

Programme Specification

Award and title: Master of Research in Artistic Practice

<i>School:</i>	School of the Arts
<i>Subject area:</i>	Performance, Production, and Design
<i>Entry from academic year:</i>	2026-27
<i>in the month(s) of</i>	September
<i>Awarding institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Teaching institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Delivery location:</i>	York
<i>Programme/s accredited by:</i>	Not applicable
<i>Exit awards:</i>	Postgraduate Certificate in Research Methods in Artistic Practice
<i>Mode/s of study:</i>	Full time (1 year) Part time (2 years)
<i>Language of study:</i>	English

Introduction and special features

The primary objective of the MRes in Artistic Practice (MRes) programme is to offer you the opportunity to build, grow and enhance your personal and professional artistic research practices within the fields of performance (acting, theatre making/writing/directing, performing), music (composition/production), media production (film making and intermedial performance) and visual performance (installation). The programme will facilitate an inclusive and diverse creative environment for future artistic researchers to rigorously explore, trail, test, and share, through research, practice, and creativity.

The programme combines artistic methodologies and cutting-edge principles, theories, and critical analysis, in relation to ethics, ethnography and autoethnography, aligned with the scope of artistic research (an established field across all the artistic modes). It has two focused taught modules (one-third), and a subsequent independent artistic research module (two-thirds). The students' practice, artistic mode, and personal creative journey are situated at the heart of all three modules. This programme is designed to equip future artistic researchers with the essential aspects of critical and creative inquiry, to provoke thought and enthuse their reflective capabilities, within a contextual critical awareness.

Students will take two taught modules in semester one: **Artistic Research Methods** (30 credits), is aimed at unpacking the practical research methods and critical contexts of artistic research for those within a wide range of artistic subjects, including, but not restricted to, performance, theatre, music, production and media. **Contemporary Artistic Practice** (30 credits), guides students to reflect upon a chosen subject areas, within a given cultural artistic field, that aligns with their own practices and engages critical with the social, environmental and creative milieu. Within these modules, students will be both interrogating with work of professional contemporary artists, as well as being encouraged and guided in ways to interrogate and reflect on their own artistic process, practices, and creations. The modules aim to support students in creating a confidence send of self, developing their artistic voice, within the field.

The first two modules above, are both aimed at ensuring the students apply appropriate research and reflective methodologies to their own creative artistic practice, across artistic modes. They will develop their research writing and research presentation skills, which is rigorous, critical, dialogic and accessible and disseminated in multimodal ways (e.g. both textual and artistic).

Please note that both 30-credit modules must be passed at the relevant level in order to progress to the Thesis module.

The capstone module, **Independent Artistic Practice (120 credits)**, aims to support students creating the culmination of their skills through a significant creative artistic research project. The project enables students to have autonomy within their chosen artistic field, to create a body of work which demonstrates rigour and originality within a research enquiry driven artwork such as live performance, music composition or short film.

Students will interact with highly qualified artistic academic members of staff across the school of the arts (SOTA). SOTA will provide students with an interesting artistic research community which nurtures individual creative skills. For example, students would be invited to Spring Test, an event where all postgraduate researchers share their practice and thinking in working progress form, to prepare for important future milestones. Moreover, students will be invited to participate within the SOTA festival which runs each year, where work is exhibited and performed to public audiences and to industry.

Upon the successful completion of this programme, students will be equipped with the knowledge, experiences, reflective and analytical skills, ethical awareness, and broader interdisciplinary understanding of artistic research methods and practices that will prepare students to pursue the highest level of academic work at doctoral level (PhD).

Admissions Criteria

You must meet the University's general entry criteria for [postgraduate study](#). In addition, you must have:

A 2:1 in Artistic Practice or a closely-related discipline. Applicants whose first degree is not in Artistic Practice will be accepted on a case-by-case basis to ensure that they have covered sufficient levels of Artistic Practice and research methods during their first degree.

Applicants whose first language is not English should have IELTS at grade 6.5 or above (including a minimum of 6.5 in the writing component) or another acceptable English Language qualification.

Candidates are required to submit an outline research proposal in line with a research theme that they are interested in pursuing as part of the course (maximum length 1500 words).

Programme Aim(s)

The MRES in Artistic Practice is a specialist degree design for practising artists and researchers, who wish to advance their critical, reflective, creative and personal approaches to their work. The programme will enable them to contribute to both the academic and artistic environments. The course is designed to equip students with theoretical, methodological, ethical, interrogative, practical, creative and reflective approaches, toward building a significant body of artistic practice and research enquiry informed by rigorous, facilitative research processes, which offer findings within and through both the artistic dissemination (in a range of domains) as well as in writing. The course will provide students with the essential knowledges of artistic research methodologies, and understanding and awareness of recent artistic research literature, practices and bodies of artistic work.

