE ART

If you would like to focus on studio practice, supported by core modules in professional practice, while also taking modules that help you reflect on the history and theory of art and culture, choose **BA Fine Art**.

BA HISTORY OF ART

If you would like to concentrate on the history and theory of art, and want a flexible choice of optional modules, choose **BA History of Art**.

BA FINE ART WITH HISTORY OF ART

If you would like to combine your studio practice with studying the history and theory of art, and would like to be able to do additional optional modules instead of Professional Practice, choose **BA Fine Art with History of Art**.

Take a look at page 18 where you will find a list of optional modules. You can find out more at **courses.leeds.ac.uk**

BA CULTURAL AND MEDIA STUDIES

If you want to develop your critical understanding of the history and theory of culture and the media and want to study across disciplines (bringing together, for example, an interest in literature with history and sociology or a passion for philosophy with knowledge about film, music and popular culture) then choose **BA Cultural and Media Studies**.

BA FINE ART WITH CONTEMPORARY CULTURAL THEORY

If you would like to combine your studio practice with a critical understanding of contemporary culture and the media and would like to be able to do additional optional modules instead of Professional Practice, then choose **BA Fine Art with Contemporary Cultural Theory**.

BA HISTORY OF ART WITH CULTURAL STUDIES

If you enjoy art history but also want to develop your critical understanding of the history and theory of culture, including film, television, music and visual culture, then choose **BA History of Art with Cultural Studies**.



BA Fine Art

This well established course integrates theory with practice to produce high calibre and critically aware artist graduates.

The course allows you to develop an ambitious and creative body of work while gaining a critical awareness of your own identity as an artist. You will develop your work in our excellent studio facilities with support from artist-lecturers and visiting practitioners. This will be informed and enriched by modules in art history, museum and curatorial studies, and cultural and media theory – all put into context through a practice-related dissertation.

In year 1, you will be introduced to the key concepts, formal approaches and critical discourses of fine art, as viewed from a broad range of time periods and cultural perspectives. Compulsory modules will examine contested ideas about art and the artist, how the theory and history of art relate to practice, and the role of dissemination in the contemporary art world. You will also explore your own direction as an artist by developing a creative portfolio across a range of media.

In year 2, you will build upon and critically apply the knowledge and skills learnt in year 1 and further pursue your own individual interests. Compulsory modules will deepen your understanding of the complex nature of art practices from an historical and contemporary perspective, as well as allowing you to further develop your portfolio. You will choose from a wide range of optional modules.

In your final year, you will undertake a dissertation to explore aspects of your own visual art practice. This awareness will inform your studio work, which forms the main focus of the year. You will work on a curated exhibition and public degree show, applying your artistic and professional skills as you interact with outside agencies, sponsors and the media. This is structured through a professional practice module that consolidates both the practical and intellectual skills that you have developed in years 1 and 2.

courses.leeds.ac.uk

YEAR 1

Introduction to Studio Work

Studio Work 2

Elements of Visual Culture I

Elements of Visual Culture II

Professional Practice (Introductory)

YEAR 2

Studio Work

and

Your choice of optional and/or discovery modules and/or Careers Preparation for Arts and Culture.

YEAR 3

Studio Work

Professional Practice

Dissertation



Saffron, Coffee, Cumin, Rice,
Jeeda Sheikh Nouri, 2017



“There is a strong, supportive tutor-student relationship and plenty of opportunities if you’re up for it.”

I had a fantastic four years studying BA Fine Art and it has given me the foundation I needed to progress post-university. I chose this course specifically because of the strong history of art and cultural theory underpinning, which gives you a contextual grounding for your art practice, and the freedom to choose your own modules depending on your specific interests. I especially loved the Utopia module with Diane Morgan, which went on to hugely influence my practice.

There have been a myriad of opportunities on the course, with a strong emphasis on personal development beyond the confines of the University bubble and the importance of being pro-active and self-motivated. We were regularly encouraged to organise our own exhibitions and show our work to the public.

The course is very active depending on how committed you want to be and has a great studio community. There are hugely supportive technicians who go out of their way to help you realise your work and a strong tutor-student relationship. I had the great opportunity of being president of the School’s society, Collaborative Arts, in second year. This was a good way to learn basic things about management and organisation and we managed to take 30 students away to Copenhagen.

