



RESEARCH DEGREE STUDY AT BIRMINGHAM INSTITUTE OF ART AND DESIGN

Birmingham Institute of Art and Design (BIAD) is a leading centre for research and postgraduate research training in the creative arts, architecture and design.

We welcome applications for research degree study from well qualified candidates wishing to pursue projects which align with our areas of research strength in: Art History and Theory, Architecture, Design, Fine Art, Jewellery, Landscape Architecture, Photography and Visual Communication. We also support interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary research and welcome proposals involving collaboration across our areas of research interest. Applications are assessed on intellectual merit and contribution to our strategic priorities, and in relation to supervisory capacity.

This page provides information on specific areas of research in which we wish to encourage applications for research degree study.

Art and Design History

We have expertise across a broad range of the history of art and design and covering periods from the eighteenth to the twenty-first century. These include: art, architecture and design in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries in Britain; contemporary international jewellery and fine metalwork; European Renaissance art, with special interests in the representation of landscape, Venetian and North Italian drawing and Florentine, Paduan, Sieneese and Venetian humanism; post-impressionism and cubism; public monuments and sculpture, especially in Britain; British Art 1800-1920; British architecture and town planning from 1800; Japanese domestic architecture from the Edo period to World War II; open-air museums; modern design, especially product design, design discourse and gender issues.

Contact: Professor Ken Quickenden (kenneth.quickenden@bcu.ac.uk)

Chinese Visual Arts

The Centre for Chinese Visual Arts (CCVA) aims to foster new perspectives and expertise in practical and theoretical studies on Chinese visual arts in an international context. We are interested in proposals in Chinese art and visual culture, both contemporary and traditional, relating to the subjects of fine art, curatorial practice, visual communication and art history. CCVA provides an academic network to encourage and develop interdisciplinary research projects. Based on our international partnerships, we may be able to offer joint supervision with China Academy of Art, Hangzhou and Central Academy of Fine Arts, Beijing.

Contact: Dr Joshua Jiang (joshua.jiang@bcu.ac.uk) (www.ccva.org.uk)

Fashion, Textiles and Surface Design

We are interested in research proposals in the following areas: (i) practice-based PhDs in fashion, textile and surface design, including high value-added fashion and textile product development; (ii) fashion and textile industries: business, promotion, media and advertising, including strategic policy and the fashion and textile industries and technology and innovation in fashion and textile design; (iii) fashion and textile theory: fashion culture and consumption; lifestyle, image, beauty and celebrity; (iv) fashion and ethnicity, including Asian fashion and textiles, the development of indigenous crafts through design innovation and development, and the role of indigenous crafts and costume in design and branding.

Contact: Dr Colin Gale (colin.gale@bcu.ac.uk)

Fine Art

We are interested in a diversity of fine art practices, including: installation, photography, performance, filmmaking, object and image making. We are particularly interested in the legacy of the avant-garde and the expanded practices that evolved out of minimalism in European and North American art, including whether avant-garde practices can be utilised as methods and methodologies to research the relationship of aesthetics, politics and the sacred.

Theoretical areas of interest include: theories of the event (Deleuze and Guattari, Alain Badiou and Jean-Francois Lyotard); art and temporality; art and subjectivity; performance and performativity; and the potential of writing as a means of registering or making intelligible the signifying and asignifying aspects of art and art practice.

Contact: David Burrows (david.burrows@bcu.ac.uk)

Jewellery

Practice based research in the field of contemporary studio jewellery, metal crafts and related creative subjects, with a particular interest in hybrid practices that bridge design, crafts and fine art discourses. We have theoretical expertise in the application of continental hermeneutics, the writings of Paul Ricoeur, Walter Benjamin, Mikhail Bakhtin, and the feminist writings of Hélène Cixous and Julia Kristeva to the practice of contemporary jewellery. We also have a particular interest in contemporary European narrative jewellery: the prevalent themes, paradigms and the cognitive interaction between maker, wearer and viewer observed through the process and production of narrative jewellery.

Contact: Professor Jivan Astfalck (jivan.astfalck@bcu.ac.uk)

Human Computer Interaction Design

Design approaches to the study and practice of human computer interaction, including: user-centred design; user participation in the design process; user experience design for the web (including e-learning) and software; usability and evaluation methods; comparisons of art-based and engineering-based approaches; the role of user emotion/motivation in response to software interfaces; user interface design and evaluation.

