Contents

Studying at Leeds 04
Careers and employability 05
BA Fine Art 06
BA History of Art 08
BA Cultural and Media Studies 10
BA Art Gallery and Museum Studies 12
BA History of Art with Cultural Studies 14
BA Fine Art with History of Art 16
BA Fine Art with Contemporary Cultural Theory 18
BA Fine Art with Museum and Gallery Studies 20
Tailoring your learning with optional modules 22
University life 23

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 www.leeds.ac.uk/courses. 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, achieving University of the Year 2017 in The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide, and 92% for student satisfaction in the National Student Survey 2016. The Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Cultures has been ranked in the top 60 for Arts and Humanities worldwide (QS World Rankings by Subject 2017).

Choosing what to study, and where to study it, are among the most important decisions you will make. We hope very much 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

We offer a range of options for studying either History of Art or Cultural Studies 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. If you choose this option, you will study the same compulsory modules as single honours students but fewer optional and discovery modules. The intellectual range of such a degree, together with the organisational skill in combining two subject areas, makes you very attractive to employers.

www.fine-art.leeds.ac.uk/ug/joint-honours

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

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.

If you study a joint honours course where one of your subjects is a language, you may have to undertake a study abroad year instead of a year in industry. If so, we will support you in finding and securing other work experience opportunities.

www.leeds.ac.uk/workexperience
We are committed to developing your employability and career prospects, and our graduates have an excellent reputation amongst employers - the 2017 High Fliers report ranks Leeds as one of the top five 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) and Mercury Prize (2012) 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
BA Fine Art

This unique and prestigious 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.

From the start, 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.

In your final year, you will undertake a self-directed research project 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 II |
| Elements of Visual Culture I |
| Elements of Visual Culture II |
| Professional Practice (Introductory) |
| Studying in a Digital Age |

YEAR 2

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

YEAR 3

| Studio Work |
| Professional Practice |
| Dissertation |
I’ve had a fantastic four years studying BA Fine Art and it has given me the foundation I need 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 loads 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 are regularly encouraged to organise our own exhibitions and show our work to the public.

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.

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 is also an emerging arts scene with lots of graduates that have stayed in the city and taken up studios, putting on regular exhibitions.

My time at the University has gone so, so quickly and, despite being sad to leave, I feel it has really set me up for the future and opened my eyes to so many possibilities. I would honestly really recommend studying at Leeds.
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.

We do not take for granted that ‘art’ has been understood in the same way around the world through time. 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.

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.

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.

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.

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
Studying in a Digital Age
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.
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 so far really memorable.

“I know that I will graduate with a really solid understanding of key themes surrounding the history of art.”
You will learn about different ways of analysing images, texts, technologies and cultural practices in order to develop your understanding of a range of complex issues and acquire an international 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 science, 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.

courses.leeds.ac.uk

YEAR 1
- Introduction to Cultural Analysis I
- Introduction to Cultural Analysis II
- Cultural History
- Cinema and Media History
- Studying Media
- Studying in a Digital Age
- The History of Communication
- Introduction to Media and Communication Theory

YEAR 2
- Keywords
- Visual Communication
- Communication Research Methods
- Your choice of optional and/or discovery modules.

YEAR 3
- Dissertation
- Your choice of one specialist cultural studies module
- Your choice of optional and/or discovery modules.
One of the reasons I chose to study BA Cultural and Media Studies was because it is broad and covers many areas I have an interest in. I have learned about a wide range of subjects including history, film, capitalism, Asia, psychology, the influence of the media and more.

I have also had opportunities beyond what I expected, in more practical work. In the first year, we were required to create a dossier for a module called Cinema and Media History. I created a film for this project on the history of cinema in Leeds and I visited the cinemas in and around the city centre. I presented them and did some interviews about their history and what makes them unique.

This year, as part of the Working in Digital Media module, we have been set group projects that last the whole semester where we design and develop in response to a brief. My group have been working on a party game aimed at young adults, which has been really fun and a valuable experience for the future.

I have also chosen to work as a Student Ambassador where I help out at open days and inform prospective students about the course, which is a really exciting chance to meet others who are interested in Cultural and Media Studies.

The School emails out a weekly newsletter, informing students of opportunities and events such as course-related internships, voluntary positions or new exhibitions or talks going on in Leeds. Last year there 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 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.

“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.”
BA Art Gallery and Museum Studies

This course allows you to study museums, art galleries, country houses and heritage sites from an historical perspective and to consider their role in contemporary society.

You will learn about the interpretation, display, education and communication practices of museums and galleries, as well as learning about the history of art and theories of visual and material culture. Our excellent links with local institutions will allow you to benefit from privileged access as well as a dedicated work experience placement in your final year.