The course also gave me the opportunity to study on a year abroad, which was probably the best experience I’ve ever had. I would really encourage anyone to do it, especially if you want to develop your practice as an artist. This year away gave me total freedom to really explore my practice, experience a different culture, meet lots of great

people and grow up a bit! I came back to my final year with a lot more confidence and ready to tackle the challenges of the final Degree Show.

Following on from graduation, I won the FUAM Graduate Art Prize, which gave me the opportunity to show my work in The Stanley & Audrey Burton Gallery on campus. I was also selected to take part in a residency programme with The Royal Drawing School at Dumfries House, Scotland, in January 2018.

This course is very active and hands-on, and has a great community with a friendly studio atmosphere. There is a strong, supportive tutor-student relationship and plenty of opportunities if you’re up for it.

Leeds is a great city to study in: there is loads going on and a thriving art scene with some of the best UK galleries on your doorstep such as The Henry Moore Institute, Leeds Art Gallery, Yorkshire Sculpture Park and The Hepworth Wakefield. There are also many graduates that have stayed in the city and taken up studios, putting on regular exhibitions.

My time at the University went very quickly. I would definitely say it set me up for the future and has ultimately encouraged me to continue as a practicing artist. Through my time at Leeds, I made a great network of friends: some of us now share a studio together and are working towards various projects. I would honestly really recommend studying at Leeds.

Zoë Carlon

BA Fine Art (International) 2017

BA History of Art

This course allows you to explore the ways in which art has been produced and received by communities across time and in different places.

You will learn about the history of art and to think critically about its development and effects, examining the social history of art in a challenging and thought-provoking way. You will also consider some of the theories and approaches, from aesthetics to anthropology, that can help us to interpret works of art. We do not take for granted that ‘art’ has been understood in the same way around the world through time.

In year 1, you will gain the fundamental skills and knowledge for art historical analysis. Compulsory and optional modules will introduce key themes and interpretive methods, consider the intentions and identities of artists, and examine the production and analysis of art in different historical, geographical and cultural contexts. You will examine different cultures and materials and consider the intentions and identities of artists. A choice of optional modules will allow you to study topics like cultural or media history, or country house or museum studies.

In year 2, you will build upon and critically apply the knowledge and skills learned in year 1 and further pursue your own individual interests. Compulsory modules will deepen your understanding of the complex relationship between art and society, and encourage you to think critically and analytically about works of art. You will choose from a range of optional modules, which cover art historical topics from African art to the New York School as well as museum studies, critical theory and the contemporary art market.

In your final year, you will apply your research and critical skills to an independently researched dissertation on a topic of your choice. You will complement and support this research with a choice of optional modules. If you choose, you can take one fewer optional module and go into greater depth on an extended dissertation.

courses.leeds.ac.uk

YEAR 1

Elements of Visual Culture I

Elements of Visual Culture II

A Story of Art? I

A Story of Art? II

and

Your choice of optional and/or discovery modules.

YEAR 2

Art History and Art Historiography

Keywords

and

Your choice of optional and/or discovery modules and/or Careers Preparation for Arts and Culture.

YEAR 3

Dissertation

and

Your choice of optional and/or discovery modules.



“I know that I will graduate with a really solid understanding of key themes surrounding the history of art.”

One of my favourite elements of studying History of Art at Leeds is sharing the School with BA Fine Art and BA Cultural and Media Studies students. I think this encourages us to think about art in really exciting, new ways and is evidenced in the interdisciplinary approach taken to teaching the subject.

There’s an amazing variety of modules to take within the School, as well as the option to study discovery modules in pretty much any other School across the University. So far I’ve had the chance to write essays on a broad range of topics from musical theatre to the contemporary art market, all under the guidance of some of the leading academics in their respective fields.

As History of Art students we are given a lot of creative freedom, which has really helped me to develop my research interests and outlook at the same time. The education we get is rigorous, and I know that I will graduate with a really solid understanding of key themes surrounding the history of art.

The University offers loads of opportunities to gain useful skills, including the Undergraduate Research

and Leadership Scholarship which I was fortunate to receive in my first year of study. Through the scholarship scheme I have undertaken extensive research, providing me with the valuable experience of working directly with academics in my faculty and developing my study skills and confidence.

As well as this, I have been able to connect with other Research and Leadership scholars across the University. I would definitely recommend the scheme to anyone thinking of studying at Leeds! Getting involved in extracurricular activities such as scholarship work and joining student societies has made my time at university really memorable.

