

Part 1 Programme details

Programme title and code	MA in Art and Environment
Mode and duration of programme	Full-time; one year in duration
ECTS	90
TU Dublin award(s) sought	Master of Arts in Art and Environment
Exit award sought	See Part 6, Recommendations of the Panel
Classifications of award(s)	First Class Honours; Second Class Honours, First Division; Second Class Honours, Second Division; Pass
School responsible	Dublin School of Creative Arts
Professional body accreditation (where applicable)	NA
External provider type (where applicable)	
Delivery location	Programme is delivered in Uillinn (West Cork Arts Centre, Skibbereen), Sherkin Island and TU Dublin - City (Grangegorman)

Part 2 Programme approval information

Date of initial approval (of Q1A) by ORC's Academic and Research Committee	25 June 2019*
Date of validation/review event	3 rd February 2020
Date of approval by Academic Council and Governing Body	
Proposed date of commencement	September 2020

*Approved subject to the availability of staffing resources to deliver the programme.

Part 3 Programme background/structure***Background***

The Dublin School of Creative Arts, through this proposed Masters programme, aims to develop an embedded contextual engagement with the environmental arts in this critical era of climate change. Whilst there are important historical lineages of art and landscape, the recent emergence of discourses around the human impact on the environment have brought a new urgency and political efficacy to art's relationship to the environment. The MA will respond directly to this situation.

The programme will be delivered over a full year, in West Cork. Centrally located at Uillinn, West Cork Arts Centre, the programme will support expanded artistic practices on various islands in the West Cork Archipelago. Where the structured programme of talks, workshops and presentations will be located in Uillinn on a bi-weekly basis, the studio/project based learning will be located on Sherkin Island. This structure will support rigorous academic engagement with the inter-disciplinary discourses surrounding the environmental arts today and to express and test those discourses in material conditions on islands.

Stated learning outcomes of the programme

The aim of this programme is to merge theoretical research of a high academic standard with practice-based artistic exploration in the unique rural environment of West Cork.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the programme of study, the student will be able to:

- formulate a research question and develop a research proposal;
- integrate knowledge collected from a range of primary and secondary sources;
- plan and manage an independent research project, from proposal to realization to evaluation;
- develop multi-disciplinary approaches to contemporary art practices;
- develop context specific practices that engage the local community;
- engage with academic discourses on art and the environment;
- develop key theories and concepts applied in contemporary art practice;
- evaluate the efficacy of artistic research within the context of environmental studies.

Programme structure

The Programme is delivered over one academic year, from September to September. It comprises three modules, the first two of 25 ECTS each and the final research project of 40 ECTS.

Entry Requirements

Applicants are required to possess a minimum 2.1 honours degree or equivalent in the creative arts. Submission of a portfolio of written or practical work and an interview will be required. The School assesses students solely on the basis of merit, with particular reference to past academic performance, motivation (as exhibited in the application form) and relevant work or other practical experience.

Student assessment

In accordance with TU Dublin's General Assessment Regulations (City).

Derogations from the General Assessment Regulations

None sought.

Part 4 Validation Details and Panel Membership

Schedule of meetings

Venue: Room GW402, Greenway Hub, Grangegorman

09.00 am Introductory meeting between Panel, Director & Dean of the College of Arts & Tourism, Head of School and relevant Assistant Head of School of the Dublin

School of Creative Arts, Chairperson and members of the Programme Committee as appropriate. Presentation from School.

- 09.30 am Private meeting of Panel to discuss agenda.
- 10.45 am Panel meets with Head of School, Assistant Head of School, Chairperson and appropriate members of the Programme Committee, to discuss specific issues raised by the Panel.
- 12.30 pm Meeting of Panel with staff teaching on both programmes to discuss such matters as syllabi, teaching methods and assessment issues.
- 1.15 pm Lunch and tour of facilities available to the programme.
- 2.00 pm Meeting between Panel and Head of School and Programme Chair.
- 2.30 pm Private meeting of Panel to consider draft reports.
- 4.30 pm Panel to report back orally to the Head of School, Assistant Head of School of the Dublin School of Creative Arts, Programme Chair and other staff as appropriate.

