

MA IN HISTORY OF ART

Regulations on Pass and Failure (from 2011)

The MA course has four examined elements and an oral element. The examined elements are the Core Course, two Special Subject seminars, and a Dissertation. Normally, all aspects of the MA assessment must be passed in order to obtain an MA degree; the Dissertation must always be passed. **The Pass level is set at 50%.** In the Summer term of each year, students discuss their course work at a meeting to allow for the input of students and members of staff other than their supervisor and to ensure dissertation work is their own. The Board of Examiners also has the right to require any candidate to be examined orally on the Dissertation; the outcome of oral examination may affect the marks provisionally given to written work.

Recommendations of **Pass or Failure** is at the discretion of the MA Board of Examiners in History of Art, which can require the candidate to resubmit any part or parts of the assessment in the following year.

Weighting of elements for the purpose of calculating averages

The oral examination is weighted at Zero

The core course is weighted 22.5% [2/9]

Each Special Subject is weighted 22.5% [2/9]

The Dissertation is weighted 32.5% [3/9]

An award of **Merit** will be made where all three of the following criteria apply:

- a. the overall mark, based on 180 credits, is 60% or greater and
- b. the mark for the dissertation is 65% or greater and
- c. there are no marks below 50%, no condoned marks, no re-sits, and all marks are based on first attempts.

Rounding will be applied to obtain the integer marks given above: for example 64.4 is rounded to 64% but 64.5% is rounded to 65%.

If the weighted overall mark is 59%, an award of Merit can be made where:

- a. after rounding to the nearest integer the mark for the dissertation is 65% or above and
- b. at least half of the taught credits are at or above 60% after rounding and
- c. there is no mark below 50% after rounding and
- d. there are no re-sit marks and all the marks for the modules are first attempts

An award of **Distinction** will be awarded where;

- a. the overall mark, based on the weighted average, achieves a 70% or above (after rounding) **and**
- b. a mark of 70% or above has been awarded for the Dissertation

If the weighted overall mark is 69% an award of **Distinction** can be made where:

- a. where the Dissertation mark is 70% or above **and**
- b. where at least half of the taught credits are at or above 70% after rounding **and**
- c. there is no mark below 50% **and**
- d. where all the marks for the modules are first attempts

An award of Distinction can also be considered for students with an overall weighted mark of 69% if adequate extenuating circumstances apply to a student's performance (as established at MACE meeting) where:

- a **three** assessed elements obtain a distinction, **excluding** the Dissertation, which is itself awarded a mark in the high 60s (normally, 68% or above).
- b. where there is no mark below 50% **and**
- c. all the marks for the module are first attempts

Rounding will be applied to obtain the integer marks given above: for example 69.4 is rounded to 69% but 69.5% is rounded to 70%.

The Board may recommend that a student who achieves marks of 70% and above on the Dissertation, but fails to achieve a distinction overall, has the distinction-level mark for this element of the course recorded on the MA certificate.

Candidates may resubmit failed parts of the assessment.

- a. For the Core Course and Special Subject seminars, by satisfactory completion of all required coursework, or by essays on agreed subjects substituting for those components of the required work which failed the first time around, usually by May of the year following the Failure.
- b. For the Dissertation, by an amended version of the Dissertation previously submitted, to be submitted by the September Dissertation deadline of the following year.

Candidates are permitted to resubmit work only once, normally not more than one year after their initial failure.

The Board may take into account circumstances relating to the health and welfare of particular students in relation to particular assessed tasks. In order to protect confidential personal information, it does so through the advice of a working group MACE, normally to include the Chair, the MA tutor and relevant course teacher(s).