Studying here has opened so many doors for me before I have even graduated. I have worked as a Gallery Assistant in The Stanley & Audrey Burton Gallery and as a Shelving Assistant in the Brotherton Library’s Special Collections, where I am able to put my knowledge to practical use. Attending conferences held by the School has allowed me to meet and learn from a wide range of academics and creative industries professionals.

Layla Hillsden

BA History of Art

BA Cultural and Media Studies

This course allows you to explore cultural and media practices, institutions and histories across multiple disciplines, including literature, sociology, philosophy, film, and media.

You will learn to analyse images, texts, technologies and cultural practices in order to develop your understanding of a range of complex issues. You will be encouraged to develop a critical perspective on major challenges facing us in the globalising world today.

In year 1, you will gain the fundamental skills and knowledge for analysing and interpreting cultural and media practices. Compulsory modules will introduce the key theories and critical approaches, and examine some of the major factors that have shaped the contemporary world, such as technology, revolution, war, colonisation, and media.

In year 2, a compulsory module will deepen your understanding of key theoretical concepts in the study of culture, media and society. Optional modules will give you the chance to focus on topics including visual culture in Asia, cinema and culture, the politics of utopia, and issues of the body, power, race and gender, as well as the challenges of studying media and communication.

In year 3, you will apply your research and critical skills to an independently researched dissertation on a topic of your choice. You will complement and support this research with a choice of compulsory and optional modules. If you choose, you can take one fewer optional module and go into greater depth on an extended dissertation.

courses.leeds.ac.uk



YEAR 1
Introduction to Cultural Analysis I
Introduction to Cultural Analysis II
Studying Media
<i>and either three choices from</i>
Cultural History
Cinema and Media History
The History of Communication
Introduction to Media and Communication Theory
<i>or</i>
Two of the above and one choice of optional/discovery modules.
YEAR 2
Keywords
<i>and one of</i>
Visual Communication
Communication Research Methods
<i>and</i>
Your choice of optional and/or discovery modules.
YEAR 3
Dissertation
<i>and</i>
Your choice of one specialist cultural studies module
<i>and</i>
Your choice of optional and/or discovery modules.

“The course develops your interest and knowledge in so many areas as well as developing you academically. After graduation I feel what I’ve learned will benefit me in any creative career.”



Cultural and Media Studies provides students with opportunities for broad and interesting learning. Modules are hugely varied and encompass aspects of history, sociology, media and film studies, approached from a unique angle.

This flexibility in content translates into essay and, eventually, dissertation writing where you develop and become an expert in your chosen subject – perhaps something you have been passionate about for years or an idea developed from a university module. Many students choose to focus on a cultural medium such as music or film, and discuss ideas around that such as capitalist society and consumerism. I wrote my dissertation on how the UK school education system continues to under-represent colonial history, showing the wide choice available to Cultural and Media Studies students.

I have also had opportunities beyond the theory work and written assessment that I expected from the course. I created a film on the history of cinema in Leeds for a first year module in Cinema and Media History. This project was dynamic and exciting as I visited the cinemas in and around the city centre, conducting interviews and learning what makes the cinema history of Leeds unique.

Working in Digital Media Teams was an optional module which provided practical opportunities, through working in groups to design and develop a response to a brief. My group worked on a party game aimed at young adults which was fun and a valuable experience for future careers.

The School of Fine Art, History of Art and Cultural Studies also offers the opportunity to be a student leader, representing the student voice and helping to contribute feedback and ideas to improve things for students in the school. The School really values feedback which is amazing and creates a feeling of a level playing field with staff taking on board student ideas, creating a community feel.

Students receive a weekly newsletter by email, informing us of opportunities and events such as course related internships, voluntary positions or new exhibitions and visiting artist talks going on in Leeds. One of the most memorable events was a digital light exhibition in Leeds Dock which was one of the coolest art-related things I’ve ever been to. Opportunities like these allow you to be in contact with the subject in many other forms alongside lectures and seminars.

The course develops your interests and knowledge in so many areas as well as developing you academically. I feel what I’ve learned will benefit me in any creative career after I graduate. I am interested in a career in media, potentially something similar to an internship I had between second and third year: writing for a magazine in London (and which I got thanks to support from the School).

Rose Mason

BA Cultural and Media Studies

BA History of Art with Cultural Studies

This course allows you to combine a questioning and critical approach to the historical study of art with a cultural focus on theories and practices of language, image, identity, gender, race, sexuality and class.