Panel Membership

External Members

- Professor Carl Anders Säfström Professor of Education Research,
Maynooth University, Ireland
- Dr Taru Elfving Curator, University of the Arts, Helsinki, Finland

Internal Members

- Dr Nicola Timoney (Chair) School of Accounting & Finance,
TU Dublin - City (Aungier Street)
- Dr Máirtín Mac Con Iomaire School of Culinary Arts & Food Technology,
TU Dublin – City (Cathal Brugha Street)
- Professor Gordon Chambers School of Physics and Clinical & Optometric Sciences
TU Dublin – City (Kevin Street)

Officer

- Ms Jan Cairns Quality Assurance Officer, TU Dublin City Campus,
Park House, Grangegorman

Documentation submitted

A Programme Overview and the Student Handbook were made available to Panel members along with briefing notes on the process.

Part 5 Summary of Panel findings against key questions

Note: the Panel's findings (ie yes/no) and any additional comments against each of the key questions should be recorded below. Where a 'no' is recorded, an associated condition or recommendation should be included in Part 6, Findings of the Panel.

Is the market demand and need for the programme clear and articulated?	Yes
Are the aims, objectives and learning outcomes of the programme well-founded and clearly formulated?	Yes
Are the entry requirements clear and appropriate?	Yes
Are the arrangements for access, transfer and progression in accordance with University policy and NFQ?	Yes
Are the programme learning outcomes at the appropriate level as set out by the NFQ requirements?	Yes
Do the individual modules 'add up' to a coherent programme?	See recommendation regarding review of programme learning outcomes and modules
Are Graduate Attributes embedded within the programme?	Yes
Will the accumulation of the module learning outcomes result in the attainment of the programme learning outcomes?	See recommendation regarding review of programme learning outcomes and modules.
Is there appropriate use of student-centred learning, teaching and assessment strategies, including the First Year Framework for Success checklist, which recognise the needs of diverse student groups?	Yes.
Do the curricula and teaching schemes in each module descriptor give realisable substance to the module's aims, objectives and learning outcomes?	See recommendation regarding review of module descriptors.
Are the assessment methods and criteria aligned to the learning outcomes in each module?	Yes
Are facilities and resources, including staff, in place to support the delivery of the programme at the standard proposed?	Yes
Is there parity between off-campus/on-campus delivery (if applicable)?	The Panel is satisfied with the plans for delivery of the programme at Uillinn, Sherkin Island and TU Dublin, with some online delivery also.
Are the roles and responsibilities of each partner clearly specified (if applicable)?	Yes, Uillinn and the Sherkin Island Development Society have responsibility solely for the provision of space and facilities for the delivery of the programme.

Part 6 Recommendations of the Panel

The Panel is pleased to recommend approval of the Master of Arts in Art and Environment, at Level Nine on the National Framework of Qualifications, subject to two conditions and with recommendations including one strong recommendation.

The Panel congratulates the School on the development of this innovative and exciting programme and the School's engagement with the community in West Cork, building upon the BA Visual Art programme that is now embedded within the local community on Sherkin Island. It also commends:

- the concept of the programme and the interdisciplinary approach that is envisaged;
- the innovative use of technology and the work done to enhance the online portion of the programme;
- the commitment of the staff it met to the development and delivery of the BA and the proposed new Masters programme;

The Panel does not approve the Postgraduate Diploma exit award as presented at this time. However, it is happy to reconsider this award if the programme is reconfigured to facilitate students exiting the programme with 60 ECTS and if appropriate learning outcomes for this award are included. The Panel also points out that the award of a Postgraduate Certificate can be offered to those who exit the programme and have completed a minimum of 30 ECTS, upon inclusion in the programme documentation with appropriate learning outcomes.

Conditions:

- the programme documentation requires revision to ensure that there is accuracy and consistency throughout;
- the programme documentation, including the Student Handbook, should reflect the current TU Dublin academic calendar.

Strong recommendation

- The Panel considers that the programme documentation would be greatly enhanced by a clear statement that makes explicit the intellectual framework of the programme (programme philosophy, conceptual grammar and object of study) and the pedagogical framework (world-centredness) and how these inter-relate. This should then be reflected within the programme learning outcomes. The module descriptors should then be reviewed to ensure that they align to these programme learning outcomes.

Recommendations

- It should be made explicit within the programme documentation, including the Student Handbook, how the environment will underpin the object of study.
- The module learning outcomes, indicative syllabus and reading lists should be revised to reflect the breadth and depth of learning that students will be expected to achieve on completion of each module.
- The Panel recommends that module titles be reviewed.

Observation

- It is noted that a Service Level Agreement shall be required in relation to this programme, to set out the roles of Uillinn and the Sherkin Island Development Society (SIDS).