Fulfil your creative potential and ambitions in Fine Art. Our mix of studio practice, art history and professional experience develops the skills needed to succeed as an artist, curator, academic or arts professional in the creative economy. In the bespoke facilities of our School of Art, you will be taught by practicing artists who are keen to help you develop work that reflects your aims as an aspiring artist. You will be able to work across painting, drawing, sculpture, digital, live art and their hybrids. In your final year, you will have the opportunity to showcase your work in a solo exhibition in your studio space and end-of-year degree show.

Peter Scott Gallery
Art gallery on campus with an international collection of artwork

Guardian University Guide 2023
for Fine Art
2nd

Times Good University Guide 2023
for Art and Design graduate prospects
7th

Dedicated studio space
Every art student at Lancaster has their own dedicated studio space from day one, accessible 24/7, day and night

Student work
Every year our final year students showcase their work in a major degree show, that is open to the public.

www.lancaster.ac.uk/lica/degreeshow
Lancaster is home to a busy arts scene, both on and off campus. We host an annual visiting speaker programme. Our guests are artists, curators and scholars at the cutting edge of art and ideas, such as Geraint Evans, Sena Başöz, Jasmir Creed, and Ellie Clark, as well as emerging talents and recent graduates.

You will curate and exhibit your work throughout your degree, culminating in the final year end of degree show which typically takes place in June each year. You can get involved in societies that will provide further opportunities to show your work and deliver exhibitions. Lancaster University Students’ Union has an Art Society, and students have formed an exhibition group called ‘Up North Arts’ that provides opportunities to curate and exhibit across the region.

The Peter Scott Gallery on campus presents a varied programme of contemporary exhibitions and associated talks. It houses Lancaster University’s international art collection, which includes Japanese and Chinese art, antiquities, works by twentieth century British artists and prints by significant European artists such as Dürer, Miró, Ernst and Vasarely.

Also on campus is the Ruskin Library, Museum and Research Centre which presents exhibitions relating to John Ruskin, the British art critic and social commentator of the Victorian age.

Facilities

As a Fine Art student, you will have access to outstanding facilities including: purpose-built art studios open 24/7, excellent access to workshops and equipment, with free materials for some taught workshops, digital art lab and installation space, fully-equipped wood/metal workshop, life-room, digital editing equipment, and practical performance space.
Your degree

The degree is studio-based and every student has their own studio from the start of Year 1. The first year forms an introduction to your studies, integrating studio-based practice and the study of both art theory and history. In Years 2 and 3, you can opt to focus solely on Fine Art, or expand the scope of your studies by selecting modules from other related disciplines, including those within the Lancaster Institute for the Contemporary Arts (Design, Film, Theatre).

In the studio practice modules, we’ll teach you skills and techniques and encourage you to develop your own ideas in digital art, painting, drawing and sculpture/installation. The programme is flexible, and through combining core and optional modules you can choose a programme that suits your strengths.

Year 1

| Fine Art Studio Practice | Fundamentals: Contemporary Arts and Design | Minor Module |

This module establishes fundamental Fine Art practices and principles and develops a critical understanding of basic concepts, approaches, possibilities and ways of working. You will engage with the practical disciplines of painting, sculpture, digital art, drawing and inter-media practices. You will work in your own dedicated studio space and learn through a mix of workshops, group work and one-to-one tutorials.

We introduce you to methods, tools and critical concepts used by academics to understand creative work, its discussion and practice, both historically and today. You’ll be encouraged to think of yourself as a ‘creative critic’ who uses intelligent observations about the creative world to inform your own practice of writing and making.

There is a wide choice of optional modules including:
+ Creative Writing
+ Design
+ Drama, Theatre and Performance
+ English Literature
+ Film Studies
+ History
+ Media and Cultural Studies
+ Marketing
and more.

Availability is subject to entry requirement and timetabling restrictions.

- Becky Bowman on her placement as a specialist glazier at Reynteins Studio in London.

Joint Degree

Joint major students take the core module for their second subject instead of a minor module. In Years 2 and 3, joint major students take 50% of their modules in Fine Art and 50% in their second subject.
Year 2

Fine Art Studio Practice

You will direct your own research and develop, through negotiation, a self-reliant and independent approach to studio practice. You will take increasing responsibility for the creative and conceptual direction of your work with support from one-to-one tutorials. You will also have group tutorials, where you will be grouped together with others according to your shared broad discipline area - painting, drawing, sculpture, digital - and the group will be supervised by tutors who are specialist artists working in that field. You'll also participate in technical workshops, as well as benefitting from peer-feedback.