You will study the history of various artistic practices (such as formatting, literature, photography, the media, and music) and explore how societies have represented themselves and the world around them.

In year 1, you will gain the fundamental skills and knowledge for the study of art and culture. Compulsory and optional modules will introduce key themes and interpretive methods, examine different cultures and materials, and consider the intentions and identities of artists. A choice of optional modules will allow you to study topics like cultural or media history, creative practice and consumer culture or museum studies.

You will build on this knowledge in year 2, when compulsory modules will deepen your understanding of the complex relationship between art, ideas and society. In addition, you will shape your studies to suit your interests when you choose from a wide range of optional modules focused on a group of cultural studies subjects that extend your initial studies of gender, the moving image, the postcolonial perspective, and cultural theory. You will also select modules that focus on specific issues in art history.

By your final year, you will be able to apply your research and critical skills to an independent dissertation on a topic of your choice. To complement and support your research, you will select optional modules from the diverse choice on offer, many of which combine studies of the visual arts with other cultural forms. If you choose, you can take one fewer optional modules and go into greater depth on an extended dissertation.

courses.leeds.ac.uk

YEAR 1

Introduction to Cultural Analysis I

Introduction to Cultural Analysis II

A Story of Art? I

A Story of Art? II

and

Your choice of optional and/or discovery modules.

YEAR 2

Art History and Art Historiography

Keywords

and

Your choice of optional and/or discovery modules and/or Careers Preparation for Arts and Culture.

YEAR 3

Dissertation

and

Your choice of optional and/or discovery modules.



“Leeds is a vibrant and lively city, while the University is a well equipped and exciting place to learn.”

Choosing to study BA History of Art at the University of Leeds was one of the best decisions I ever made. Leeds is a vibrant and lively city, while the University is a well equipped and exciting place to learn. I particularly enjoyed the range of modules available across history of art, museum studies and critical and cultural theory, and by the end of my BA I had honed my particular interests as somewhere quite specific between the three. These interests have oriented my career ever since.

My favourite aspect of the course was the dissertation, where I got to bring together the most interesting aspects of my modules into one focused piece of work which investigated the writing of renowned French theorist Luce Irigaray and the American painter Helen Frankenthaler. I also introduced Luce Irigaray at the launch of her new book at the Institute of Contemporary Arts in London. If you had told me as an undergraduate writing my dissertation in the Brotherton Library that several years later I would be doing this, I’m sure I would not have believed you. My studies at Leeds ignited a passion for Irigaray’s writing and visual culture that I have followed ever since.

Since my undergraduate studies I have worked between arts organisations and academia. After my BA I landed communications roles at the Fitzwilliam Museum and then Kettle’s Yard Gallery (both in Cambridge) after which I returned to Yorkshire to work at The Hepworth Wakefield. It was exciting working in a fast-paced environment with artists and curators, thinking about ways to engage audiences and interpret exhibitions and

collections. From the incredible paintings of British artist Christopher Wood in the collection of Kettle’s Yard to the extraordinary survey of American artist Lynda Benglis’ sculptures and photographs at the Hepworth Wakefield, I was delighted to be involved in opening up such interesting exhibitions to visitors. My undergraduate studies gave me the conceptual tools to excel in this area while also remaining critically attuned to the kind of projects I wanted to be involved in as my career in the arts progressed.

I returned to the University in 2013 to continue my academic studies with an MA in Cultural Studies (now MA Critical and Cultural Theory). Today I am finishing a PhD exploring the figure of the girl in the moving image and feminist theory, while also being associate editor of the critical theory journal *Parallax* which is based in the School.

I continue to work alongside various artists, curators and arts organisations in the North of England on a wide range of projects, from film screenings to publications to exhibitions. Most recently I was invited to become writer in residence at Leeds College of Art in 2017, responding to their exhibition programme. Last year I travelled to Bogotá, Colombia with a group of fellow curators from Leeds on an exchange with artists and organisations in the city. I also spent three months in Helsinki, Finland on a curatorial residency and research trip.

My life has been hugely shaped by my studies at the University of Leeds where I have found inspiration, opportunity and lifelong friends.

Elsbeth Mitchell

BA History of Art (2012),
MA Cultural Studies (2014), PhD (2014-)

BA Fine Art with History of Art

This course combines studio practice with art historical study, enabling you to become an academically strong, thoughtful artist who understands how your practice relates to the art of the past.

