

MFA Art in the Digital World – FAQ for NCAD Graduates

What is an MFA?

An MFA (Master of Fine Arts) is a Level 9 Masters degree that is studio or practice based. At NCAD MFAs are two-year, taught studio programmes offered in both Design and Fine Art.

What is the MFA Art in the Digital World? The Art in the Digital World is delivered by the Media

Department within the School of Fine Art. The course gathers graduates from a range of creative backgrounds seeking the opportunity to recast their existing practice in light of, and in response to, the possibilities provided by new technologies. Student's inquiries are driven by a fine art practice. The course includes lectures and discussions around contemporary practices and critical theory - in addition to a series of workshops and events covering topics stemming from the Media Department's three key concerns: Lens Cultures, Screen Cultures and Expanded Media.¹

Who is eligible to apply for the MFA Art in the Digital world?

NCAD graduates or students who have successfully completed, or expect to complete, an honours undergraduate degree in Fine Art or a related discipline and who have achieved, or expect to achieve, a minimum grade of 2.2 in their degree are eligible to apply. Former students on the course have included painters, architects, filmmakers, computer scientists, photographers, theatre makers and sound artists. This makes for a dynamic peer-to-peer experience and knowledge sharing. See examples of work by current students and alumni at <https://adwnews.wordpress.com/>

What will I study on the MFA Fine Art?

While on the course each student develops their own research agenda and cultivates personal research interests through a Major Research Project. This self-set project examines themes and questions and engages particular personal interests in aspects of digital culture. Art in the Digital World is based in the studios of the Postgraduate Hub in the NCAD Annex (101-103 James's Street) and shares modules with the MFA in Fine Art. There are choices between forms of written and presentation-based components. A number of optional trips are run each year to art fairs and biennials. The MFA visiting lecture series ensures that the course is significantly informed by contemporary practice.

¹ **Lens Cultures:** Photography (Analog and Digital), Expanded photography, Photographic Discourses, Artists approaches to Photography / **Expanded Media:** Open Source, DIY, Physical Computing, Internet of Things, Simulation, 3D, Interaction, Data Modelling and Mapping / **Screen Cultures:** Moving Image, Time, Expanded Cinema, Interaction, Installation, Immersion Recording, Live Art & Performance, Sound.

Students will be exposed to a range of technical skills while developing their research practice. Areas of study include digital production and postproduction skills, creative content development, critical studies in contemporary art, physical computing, sound. This sits alongside regular individual tutorials and critiques that look at each student's practice.

What is meant by a taught course?

Taught course means a structured series of taught modules, delivered through lectures, seminars and practical work. The Art in the Digital World course is made up of various modules – some compulsory modules and some you will be able to choose yourself. The course happens over four semesters, run over two years with the structured days being Monday and Tuesday.

What facilities are available to MFA Art in the Digital World students?

MFA Art in the Digital World students have access to studio space in the Annex and the facilities of the Media Department, along with dedicated technical support. These include video studio, digital print lab, sound equipment, dark rooms, photography studio, camera equipment and physical computing wizardry.

Can I switch between Fine Art and Design or change my area of specialisation within Fine Art or Design?

We're open to all, so interview as we're looking for dynamic cohort. It is expected that most students are building on knowledge and skills developed during their BA but want to enter a culture of enquiry, innovation and imaginative thinking in relation to the digital world.

When does the programme run?

The MFA Art in the Digital World will run from September to late-June when the graduate degree show closes.

How do I apply?

Applications should be made through the NCAD Admissions Office on the Postgraduate Application Form for Continuing NCAD Students.

www.ncad.ie/study-at-ncad/postgraduate

What should I submit with my application form?

You should submit a statement of interest (300-500 words) outlining the area of inquiry that you are committed to exploring. You should make reference to contemporary practitioners and critical co-ordinates which inform your thinking. Where appropriate you should indicate a subject/discipline area that you believe can best advance your practice. NCAD graduates and continuing students who are progressing from a Fine Art discipline are not required to include a portfolio with their application. However, if you are changing specialisation or discipline, you may be asked to support your application with visual documentation or other documentation of your work.

Will there be an interview?

As we always welcome the opportunity for a good chat and the chance to answer your questions in person, we do interview for the Art in the Digital World. If you want get in touch at any stage about the course, please drop a line to the address below.

When are the closing dates?

Closing Date: 29th April 2016.

NCAD operates rolling closing dates for postgraduate programmes with offers made to students who apply by the published closing date. Where places are still available we will continue to accept applications until the programme fills. You are advised to apply early, as places may be limited.

What fees will NCAD graduates be charged?

Continuing NCAD Graduates will be charged a reduced tuition fee of €4,400 per academic year. (The normal fee rate is €5,400 per academic year.)

For Further Information please contact:

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