Critical Reflections (Contemporary Arts Theory)

You will learn about critical theory in the arts and its application to aesthetics and art practice. To support and inform your studio practice you will study: Form and Structure, Semiotics and Authorship, Phenomenology and Spectatorship, Sexuality and Gender, Race and Ethnicity, and Class and Society. Weekly plenary lectures make connections across the arts, and seminar workshops allow students to work together on ideas and examples specifically tailored towards their discipline.

Optional Modules

Select from options such as:
+ What is the Contemporary?
+ Documentary Drawing
+ Expanded Painting Practice
+ Art, Site and Interaction

You can also choose from optional modules in other LICA disciplines (Design, Film, Theatre) or related subjects in other departments.

- Staff and students participating in the module 'Art, Site & Interaction' that teaches approaches to making art in locations and with communities.
Studio practice is student-centred and self-directed, leading to an independent Fine Art practice that can be continued beyond your degree. The module is structured around one-to-one tutorials with specialist tutors working in your area of interest. Individual and group tutorials, as well as peer feedback, support your work alongside workshops on professional development. The module culminates in the student degree show, a public exhibition of work. In curating this exhibition, with guidance from tutors, you will learn skills in curating and marketing, as well as visual and written communication.

You will conduct independent research on a topic of your choice. You will learn research skills via lectures and seminars and have regular meetings with your dedicated supervisor to support your development.

Select from options such as:
+ Creative Enterprise
+ Contemporary Dance and the Visual Arts
You can also choose from second year and third year optional modules in LICA or related subjects in other departments.

Creative Enterprise module

The Creative Enterprise module in Year 3 enables you to learn about the innovative ways in which creative practitioners produce and deliver their work. You will develop a working understanding of the key management and enterprise skills involved in delivering creative projects.

Information contained in this booklet with respect to modules is correct at the time of publication, and the University will make every reasonable effort to offer modules as advertised. In some cases changes may be necessary and may result in some modules and combinations being unavailable, for example as a result of student feedback, timetabling, staff changes and new research. Please check our website for the latest information. www.lancaster.ac.uk
My third year set the direction for my artwork and career. The openness of the art modules in studio practice and theory allowed me to focus on what interested me the most. My studio work mixed objects and video projection with art-science research.

Helping to run ‘Up North Arts’, the student art society, gave me experience of curating exhibitions and events as part of a creative team.

After uni, I co-founded The GAP Studio collective and spent a year working as a freelance artist and collaboratively producing projects. I recently moved to Liverpool where I started working as an Assistant Creative Producer with Open Eye Gallery alongside my art practice. The mix of academic and hands-on creative work in my degree, an active student community and great careers support opened up these opportunities to start my career in the creative arts.

Núria Rovira Terradas
Fine Art graduate (2020)
Placements and internships

Placements and internships are great ways to gain work experience, make professional contacts and help you decide your career path. A wide range of opportunities is available, some are paid, and there are opportunities to gain experience working in schools on volunteer placements. Places are not usually guaranteed but we will help you prepare for the competitive application process.

The majority of our degrees are also available as placement year degrees that you can apply to via UCAS. With specialist support, you apply for a professional, paid work placement in Year 3 and return to Lancaster to complete your degree in Year 4.

www.lancaster.ac.uk/fass-placements

Study abroad and vacation travel

We partner with institutions around the world to provide exciting opportunities to travel, study and work abroad. Potential destinations currently include Australia, Canada, and the USA.

Alternatively, we run short trips to destinations such as China, Germany, Ghana, India and Malaysia during the Easter and summer vacation. The trips include meeting local students and businesses as well as some academic study and cultural discovery.

www.lancaster.ac.uk/your-global-experience

Careers

By the time you finish this course, you’ll be equipped with a sophisticated understanding of fine art. You’ll also have carefully honed your own independent style under the guidance of leading practitioners in the field. A significant number of our graduates become independent artists. Others move into careers in areas such as creative agencies, television and the media, or for museums and galleries.

Other graduates choose to continue their studies at postgraduate level, either at Lancaster or at other high quality institutions, such as the Royal College of Art, London; Goldsmiths College, University of London; Ruskin School of Art, Oxford University; and the Royal Academy of Fine Arts, Ghent.

Throughout your degree, a wealth of career guidance and support is available from the Department and the University’s Careers Service, which has subject-specific Careers Consultants. We have connections with some of the world’s top graduate recruiters and employers across every sector, and organise careers fairs, workshops, and networking opportunities throughout the year.

www.lancaster.ac.uk/careers

Get in touch

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