You will split your time equally between studio practice and the history and theory of art – from what has been understood as ‘art’ in different cultures and societies over time to the contemporary art market and cultural theory. You will also gain professional skills as you develop and exhibit your own artistic work every year.

In year 1, you will acquire the fundamental skills and knowledge for the study of art and culture and explore your own direction as an artist by developing a creative portfolio across a range of media. Compulsory and optional modules will introduce key themes and interpretive methods, examine different cultures and materials, and consider the intentions and identities of artists.

In year 2, you will build upon and critically apply the knowledge and skills learned in year 1 and further pursue your own individual interests. Compulsory modules will examine contested ideas about art and the artist and how the theory and history of art relate to practice. You will also continue to develop your portfolio.

In your final year, you will apply your research and critical skills to an independent research project on a topic of your choice, which can either complement your studio practice or focus on a topic of your choice within art history. You will complement and support these projects with a choice of optional modules.

courses.leeds.ac.uk

YEAR 1
Introduction to Studio Work
Studio Work 2
A Story of Art? I
A Story of Art? II
and
Your choice of optional and/or discovery modules.

YEAR 2
Studio Work
Keywords
and
Your choice of optional and/or discovery modules and/or Careers Preparation for Arts and Culture.

YEAR 3
Studio Work
Dissertation
and
Your choice of optional and/or discovery modules.



“The aura of independence is infectious and I felt proud walking around the campus: I instantly knew I had to go here.”

The University of Leeds was the first university I visited by myself and I am so glad that I discovered it on my own. The aura of independence is infectious and I felt proud walking around the campus: I instantly knew I had to go here. That day only got better when I found that Leeds offers my ideal course of Fine Art with History of Art, 50% of the course dedicated to each. I found that this course suited me as, coming straight from A-levels, I had no idea what career I wanted to pursue – this course kept many doors open to explore.

As one of the first sets of students to use the new School facilities, I was both thrilled and intimidated to be met by such an expansive, untouched space. I was comforted by seeing familiar classrooms and delighted to be greeted with large, white studios. I felt like a true working artist as I laid out my materials and felt happy enough, with the guidance and support of my tutors, to immediately step out of my comfort zone and create my first and biggest sculpture to date.

I also chose to be a course representative; it has been a great opportunity to see how the School, staff and students all work together, and being a voice for my fellow students has been an interesting and informative experience. I hope to do more for my School and the University in the future.

I have greatly enjoyed my course so far; the mixture of practical and theoretical work is enthralling and they ultimately bleed into one another. For instance, I have found one of my practical projects informed by the topic of female Baroque artists that we had studied. The multidisciplinary approach allows you to refine your writing and artistic style to help find out who you are as both an academic and an artist.

I believe that is the beauty of the University of Leeds: it encourages you to create, step out into the unknown and find yourself amongst the vast array of students and flourishing city life, but it will not abandon you. Leeds University Union and the University’s Student Services are compassionate and excellent and, as a disabled student, I have found the Disability Services an invaluable aid who have always been able to help me.

Kathleen Lagan

BA Fine Art with History of Art

BA Fine Art with Contemporary Cultural Theory

This course combines studio practice with contemporary philosophy and cultural theory, preparing you to be a critically aware artist graduate.

This course builds on the idea that art-making is enriched by conversations with thinkers, filmmakers, writers, philosophers and scientists. You will split your time equally between studio practice and the theory and analysis of culture. You will also gain professional skills as you develop and exhibit your own artistic work every year.

In year 1, you will build your knowledge of art and culture and use various media to develop your own creative portfolio. Compulsory and optional modules will introduce key themes and interpretive methods, consider the nature of cultural analysis, and examine the relationships between art, culture and society.

In year 2, you will build upon and critically apply the knowledge and skills learned in year 1 and further pursue your own individual interests. Compulsory modules will deepen your understanding of the complex relationship between visual cultures, history and society, and encourage you to think conceptually about art and cultural objects and practices. You will also continue to develop your portfolio.

Your final year will balance studio work with researching and writing a dissertation – an independent piece of research on a topic of your choice, which can either complement your studio practice or focus on a topic arising from your theoretical study. Towards the end of the year you will display your studio work in a public degree show, applying your artistic and professional skills to interact with external agencies, the media and sponsors.

courses.leeds.ac.uk

YEAR 1
Introduction to Studio Work
Studio Work 2
Introduction to Cultural Analysis I
Introduction to Cultural Analysis II
and
Your choice of optional and/or discovery modules.