This programme also aims to prepare those who wish to undertake a PhD in an artistic discipline.

Programme Learning Outcomes

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

7.1 Demonstration of critical artistic reflection and evaluation significant to the type of literature and source material adopted and justification of selection of the dialogic materials within the artistic contexts that shape their creative work.

7.2 Make informed judgements that involve a synthesis of relevant fields of artistic research practices and their associated theories to develop a deep embodied and theoretical knowledge of their creative artistic practice

7.3 Exploration and evaluation of literature/source materials in relation to the artistic research area and the implications for their chosen research problem.

7.4 Identify, explore, interpret and apply the various approaches of artistic research methodologies.

7.5 Application of critical thinking, development of arguments, justification of artistic research approaches and problem-solving skills in the identification of the changing cultural and contextual artistic issues and how that may affect their chosen field/research problem.

7.6 Critically expand their awareness of the artistic modes applied and used as a practice researcher, utilised in creating their artistic practice research in diverse ways including articulating and applying their ethical strategies.

7.7 Demonstrate the academic skills appropriate to level 7, including the development of standards of oral and written presentation to sustain arguments, and the presentation of original questions to peers in professional and academic domains, as part of an international community of reflective artistic practitioners.

7.8 Develop an interpretation of the artistic research life cycle, as the basis to produce novel, innovative, creative and independent artistic research.

Programme structure

Full-Time

Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Module status	
					compulsory (C) or optional (O)	non- compensable (NC) or compensable (X)
ARR7001M	7	1	Artistic Research Methods	30	C	NC
ARR7002M	7	1	Contemporary Artistic Practice	30	C	NC
ARR7003R	7	2 & 3	Independent Artistic Practice	120	C	NC

Part-Time

Part-time: Year 1						
Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Module status	
					Compulsory (C) or optional (O)	non-compensable (NC) or compensable (X)
ARR7001M	7	1	Artistic Research Methods	30	C	NC
ARR7002M	7	1 or 2	Contemporary Artistic Practice	30	C	NC

Part-time: Year 2						
Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Module status	
					Compulsory (C) or optional (O)	non-compensable (NC) or compensable (X)
ARR7003R	7	2&3	Independent Artistic Practice	120	C	NC

Please note that both 30-credit modules must be passed at the relevant level in order to progress to the Independent Artistic Practice module.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment

The learning, teaching and assessment approaches are based on the principles of student-centred artistic research practices, utilising a dialogic, inclusive education framework, through embodied and theoretical experiences and practices. In developing reflective artistic practitioners who can present their work in academia and in the art worlds (e.g. in specific art industries), the course supports students in both taught classes and within one to one supervisory support.

The programme is focused on developing an array of desirable graduate attributes, through inclusive and equitable teaching, learning and assessment practices, that prioritise students' experiences, cultures, and potential leaders of tomorrow.

As a result, several tenets underpin the programme's design including:

- Using of active, reflective and experiential learning approaches, which are practical, authentic, creative and experimental in nature.
- Develop a confident artistic voice and persona, in and through the body of artistic work, with autonomy over time.
- Focusing on holistic engagement strategies throughout the course.
- Encouraging critical and reflective modes of practice as embodied learning through application.

The programme recognises that students will bring significant experiences and forms of knowledges (e.g. tacit, implicit, practical, somatic), that can be shared, and subsequently shape the learning environment and creative community. Therefore, the programme's pedagogy is diverse and rooted on practice research approaches and inquiry-led learning, which informs their artistic research. You may not have engaged in conventional education for some time or may never have formally studied a Master of Research at a postgraduate level. Thus, support with study skills, conventions of academic analysis and scholarly writing will be available throughout the programme.

All modules are designed and delivered utilising a range of teaching, learning and assessment techniques, including lecture-seminars, debates, discussion forums, artistic sharing, dialogical peer exchanges, and tutorials. By utilising a range of assessment practices, the programme will ensure an inclusive and individualised experience, where artistic research in the art mode is at the core of the dissemination (as opposed to a traditional thesis). Academics will provide formative assessment opportunities and feedback/forward, to inform students work before submission. Students will benefit from a variety of feedback modes (as appropriate to the method of assessment and to the artistic mode), encompassing verbal/audio, written/rubric, live/in-person and via individual and/or group techniques. Feedback received will detail how you can develop areas of research, subject knowledge, and professional practice.

The course aligns with the QAA Master's Degree Characteristics.

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 as non-compensable.

Internal and external reference points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University Mission, Culture and Values](#)
- [University 2026 Strategy](#)
- [QAA subject benchmark statements](#)
- [QAA Master's Degree Characteristics Statement](#)
- [Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications](#)

Date written/revised: July 2024 / revised October 2025

Programme originally approved: 24/07/2024