

Dartington
Arts School



UNIVERSITY OF
PLYMOUTH

5 **Module Guide**
Major Project / Dissertation
SCH5458

MA/PGDip/PGCert Arts & Place

Module Leader: **Dr Jo Joelson**

Other Module Staff: **TBC**

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Welcome and Introduction

Welcome to the **Major Project / Dissertation** (SCH5458) module.

The Major Project/Dissertation enables students to pursue a creative project of their own interest, or an academic essay interrogating arts and place, arts practice in residency theory and practice, or a combination of both (50/50). The outcome is presented in the public domain at Dartington or at one of the host residency locations.

Having completed the grounding residency and three further explorations of place and complexity, for their final project, students will research, form, convene, and curate a further place-based project to apply the knowledge, skills, and experience they have acquired. The focus would be on exploring the potential of their new skills and experience to deepen knowledge of complexity and make a contribution of value to hosts, the settings, and places. The major project/dissertation module enables students to undertake a substantial investigation that addresses significant areas of arts and place theory and practice. This might take the form of a 15,000-word dissertation, or an arts project presented in the public domain, or a 50/50 combination of the two. It will arise from a subject of the students' choosing and agreed upon with their supervisors. Students develop their proposals and projects in consultation with their project/dissertation supervisor. The work builds on the development of knowledge and understanding and the research methodology skills acquired in the previous modules. Assessment will be made of the student's ability to apply knowledge gained over the course of the taught elements of the master's in innovative ways. Students may work collaboratively or independently.

Teaching and Assessment Staff



Programme Leader: **Dr Jo Joelson**

Jo.Joelson@dartington.org

Module Leader: **Dr Jo Joelson**

Module and Personal Tutor: **Dr Jo Joelson**

Module Moderator: **Dr Tracey Warr**, Dartington Arts School

Module Aims

- a) Enable students to undertake a substantial investigation that addresses significant areas of arts and place theory and practice;
- b) Enhance students' ability to develop a well-thought out, detailed project proposal and to present artwork in the public domain
- c) Extend students' powers of critical evaluation drawing on, and synthesising a range of ideas and information in innovative ways in a substantial investigation addressing a significant area of theory and/or practice;
- d) Develop understanding and ability to evaluate research techniques;
- e) Develop ability to work in a team;
- f) Develop professional practice skills and knowledge.

Module Assessed Learning Outcomes

Assessed Module Learning Outcomes
1. Make a contribution to the development of arts and place theory and/or practice.
2. Critically develop and systematically test, analyse and appraise their own inquiries, drawing original conclusions and displaying methodological and theoretical rigour.
3. Critically engage with the theoretical literature relevant to the context they are working in, demonstrating the ability to analyse, evaluate, compare and contrast, and synthesise solutions for the given context.
4. Demonstrate advanced research skills and academic writing and/practice-based research skills.
5. Demonstrate the development of creative practice skills.
6. Demonstrate team work in the production of a public project.

Teaching and Learning Strategy

SUMMARY OF TEACHING AND LEARNING [Use HESA KIS definitions]		
Scheduled Activities	Hours	Comments/Additional Information
Research skills and methods	12	Advanced research skills workshops.
Peer-to-peer learning	20	Students will participate in regular self-organised peer-to-peer seminars and work in progress feedback sessions over the course of the major project/dissertation module, some of which will be face to face and others will be online.
Supervised time	12	Tutor support for student-led end of year public event and/or publication.
Independent Project	556	Students will be expected to have the capacity to devise, develop and deliver an arts and place project, or academic dissertation that advances arts and place theory and practice, managing their time and the dissertation process, critically analysing both the discipline and their own practice. They are expected to demonstrate innovative and independent practice at this stage, either individually or working in collaboration.
Tutorials	6	The supervisor will provide 6 hours of tutorial support and advice over the course of the major project/dissertation.
Total	600	(NB: 1 credit = 10 hours of learning; 10 credits = 100 hours, etc)

Students are expected to take full responsibility for their learning, **attend all** scheduled sessions, read appropriate indicated readings, and work on set exercises (formative and summative assessment).

Based on previous experience; students who failed to attend sessions are likely to be unsuccessful or show poor performance. Please ensure that you are engaging with the content and learning activities relating to this module.

Note that there are amendments to this module teaching delivery and assessments in this academic year due to the coronavirus crisis. The module style is blended learning which is delivered partially online. Students are responsible for ensuring that you have the necessary computer equipment, software and wifi signal to participate fully online.

Scheme of Work

All times given are UK timezone. All sessions for this module are either onsite at Dartington or online. Where no time is given, you can work through the tasks at your own pace.

SEE MODULE TIMETABLE

***Individual tutorial time slots can be booked with your individual tutor.**

Whilst we will always do our best to avoid any timetable changes, the schedule may be subject to change due to unforeseen events such as staff illness.

The Programme Handbook is available at:

<https://www.dartington.org/about/learning/resources-for-students/>

A copy of this Module Handbook is available online on the DLE site. Online teaching is delivered via the University of Plymouth DLE.

University of Plymouth Library:

<https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/student-life/your-studies/library>

You will receive a Dartington Library card and introduction in Module 1.