In year 1, you will gain the fundamental skills and knowledge for the study of art history and the ways in which cultural forms have been displayed over time. Compulsory and optional modules will explore different ways of thinking about museums, art galleries and heritage organisations, and examine how art and heritage have been understood in different times, places and cultures.

You will build on this knowledge in year 2, taking compulsory modules on contemporary theories of culture and museum practice. You will examine the methods and ideas behind the collection, interpretation and display of objects, as well as introductions to collections management, exhibitions and the exploration of museum, art gallery and heritage audiences.

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. You will also have the opportunity of hands-on experience through your museum or art gallery work placement. To complement and support your research, you will select optional modules from the diverse choice on offer. If you choose, you can take one fewer optional modules and go into greater depth on an extended dissertation.

To complement and support your research, you will select optional modules from the diverse choice on offer. If you choose, you can take one fewer optional modules and go into greater depth on an extended dissertation.

courses.leeds.ac.uk
I first came to Leeds to study BA History of Art with Museum Studies (now BA Art Gallery and Museum Studies). I thoroughly enjoyed the modules on the course including those on the Museum, the English Country House and British Architecture in the Long Eighteenth Century, and I appreciated the expertise and genuine enthusiasm from staff in the School. Visits to a variety of museums and country houses in Leeds also gave me the chance to meet individuals who worked there, hearing about their roles and career progression. The opportunity to choose modules from other departments in my first year (Medieval History and Classics) very much complemented my core studies.

Enjoying my BA led me to go on to study MA Arts Management and Heritage Studies at Leeds. Effectively combining ideas of how ‘heritage’ is preserved and passed on with the study of audiences and cultural leadership, the MA gave a great overview of the demands on heritage institutions and arts managers today and the challenges that they can face; for example we had an inspiring visit from an arts consultant who spoke about her work with arts organisations in audience engagement and visitor satisfaction.

During my MA year I secured the role of Archive and Outreach Assistant at the M&S Company Archive, which is based on campus, through the Leeds Internship Programme. Working in the corporate archive of a business with such a rich history has been fantastic and the varied nature of the role has really built on what I studied at Leeds.

I would encourage students to gain as much experience as they can during their time at university through internships and work experience and to make use of the University Careers Centre. I was very impressed by the standard of support available, from the range of roles advertised on the Careers website, to application and interview advice.

“I would encourage students to gain as much experience as they can during their time at university through internships and work experience and to make use of the University Careers Centre.”
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 learn about the history of the practices we recognise as art in the context of literature, music, film, photography and the media, to 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.

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.

YEAR 1

Introduction to Cultural Analysis I
Introduction to Cultural Analysis II
A Story of Art I
A Story of Art II
Studying in a Digital Age
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.
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, 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.

“Leeds is a vibrant and lively city, while the University is a well-equipped and exciting place to learn.”
BA Fine Art with History of Art

This course will enable 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 gain 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, and your practical and professional skills to a curated exhibition and public degree show. 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 II
A Story of Art I
A Story of Art II
Studying in a Digital Age

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 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.

“The aura of independence is infectious and I felt proud walking around the campus: I instantly knew I had to go here.”
BA Fine Art with Contemporary Cultural Theory

This course will enable you to become an academically strong, thoughtful artist with a critical understanding of contemporary philosophy and cultural theory.

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 II

Introduction to Cultural Analysis I

Introduction to Cultural Analysis II

Studying in a Digital Age

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.
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 so formative - challenging, but 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 it stays with me to this day, providing a reservoir of key ideas, conversations and approaches that I still dip into.

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), which 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 2007-12 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 2008-11 and interim Director at The Art House in Wakefield from 2015-16. 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.

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 superb 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!
BA Fine Art with Museum and Gallery Studies

This course will enable you to become an academically strong, thoughtful artist with a critical understanding of the historic and contemporary role of museums, galleries, country houses and heritage sites.

You will split your time equally between studio practice and the history and theory of curatorial and audience-engagement practices within the context of these institutions. You will also gain professional skills as you develop and exhibit your own artistic work every year.

In year 1, you will gain 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 examine the roles and practices of museums and galleries throughout history, the complex relationship between art and heritage, and issues relating to the collection, interpretation and display of objects.

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 and optional modules will examine the collections management, exhibitions and audiences of museums and galleries in the context of fine art, from both a historic and contemporary perspective. 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 within museum and gallery studies. This will allow you to apply your skills and investigate a specific area in depth. Alongside this you will work on a curated exhibition and public degree show, using your artistic and professional skills as you interact with outside agencies, sponsors and the media.

courses.leeds.ac.uk

YEAR 1

Introduction to Studio Work

Studio Work II

Introduction to Museum and Art Gallery Studies

The English Country House: Making and Meaning

Studying in a Digital Age

and

Your choice of optional and/or discovery modules.

