Programme specification

MA Illustration

School: School of Art, Design & Computer Science
Entry from: 2019/20 in: September
Awarding institution: York St John University
Teaching institution: York St John University
Delivery location: York St John University
Programme/s accredited by: Not applicable
Exit awards: Postgraduate Certificate Illustration
Postgraduate Diploma Illustration
UCAS code / GTTR / other: choose an item:
Joint Honours combinations: Not applicable
QAA benchmark group(s):
Mode/s of study: Postgraduate periods of study for 1. Full-time and part-time
Full-time for 1 year
Part-time for 2 years
Language of study: English
Study abroad opportunities: No

Introduction and special features

The MA Illustration focuses on progressing and professionalising your creative practice, aiming to support you to produce a body of work that prioritises your professional visual interests and is underpinned by a theoretical understanding. The programme emphasises artistic practice, supported by relevant theory and critical thinking and framed through the application of practice based research methodologies. As a student you will develop a deeper knowledge of your Illustration practice that will enable you to cultivate a sustainable creative practice. The programme is designed to meet the needs of students who are recent graduates in the UK/EU and internationally and also those who are returning to learn.

The MA supports you to identify, develop and professionalise your particular Illustration specialist interests through a combination of taught sessions, tutorials, critiques, briefs and live projects, field trips and participatory events. The York St John Illustration scholarship focuses on narrative drawing in all its forms: comics and zines, children's books, graphic journalism, graphic memoirs, concept art, storyboarding, editorial cartoons, book design, drawing for animation. You will be supported to work independently to explore your own potential in Illustration professional practice, focusing on practices that are directly relevant to your visual interests. You will be expected to think globally, produce work of high quality and develop your professional networks. You will be supported to build on your knowledge of practices and critical theory relating to contemporary drawing practice, narrative drawing, comics studies, history of children's publishing, and other related fields to underpin your studio practice and situate your illustration work in the professional and scholarly field. You can expect:

- A supportive community of artists working at different levels in related disciplines.
- The opportunity to incorporate professional practice, live projects into your course.

Special Features Include:

- Guest speakers
- Master classes
- Access to specialist studios and workshop spaces
• National and international field trips e.g. art fairs, biennials and galleries
• Group exhibitions e.g. Thought Bubble Festival in Leeds.
• Networking opportunities

The principles underpinning the programme:

1. Builds upon and responds to scholarship at the vanguard of the artistic practice, aiming to facilitate scholarly innovation and the development of new knowledge that can be effectively shared;
2. Reflects on and integrates current or emergent professional practice in order to align with identifiable career paths, thus supporting entry to significant careers and related opportunities;
3. Underpinned and supported by the pedagogic expertise, academic knowledge, professional skills and research capabilities of members of staff in the University.

WHY study?

This programme will enable you to broaden, understand, refine and develop your own practice within the subject of Illustration. You will rigorously investigate and question your field of study in order to reflect upon and improve your own practice including research skills, philosophical approaches, and project management skills.

Admissions criteria

You must meet the University’s general entry criteria for postgraduate study. In addition, you must have a portfolio of relevant work.

If your first language is not English, you need to take an IELTS test or an equivalent qualification accepted by the University (see https://www.yorksj.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/).

If you do not have traditional qualifications, you may be eligible for entry on the basis of Accredited Prior (Experiential) Learning (APL/APEL). We also consider applications for entry with advanced standing.

Programme aims

1. Develop the necessary technical skills to develop your practice in appropriate ways.
2. Engage you in professional experiences alongside in-course talks/lectures and workshops on professional development
3. Provide a framework for academic discussion, personal practice and personal development, allowing you to engage with problems and insights at the forefront of your field.
4. Develop a critical, analytical, systematic and comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the theoretical, ethical and professional contexts in which your practice is situated.
5. Equip you with the knowledge, abilities and methods – creative, conceptual, theoretical, analytical, technical and organisational – that enable you to propose, research, develop and complete a self-directed practice-led project.
Programme learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the programme you will be able to:

7.1 Carry out systematic and rigorous experimentation by testing, handling and exploring your chosen medium.
7.2 Demonstrate tacit intelligence through a comprehensive application of techniques and aesthetic decision making.
7.3 Creatively negotiate the uncertainty, ambiguity and limitations of knowledge and value based judgements in creative practice.
7.4 Evaluate prior practice and knowledge in your wider cultural, social and professional environments.
7.5 Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of your chosen practice by synthesising and evaluating relevant new knowledge at the forefront of the discipline.
7.6 Apply an enhanced critical vocabulary and appropriate academic conventions in written and verbal form.
7.7 Formulate a focus for your practice by developing a systematic research trajectory that includes initial questions, research imperatives and addresses ethical considerations.
7.8 Demonstrate independent professional engagement with external individuals, networks and organisations.
7.9 Demonstrate critically informed and professional project management.
7.10 Create an original, specialist and sustainable self-directed practice.

Programme Structure - MA Illustration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Status of Module*</th>
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<tr>
<td>MAR001</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Material Intelligence</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>C</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Specialist Expansive Studio Practice (Illustration)</td>
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<td>Navigating and Locating Practice</td>
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<td>MAR007</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>MAR009</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Masters Project</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>CA</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*C: Compulsory, CA: Compulsory for award, O: option or E: elective.

Learning, teaching and assessment

The teaching methodology is informed by an in-depth knowledge of pedagogy and it incorporates a broad range of good practices. These diverse practices are relevant to both studio-based practice and also experience-based learning and are aimed at challenging the boundaries of your practice. The teaching and learning environment is informed by workshop facilities, teaching spaces, technologies and intermedial exchanges between analogue and digital cultures.

You will be exposed to a range of teaching and learning strategies across the modules. These will include workshop and studio sessions, seminar discussions, supervised projects, crits, professional experiences and project work. Your creative development will be underpinned by an ongoing process of action, reflection and evaluation, facilitated by action research methodologies and expanded through different modes of reflective practice. As a result you will
gain an in-depth understanding of the different modes of artistic production and will be able to re-define and also situate your creative practice within the wider visual arts landscape.

Formative assessment will be employed throughout the programme through a range of tasks, projects and presentations. Summative assessment will take a variety of forms including presentations, portfolios, exhibitions and written work.

**The Modules**

The modules are a balanced set of 4 of 30 credit practice led investigations with theory embedded throughout. You will be introduced to new approaches to your practice as well as new ways of thinking; you will develop research methodologies alongside professional practice skills. Your final Master project is a 60 credit self-directed body of research informed by the trajectory of the 4 previous modules.

**Progression and graduation requirements**

The University’s general regulations for postgraduate awards apply to this programme.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the Programme Structure section.

**Internal and external reference points**

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- University Mission Statement [see page two]
- Strategic Plan 2015-20 [see page four]
- QAA subject benchmark statement
- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications

Date written / revised: 27/03/18