YEAR 2
Studio Work
Keywords
and
Your choice of optional and/or discovery modules and/or Careers Preparation for Arts and Culture.

YEAR 3
Studio Work
Dissertation
and
Your choice of optional and/or discovery modules.



“The building instils a strong sense of cohesion across the School and provides a superb learning environment. I feel like I’m home!”

I studied BA Fine Art at Leeds from 1990 to 1994, and then went straight into an MA in Feminism and the Visual Arts with Professor Griselda Pollock. Those five years were formative, challenging and inspiring. I enjoyed being around eminent artists and lecturers such as Griselda, Chris Taylor, Roxy Walsh, Fred Orton, Terry Atkinson, Ben Read and Pamela Golden. My Fine Art education here is something that often baffled me at the time, but as a rich reservoir of ideas, conversations and approaches, there is still much that I continue to connect with today, in many different ways.

After graduation I put down roots in Leeds and practised as an artist before beginning to curate projects. This led to co-founding a number of artist-led projects, among them Project Space Leeds [PSL] in 2006 with Diane Howse and Pippa Hale. PSL aimed to support emerging artists and provide something between the poles of established institutions and grass roots spaces that characterised the landscape for contemporary art in Leeds at that time.

PSL occupied a huge gallery space in Leeds from 2007 to 12 before closing and preparing to move to a new venue on the former Tetley Brewery site. Pippa and I co-founded The Tetley in 2013 and I was Artistic Director there until September 2015. It

was a joy to work with so many of the School’s staff, students and alumni at The Tetley, and especially to work with Chris Taylor, John McDowall and Louise Atkinson to bring the International Contemporary Artists’ Book Fair to The Tetley, which has been its new home since 2014.

Over the years I’ve also been Curator of Exhibitions at Harewood House from 2008 to 2011 and interim Director at The Art House in Wakefield from 2015 to 2016. Very different organisations with very different remits, but both fantastic experiences that allowed me to build my skills as a curator and in senior management in the arts. More recently, I’ve been working on a project in east Leeds, where I live, curating conversation on the politics of contemporary art and urban green space as a way to connect to communities who live there, and in order to contribute to a more sustainable future for the area.

I’m enjoying being back at Leeds now as a PhD student, whilst practising as an independent curator. It’s a great time to reconnect with the School in its handsome new home and to benefit from the fantastic new facilities both there and across the campus. The building instils a strong sense of cohesion across the School and provides a superb learning environment. I feel like I’m home!

Kerry Harker

BA Fine Art (1994), MA Feminism and the Visual Arts (1995), PhD (2016-), Co-founder of The Tetley, Leeds

Tailoring your learning with optional modules

In most years of our courses you are able to tailor your learning to your particular interests through your choice of optional modules within the School.

You can also tailor your learning by choosing to take discovery modules from across the University. There are hundreds on offer, beyond and alongside your core subject, under headings including ‘Media, Culture and Creativity’, ‘Personal and Professional Development’, ‘Power and Conflict’ and ‘Enterprise and Innovation’.

www.leedsforlife.leeds.ac.uk/broadening

The optional modules available vary each year, but the following list is indicative of the variety on offer. Check your course information to find the most up-to-date list of optional modules.

courses.leeds.ac.uk

YEAR 1

- A Story of Art?
- Cinema and Media History
- Cultural History
- Elements of Visual Culture
- Introduction to Cultural Analysis

- Introduction to Museum and Art Gallery Studies
- The English Country House: Making and Meaning

YEAR 2

- African Art I: Context, Representation, Signification
- Art, Power and Portraiture
- Borromini and the Roman Baroque: Skill, Knowledge, and Material's Potential
- Danish Golden Age Painting
- Ecologies of Medieval Art
- The Wanderers: Critical Realism in Nineteenth Century Russia

- Live Issues and Contemporary Art Practice
- Seeing in Asia
- The Avant Gardes
- The New York School
- Variant Modernism

- Cinema and Culture
- Image, Music, Text: Reading Roland Barthes
- The State of Utopia

- The Art Market: Moments, Methodologies, Meanings
- Country Houses and the (Re) Construction of the Heritage Industry 1880-1950
- The Museum

- Careers Preparation for Arts and Culture

YEAR 3

- Africa and the Atlantic World: History, Historiography and the Visual Arts
- Anthropology, Art and Representation
- Periclean Athens
- Soviet Socialist Realism

- The Origins of Postcolonial England
- Critical Approaches to Photography

- The Ripped and the Raw: Aspects of European Art 1945-1960

- British Architecture in the Long Eighteenth Century
- Cultural Diversity in Museum and Material Culture – Case Study
- Curatorial Practice and the Country House 1950-present

- Deconstruction Reading Politics
- Humanity, Animality and Globality
- Making Sense of Sound
- Movies, Migrants and Diasporas
- Reading Sexual Difference
- Utopia: Demanding the Impossible!

