



UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL

MA

Art, Philosophy and Cultural Institutions

Study mode

Full-time

Part-time

Duration

12 months

24 months

Apply by: **11 September 2026**

Starts on: **28 September 2026**

About this course

This exciting interdisciplinary master's programme combines philosophical aesthetics, art theory and hands-on experience in galleries and museums, bringing together both theoretical and practical interests.

Introduction

This course will give you the competence to pursue a professional career in the cultural sector, or a doctorate programme in the Arts and Humanities.

The emphasis in core modules is on current topics in the artworld, such as philosophy of museums, socially engaged practice, or art and climate change. This is taught both through seminars, and practical workshops at our partnering cultural partners in the city, giving you an insight into curatorial work.

For your elective modules, you can choose from a long list of subjects across the University, tailoring the programme towards your interests: be it Philosophy or another humanities subject.

A two-week placement during your MA will enhance your professional profile. This programme joins forces with Open Eye gallery, FACT, Victoria Gallery and Museum and other exciting museums in the city. The MA also offers the opportunity to apply for a three-month curatorial studentship with Tate Liverpool, exclusively offered to our students.

What you'll learn

- Central themes in aesthetic theory, artistic and institutional practice
- What matters to cultural institutions today and how they operate
- Practical experience of work in a cultural institution
- Depending on your electives, you can focus on philosophy, social issues, education, heritage and more
- The role of culture in wider society, ranging from sustainability to equality
- How to conduct research into your area of interest.

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Course content

Discover what you'll learn, what you'll study, and how you'll be taught and assessed.

Semester one

Alongside the compulsory modules, you will choose three optional modules to bring your total overall credits to 180.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>AESTHETIC THEORY AND PRACTICE (PHIL755)</u>	30
Optional modules	Credits
<u>CONSCIOUSNESS (PHIL709)</u>	15
<u>AESTHETICS (PHIL716)</u>	15
<u>PHILOSOPHY AND SOCIAL CHANGE (PHIL771)</u>	15
<u>ARCHITECTURAL AND URBAN FORMS OF THE ISLAMIC WORLD (ARCH737)</u>	15
<u>MEDIA AND CULTURAL CHANGE B (COMM757)</u>	15
<u>THE MODERN (ENGL770)</u>	15
<u>RECORDKEEPING THEORY AND PRINCIPLES FOR HERITAGE PROFESSIONALS (HIST545)</u>	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Semester two

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS A (PHIL759)</u>	30
Optional modules	Credits
<u>METAPHYSICAL AND EPISTEMIC ISSUES IN PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION (PHIL715)</u>	15
<u>SUBSTANCE AND PROCESS IN INDIAN METAPHYSICS (PHIL726)</u>	15
<u>PHILOSOPHY OF FILM (PHIL757)</u>	15
<u>HERITAGE DOCUMENTATION, DIGITISATION AND PRESENTATION (ARCH739)</u>	15
<u>DIGITAL MEDIA AUDIENCES (COMM739)</u>	15
<u>MEDIA PRACTICES AND EVERYDAY LIFE B (COMM759)</u>	15
<u>VISUAL CULTURES: INSTITUTIONS, EXHIBITIONS, INTERVENTIONS (COMM761)</u>	15
<u>LITERATURE, SLAVERY AND EMPIRE (ENGL750)</u>	15
<u>THE CONTEMPORARY (ENGL772)</u>	15
<u>THE BODY (ENGL773)</u>	15

Optional modules	Credits
<u>LITERATURE, ART AND ARCHITECTURE IN THE MIDDLE AGES AND RENAISSANCE (HIST587)</u>	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Final project

Students will write a dissertation (15,000 words, maximum) on a topic that they have researched in depth, under the guidance of their supervisors. You will be able to delve deep into a topic of your choice, gaining confidence as a researcher and an expert on a subject you propose.

You will undertake your dissertation over the summer, for submission in September.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>M.A. DISSERTATION (PHIL706)</u>	60
<u>RESEARCH SKILLS, EMPLOYABILITY AND PLACEMENT (PHIL758)</u>	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

WHY STUDY ART AND PHILOSOPHY AT LIVERPOOL?

- Our students' study in a city renowned for its rich history of culture, protest and philosophical debate

- Liverpool is a key cultural hub of the United Kingdom, with more museums and art galleries than any other city outside of London.
- Our friendly, down-to earth atmosphere makes the exchange of ideas enjoyable as well as intellectually stimulating
- The hands-on approach to theory introduces you to a range of careers and opportunities that exist within the sector and allowing you to conduct a case study on a key topic of
- Our department is ranked 4th in the sector for outstanding (4*) research impact (REF 2021)
- We work as part of our amazing city; working with partners in the Bluecoat Gallery, Tate Liverpool, National Museums Liverpool, NHS and more to inspire our thinking and the practices of our communities
- A diverse cohort of UK and international students to learn alongside, with backgrounds in a variety of subjects including Philosophy, History of Art, Fine Art, English, Business, and many more

How you're assessed

Assessment is by submitted coursework; there are no exams. Other assessment methods also include group presentations, a reflective log on your placement, and a dissertation.

Liverpool Hallmarks

We have a distinctive approach to education, the Liverpool Curriculum Framework, which focuses on research-connected teaching, active learning, and authentic assessment to ensure our students graduate as digitally fluent and confident global citizens.