YEAR 2

Studio Work

Exhibitions, Curatorship and Audiences

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.
Sommer Ackerman

BA Fine Art with Museum and Gallery Studies

My course is unique as I get to have a perfect balance of making, which allows me to explore my creative side, and learning. I have really enjoyed both sides as I feel each helps me learn from the other. The museums aspect allows me to understand how to curate my own work in fine art and understand different perspectives that I wouldn’t have been able to see without this course. I have always been interested in museums and I feel this is the perfect course to give you a positive introduction to them. The learning is gentle, interesting and engaging. The course also involves some of the best lecturers for museum studies: they teach in such a way that I have really enjoyed learning and have been excited to study further.

Throughout the first two years of my course, we have taken plenty of visits to local museums to try and understand them, and look at them in ways that I couldn’t have alone. Another great benefit of the course is it is quite a small year group, meaning I’ve been able to build a relationship with my peers in a way that a bigger class would not have allowed me to do. Some of the lectures have become more of a discussion where everyone is heard - this has allowed me to voice my own opinions and be more confident in my ideas.

The texts I have read have been varied, each one helping me with my studies as I have been able to take so much from them.

The fine art side of the course has allowed me to push the boundaries of what I think art is, and let me pursue whatever I can imagine. I have always felt encouraged by the tutors as they help me explore my practice further. The tutors have their own personal practices which introduces me to different perspectives on my work and different ways of making and thinking. Over our time on the course we have put on several shows, allowing us to curate our own and others’ practices. I find that studying museums alongside this has helped me each time think about my work more critically and find new approaches to my own curation.

I look forward to my final year where I hope to really focus my studies and learn as much as possible. This degree offers so much and the staff are always there to push you and support you, which has helped me throughout. The learning is sometimes difficult but there is nothing you can’t conquer if you put your mind to it. It would be a wasted opportunity to not take full advantage of everything that my time at university has provided for me.

“...they teach in such a way that I have really enjoyed learning and have been excited to study further.”
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR 1</th>
<th>YEAR 2</th>
<th>YEAR 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Cultural Analysis</td>
<td>African Art I: Context, Representation, Signification</td>
<td>Africa and the Atlantic World: History, Historiography and the Visual Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural History</td>
<td>Art, Power and Portraiture</td>
<td>Anthropology, Art and Representation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cinema and Media History</td>
<td>Borromini and the Roman Baroque: Skill, Knowledge, and Material’s Potential</td>
<td>Assessing the French Revolution 1789-1799</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The English Country House: Making and Meaning</td>
<td>Careers Preparation for Arts and Culture</td>
<td>British Architecture in the Long Eighteenth Century</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction to Museum and Art Gallery Studies</td>
<td>Cinema and Culture</td>
<td>Critical Approaches to Photography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elements of Visual Culture</td>
<td>Country Houses and the (Re) Construction of the Heritage Industry 1880-1950</td>
<td>Cultural Diversity in Museum and Material Culture – Case Study</td>
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<td>A Story of Art</td>
<td>Danish Golden Age Painting</td>
<td>Curatorial Practice and the Country House 1950-present</td>
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<td>Ecologies of Medieval Art</td>
<td>Deconstruction Reading Politics</td>
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<td>Image, Music, Text: Reading Roland Barthes</td>
<td>From Trauma to Cultural Memory: The Unfinished Business of Representation and the Holocaust</td>
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<td>Live Issues and Contemporary Art Practice</td>
<td>Humanity, Animality and Globality</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Power and Practice</td>
<td>Making Sense of Sound</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Seeing in Asia</td>
<td>Movies, Migrants and Diasporas</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Art Market: Moments, Methodologies, Meanings</td>
<td>Periclean Athens</td>
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<td>The Avant Gardes</td>
<td>Reading Sexual Difference</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Museum</td>
<td>Sins, Sinisters and Sciapods: The Margins of Medieval Art</td>
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<td>The New York School</td>
<td>Soviet Socialist Realism</td>
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<td>The State of Utopia</td>
<td>The Origins of Postcolonial England</td>
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<td>The Wanderers: Critical Realism in Nineteenth Century Russia</td>
<td>The Ripped and the Raw: Aspects of European Art 1945-1960</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Variant Modernism</td>
<td>Utopia: Demanding the Impossible!</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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

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-sessional 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

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.

www.leeds.ac.uk/accommodation

www.leeds.ac.uk/accesstoleeds

www.leeds.ac.uk/yourfinances

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