Our spaces



“Having access to studios that all exist within the same building creates the right setting to develop a vibrant studio culture and an environment where people have the opportunity to feed off each other and potentially work collaboratively. It is so important and that is what the University of Leeds provides us with — large, open, light studio spaces and excellent workshop facilities run by great technicians.”

Chloé Mayo
BA Fine Art (International)





“I assist with the running of the Visiting Artists Talks programme which allows me to meet the artists, show them around campus and discuss current works. This is something I have found invaluable as part of my studies.”

I am currently in my second year and I am positive that my education to date has prepared me for my upcoming study abroad year, leading on to my fourth and final year in Leeds to complete my degree.

When choosing an institution that would best prepare me for the art world, I became aware of the diversity that Leeds (and more specifically Yorkshire) offers, as a vast county providing diverse facets of culture coupled with a rich history. This, entwined with Yorkshire’s industrial heritage, is important to my work as I am often intrigued by materials used in large scale production and manufacturing within engineering.

My current practice is linked strongly with sculpture, although it is often embodied in less traditional methods. This is enabled so effectively by the nature of the studios in the building. These spaces offer integrated practices, allowing a flow between methodologies of production. This encourages an active dialogue between students and tutors and opens up the spaces for constant development of each other’s work – something essential in a creative practice.

Weekly Visiting Artist Talks offer the opportunity to learn about the specific practice methodologies of international artists to the entire School, other students at the university and people in the community. The programme is one of the most enriching elements of the course, allowing us as young artists and cultural studies students to scrutinise work processes of a wider range of practitioners. I assist with the running of the programme which allows me to meet the artists, show them around campus and discuss current works. This is something I have found invaluable as part of my studies.

Another key characteristic of the course which separates it from other Fine Art courses is the role of theoretical studies, including art history and optional modules throughout second year. I found the module The Museum, delivered by Professor Abigail Harrison Moore, truly insightful.

I have enjoyed living and working in Leeds and I eagerly await what the next two years have in store, and look forward to my future career as a graduate from a highly cultivating course.

Dan Cole

BA Fine Art

Careers and employability

We are committed to developing your employability and career prospects, and our graduates have an excellent reputation amongst employers – the 2018 High Fliers report ranks Leeds as one of the top 10 universities most-often targeted by Britain’s top graduate employers.

You will have a wealth of opportunities to develop your skills and make the most of your time at Leeds. All of our courses offer the option of a bespoke careers preparation module, and provide you with not only subject knowledge but also transferable research, argument, analysis, communication and time management skills. You will also have opportunities to broaden your knowledge and skills by taking discovery modules from subject areas across the University.

This means that, on graduating, you will be excellently prepared for a wide range of careers or postgraduate study. Our graduates have gone on to work in a variety of sectors, including curating, design, media, editing, administration, law, teaching, journalism, marketing, outreach and cultural policy.

We also count among our alumni many successful artists, including Threadneedle Prize (2013), Mercury Prize (2012) and FUAM Graduate Art Prize (2016 and 2017) winners.

UNIVERSITY CAREERS CENTRE

Our award-winning Careers Centre offers support and advice to help prepare you for life after graduation, and has experienced advisors and strong relationships with graduate recruiters. The Careers Centre will help you right from the start and provide support after you graduate.

careerweb.leeds.ac.uk

INTERNSHIPS AND WORK EXPERIENCE

Our School and the Careers Centre can support you in finding and securing all kinds of opportunities, from paid employment to volunteering to summer internships. The Leeds University Union service Joblink can also help you to access opportunities that fit around your studies.

www.luu.org.uk/jobs



“The increasingly flourishing DIY scenes throughout Hyde Park and Headingley, accompanied by the culmination of art, music and spoken word at venues such as Hyde Park Book Club, enticed me to want to be a part of this exciting city’s flux. From the day of my interview, I instantly felt comfortable and knew Leeds was where I wanted to both study and progress with my artistic career.