The Liverpool Curriculum framework sets out our distinctive approach to education. Our teaching staff support our students to develop academic knowledge, skills, and understanding alongside our **graduate attributes**:

- Digital fluency
- Confidence
- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three **Liverpool Hallmarks**:

- Research-connected teaching
- Active learning
- Authentic assessment

All this is underpinned by our core value of **inclusivity** and commitment to providing a curriculum that is accessible to all students.

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Careers and employability

The theoretical parts of this programme acquaint you with the key issues facing the cultural world, while the guaranteed placement immediately adds experience to your CV. While on the programme, you'll begin to build your professional arts network, and meet many curators and other arts professionals teaching on it.

Graduates of the MA Art, Philosophy and Cultural Institutions have gone on to a variety of careers within the cultural sector including

- Curating
- Development
- Marketing
- Teaching.

Our recent alumni have been placed with:

- Tate Britain
- Open Eye Gallery
- Liverpool Biennial,
- Somerset House
- Aand many other arts charities and museums nationally and internationally.

Dedicated funding is available to our MA students (via our Research and Professional Skills Fund), which allows you to put on exhibitions, organise zines, or partake in other activities that enhance employability. Each year, one student is granted the Tate Studentship, which provides a unique 3-month placement with Tate Liverpool.

As well as pursuing careers in the arts, other MA graduates have continued their studies through a PhD, be it in an art-related subjects or philosophy. Depending on the modules you choose, the programme gives you a basis for several PhD subjects.

Career support from day one to graduation and beyond

Career planning

From education to employment

Networking events

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Fees and funding

Your tuition fees, funding your studies, and other costs to consider.

Tuition fees

UK fees (applies to Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Republic of Ireland)

Full-time place, per year – £12,500

Part-time place, per year – £6,250

International fees

Full-time place, per year – £28,000

Part-time place, per year – £14,000

Tuition fees are for the academic year 2026/27.

Tuition fees cover the cost of your teaching and assessment, operating facilities such as libraries, IT equipment, and access to academic and personal support.

- You can pay your tuition fees in instalments.
- All or part of your tuition fees can be funded by external sponsorship.
- International applicants who accept an offer of a place will need to pay a tuition fee deposit.

If you're a UK national, or have settled status in the UK, you may be eligible to apply for a Postgraduate Loan worth up to £12,167 to help with course fees and living costs. **Learn more about paying for your studies.**

Additional costs

We understand that budgeting for your time at university is important, and we want to make sure you understand any course-related costs that are not covered by your tuition fee. This could include buying a laptop, books, or stationery.

Find out more about the additional study costs that may apply to this course.

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Entry requirements

The qualifications and exam results you'll need to apply for this course.

Postgraduate entry requirements

We accept a 2:2 honours degree from a UK university, or an equivalent academic qualification from a similar non-UK institution. This degree should be in a Humanities subject.

You should submit a personal statement as part of your application. This should summarise why you wish to study the programme, outline relevant personal experience, and highlight particular aspects of the programme that you find interesting.

International qualifications

Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.

Many countries have a different education system to that of the UK, meaning your qualifications may not meet our entry requirements. Completing your Foundation Certificate, such as that offered by the [University of Liverpool International College](#), means you're guaranteed a place on your chosen course.

English language requirements

You'll need to demonstrate competence in the use of English language, unless you're from a [majority English speaking country](#).

We accept a variety of [international language tests](#) and [country-specific qualifications](#).

International applicants who do not meet the minimum required standard of English language can complete one of our [Pre-Sessional English courses](#) to achieve the required level.

IELTS

6.5 overall, with no component below 6.0

TOEFL iBT

88 overall, with minimum scores of listening 19, writing 19, reading 19 and speaking 20. TOEFL Home Edition not accepted.

Duolingo English Test

125 overall, with writing not less than 125, speaking and reading not less than 115, and listening not below 110. For academic year 2025/26 only, we will also accept the production, literacy, comprehension and conversation score set: 120 overall, with no component below 105.

Pearson PTE Academic

61 overall, with no component below 59

LanguageCert Academic

70 overall, with no skill below 65

PSI Skills for English

B2 Pass with Merit in all bands

INDIA Standard XII

National Curriculum (CBSE/ISC) – 75% and above in English. Accepted State Boards – 80% and above in English.

WAEC

C6 or above

Pre-sessional English

Do you need to complete a Pre-sessional English course to meet the English language requirements for this course?

The length of Pre-sessional English course you'll need to take depends on your current level of English language ability.

Pre-sessional English in detail

If you don't meet our English language requirements, we can use your most recent IELTS score, or [the equivalent score in selected other English language tests](#), to determine the length of Pre-sessional English course you require.

Use the table below to check the course length you're likely to require for your current English language ability and see whether the course is available on campus or online.

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
6.0 overall, with no component below 6.0	6 weeks	On campus
6.0 overall, with no component below 5.5	10 weeks	On campus and online options available
6.0 overall, with no more than one component below 5.5, and no component below 5.0	12 weeks	On campus and online options available
5.5 overall, with no more than one component below 5.5, and no component below 5.0	20 weeks	On campus
5.0 overall, with no more than one component below 5.0, and no component below 4.5	30 weeks	On campus
4.5 overall, with no more than one component below 4.5, and no	40 weeks	On campus

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
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component below 4.0

If you've completed an alternative English language test to IELTS, we may be able to use this to assess your English language ability and determine the Pre-sessional English course length you require.

Please see our guide to [Pre-sessional English entry requirements](#) for IELTS 6.5 overall, with no component below 6.0, for further details.

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