Studies that integrate real-world analogue experience, expertise and creativity with digital design technologies and learning systems. These include fields relating to studies of Multimodal Perception, especially the integration of haptic perception (touch, gesture) and its associated control feedback, with other senses such as sight and audition, particularly in the context of creative and cultural activities, skill development and tacit experience.

Contact: Dr Andrew Saxon (andy.saxon@bcu.ac.uk)

Landscape Architecture

We are interesting in research proposals in the following three areas: (i) the philosophy, theory and practice of design, with particular interests in research that crosses the boundaries between philosophy, aesthetics and design/art theory; (ii) the new masterplanning, an area of research responding to the urgent need to develop new approaches to spatial planning, the renewal of transport systems and climate adaptation, connecting aesthetics, tectonics and culture to the social and physical context of our lives; (iii) the new sustainability, exploring the concept of sustainability in its broader cultural and social context, examining the interrelationships between concepts of well being, aesthetics and materiality of place.

Contact: Professor Kathryn Moore (kathryn.moore@bcu.ac.uk)

Landscape and Environmental Perception

Perception of the landscape, in particular regarding the development and refinement of how individuals interact with the environment. Previous work has emphasised the importance of user based language in identifying the ways in which access to natural elements of the urban landscape contribute to overall individual well-being and how such access supports individual life styles. Key aspects include the mental restorative potential of such interaction, the factors that contribute to a positive association with the environment including access, positive and negative factors, landscape structure, the notion of a supportive environment as well as modelling the interface between access, quality of the environment and its ability to support individual personal social requirements.

Contact: Dr Richard Coles (richard.coles@bcu.ac.uk)

Photography and Visual Research

History and theory of photography, with a particular interest in documentary theory and practice. Particular areas of expertise include: British documentary and community photography, photography and education, photography, history and memory (e.g. the re-use of historic photographs in contemporary narrative museum displays), and South African photography. We are also interested in the interdisciplinary overlaps between photography and current research using visual and image-based approaches in anthropology and sociology, including research on ethical issues in visual research. Proposals involving elements of photographic practice are also welcome.

Contact: Professor Darren Newbury (darren.newbury@bcu.ac.uk)

Public Art and Archives

The interpretation and mediation of engagement with the arts, including research and curatorial practice with galleries and museums. Critical studies of art in the public realm since the mid-twentieth century, including investigations of commissioning procedures, strategic frameworks and institutional motivations and how these converge or diverge from community participation and artistic intention.

The use of archives and documentation in process-based and socially engaged arts practice; creative practices of interpretation; the revitalisation of historic collections within contemporary art practice and art education.

Contact: Dr Sian Everitt (sian.everitt@bcu.ac.uk)

Spatial Design

Spatial design; perceptual psychology in environmental settings; sub-cultures and cross-cultural design; colour (all forms of research across theory, practice, psychology, linguistics); decision making in architectural environments; post-optimal design; design methodologies; digital design communications; public perceptions of space and place.

Contact: Dr Paul Bailey (paul.bailey@bcu.ac.uk)

Sustainable Design

Sustainable Development is now an economic, ethical and environmental imperative that requires further research and the development of skills and expertise, particularly in relation to design. Design is central to delivering all aspects of sustainability, and we are particularly keen to explore research projects in embedding education for sustainable development in the curriculum, sustainable product/service design, the role of design in environmentally and socially conscious businesses, design for a transition society and design in the context of developing economies.

Contact: Dr Mark Smith (mark.smith@bcu.ac.uk)

Visual Communication

We have expertise in a range of visual communication specialisms. These include: drawing theory and practice; graphic arts and communication, including graphic novels; illustration; poster and book design; printmaking; and reportage arts. We have particular interests in narrative and sequential design, the art of story telling and communicating through images. We welcome proposals including both theoretical and practical dimensions.

Contact: Professor Andrew Kulman (andrew.kulman@bcu.ac.uk)

For further details of our current research potential applications are encouraged to look at web pages relating to Research Centres <http://www.biad.bcu.ac.uk/research/site/pages/centres.php> and Research Staff and Students <http://www.biad.bcu.ac.uk/research/site/pages/people.php>

Further information on research degree study and studentship opportunities can be found by following the links below:

- MPhil/PhD study <http://www.biad.bcu.ac.uk/research/site/pages/mphilPhd.php>
- Research Training <http://www.biad.bcu.ac.uk/research/site/pages/pgcert.php>
- Funded Studentships <http://www.biad.bcu.ac.uk/research/studentships>

Details of how to apply can be found here

<http://www.biad.bcu.ac.uk/research/site/pages/higherDegrees.php>