“Since then, I’ve exhibited and curated in numerous exhibitions across Yorkshire, most recently Ones to Watch 2018. I have worked for Leeds Art Gallery, The Tetley’s Contemporary Artists’ Book Fair, and now as Gallery Education Intern for The Stanley & Audrey Burton Gallery, acquiring skills in community workshop leadership, curation and artwork conservation.”

Lucy Cunningham

BA Fine Art

Exhibitions and projects

Throughout the year, undergraduate students engage in solo and group projects, making use of the School's dedicated studios and the variety of spaces on campus and across the city.

The annual BA Fine Art Degree Show takes place in June each year, across studio and shared spaces in the School. Fine Art students also form new art collectives whilst at Leeds and contribute to the wider artist community in the city.



“My first year saw the genesis of my art collective Context Collaborative. Working with close friends in a professional public-facing manner, exhibiting and hosting art, poetry and music nights has been an especially rewarding way to share my work.

“I’ve since connected with other practitioners locally and from beyond, and regarding open-call exhibitions that we’ve run, increasingly provided other creatives the opportunity to be seen and heard. Exposure and open dialogue is honestly the first step towards furthering your practices and becoming more tightly woven within the eclectic patchwork that makes up Leeds.”

Lucy Cunningham
BA Fine Art student

Top left. *In the Hot Seat*
Mixed media installation
Olivia Donald
2017

Top right. *Cosmic Pulse*
Oil paint and calico on canvas
Megan Willis
2017

Bottom left. *Untitled*
Acrylic, marker and ballpoint
pen on MDF
Naeema Abed
2018

University life

Just a 10-minute walk from the city centre, the University campus has shops, cafés, accommodation, sports and entertainment facilities, alongside academic departments, lecture theatres and studios.

Leeds University Union was the first students' union in the UK to hold an excellent status (NUS Quality Students' Unions Accreditation) and boasts a variety of facilities. With a number of shops, bars, food outlets, performance venues and home to over 300 student societies, the Union aims to make sure you love your time at Leeds.

www.luu.org.uk

Home to over 700,000 people, Leeds is rich in history and has a thriving economy. An attractive and affordable place to live, it is an important commercial, cultural and sporting centre. It has a lively nightlife, a good music scene, many cinemas and theatres, and a wide range of shops, restaurants and pubs.

Leeds is close to the Yorkshire Dales and the rest of Yorkshire's beautiful countryside. It has good road and rail links with the rest of the UK, and Leeds-Bradford Airport is only 20 minutes from the city centre.

www.leeds.ac.uk/citylife

Alternative formats

If you require any of the information contained in this publication in an alternative format e.g. Braille, large print or audio, please email disability@leeds.ac.uk

YOUR APPLICATION

The latest details on our courses including entry requirements are listed online at courses.leeds.ac.uk

We accept a range of international equivalent qualifications. Visit www.leeds.ac.uk/internationalentry

If English is not your first language, you will need to achieve a minimum score in an English language qualification such as IELTS or TOEFL. If you do not meet these requirements you may benefit from our six- or ten-week pre-session courses, which will help you to develop the language and communication skills you will need for your studies. Find out more at www.leeds.ac.uk/presessional

You will be able to track the progress of your application through UCAS. If you have any enquiries about your application, please contact our admissions team.

T: +44 (0)113 343 5260
E: finadm@leeds.ac.uk

ACCESS TO LEEDS

Access to Leeds, the University's widening access scheme, guarantees special consideration if you have personal circumstances that have affected your ability to demonstrate your talent and potential through grades alone. Applicants to the scheme who receive a standard offer will also receive an Access to Leeds offer of two A-level grades (or equivalent) below the standard offer.

www.leeds.ac.uk/accesstoleds

FUNDING

Student funding has been designed to ensure that you will not have to pay for your degree up front. There is plenty of help available in the form of government loans and scholarships from the University.

www.leeds.ac.uk/yourfinances

ACCOMMODATION

All first year undergraduates at the University of Leeds applying before July 1st in their year of entry are guaranteed a place in our accommodation.

accommodation.leeds.ac.uk



**School of Fine Art, History
of Art and Cultural Studies**

University of Leeds
Leeds, LS2 9JT
UK
+44 (0)113 343 1822
finadm@leeds.ac.uk
www.fine-art.leeds.ac.uk



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

University of Leeds
Leeds, United Kingdom
LS2 9JT
+44 (0)113 243 1751
www.leeds.ac.uk