The Module Assessment Feedback Form is on the Arts & Place DLE site.

This module will be assessed by: **Dr Jo Joelson (second marker tbc)**

Element of Assessment	Module Weighting	Component	Link to Assessed Learning Outcomes
Coursework	100%	15,000-word dissertation, or creative practice-led research project presented in the public domain, or a 50/50 combination of the two	All

ASSIGNMENTS

15,000-word dissertation, or creative practice-led research project presented in the public domain, or a 50/50 combination of the two.

CREATIVE WORK

Your Major Project will be presented on-site at Dartington or at another site by negotiation.

Written Assignment Deadline (see module 5 timetable)

Your Dissertation should be uploaded to the DLE.

Marking Rubric for SCH5458 – Major Project / Dissertation

LO1: Make a contribution to the development of arts and place theory and/or practice.			
LO2: Critically develop and systematically test, analyse and appraise their own inquiries, drawing original conclusions and displaying methodological and theoretical rigour.			
LO3: Critically engage with the theoretical literature relevant to the context they are working in, demonstrating the ability to analyse, evaluate, compare and contrast, and synthesise solutions for the given context.			
LO4: Demonstrate advanced research skills and academic writing and/practice-based research skills.			
LO5: Demonstrate team work in the production of a public project..			
Fail: 0 – 49%	Pass: 50 – 59%	Merit: 60 – 69%	Distinction: 70 – 100%
Does not demonstrate sufficient understanding.	Demonstrates partial understanding. and engagement with the areas of the learning outcomes.	Demonstrates a sound understanding and engagement with the areas of the learning outcomes.	Demonstrates excellent critical understanding and engagement, drawing from relevant discourses.

Late Work / Extenuating Circumstances

If your participation in an examination or assessment has been affected by an extenuating circumstance, then you can ask the University to take this into consideration. You can submit a claim for extenuating circumstances to cover late submission of work, non-submission of work or non-attendance at a time specific assessment, such as an examination, test presentation or performance, or field class.

Information regarding the Extenuating Circumstances policy and how and where to submit Extenuating Circumstance Claims are available here:

<https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/student-life/your-studies/essential-information/exams/exam-rules-and-regulations/extenuating-circumstances>

Where there are no valid extenuating circumstances, the following regulations will automatically apply:

- Work submitted after the deadline date/time but within 24 hours of it, will be capped at the pass mark 50%.
- Work submitted 24 hours after the deadline will receive a mark of zero.

Please notify the programme & module leader of any extenuating circumstances as soon as possible.

Sources of Guidance and Support

You will be assigned and meet your personal tutor in Welcome Week and towards the end of Term 1. Please do contact them in the first instance if you have any concerns and worries both of an academic or personal nature and they will be able to assist you with academic concerns and direct you to support for other issues.

The Student Support Officer is **Oona Wagstaff**

oonawagstaff@dartington.org

Please notify the programme and module leader of any modified assessment provision required as soon as possible.

Dartington Arts School uses the Harvard referencing system. Guidance is on the DLE.

When writing a report, case study, essay or dissertation you are expected to fully reference the materials you have used. It should be your own work, in your own words.

Plagiarism is an offence under the University regulations on examination and assessment offences. It is important that you familiarise yourself with what constitutes plagiarism, and academic offences. Further information can be found:

<https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/student-life/your-studies/essential-information/regulations/plagiarism>

And

<https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/student-life/your-studies/essential-information/exams/exam-rules-and-regulations/examination-offences>

Reading List; Recommended Texts/Support Materials

KEY TEXTS

Gray, Carol and Malins, J. (2004) ***Visualizing Research: A Guide to the Research Process in Art and Design***. Farnham, Surrey: Ashgate Publishing.

George, A. (2015) ***The Curator's Handbook***. London: Thames and Hudson.

RECOMMENDED READING

Barnet, S. (c2011) ***A Short guide to Writing About Art***. N.J. : Pearson/Prentice Hall

Barrett and Bolt (2014) ***Practice as Research: Approaches to Creative Arts Enquiry***. New York: I. B. Taurus.

Grix, J. (2004) ***The Foundations of Research***. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Jarrett, E. (2018) ***What it Means to Write About Art: interviews with art critics***. New York, New York: David Zwirner Books.

Leave, P. (2020) ***Method meets art: arts-based research practice***. (3rd edition) New York: The Guildford Press.

Macleod, K. (2007) ***Writing / Art. In: Studies in Material Thinking***, 1 (1)
<https://www.materialthinking.org/sites/default/files/papers/Katy.pdf>

Murray, R. (2017) ***How to Write a Thesis (4th edition)***, Open University Press.

Petry, M. (2012) ***The Art of Not Making - The New Artist / Artisan Relationship***. London: Thames and Hudson.

Schon, D. A. (1991) ***The Reflective Practitioner: How Professionals Think in Action***. (2nd ed) Farnham, Surrey: Ashgate Publishing.

Module Feedback

We value what our students say; you share your feedback, we act upon it.
Part of the feedback process includes Module Evaluation.
The Module Evaluation Form is on the DLE.