Programme Specification

1	**Awarding body**	University of London
2	**Teaching Institution**	**Birkbeck College**
3	**Programme Title(s)**	**BA History of Art with Curating** (pathway of BA History of Art)
4	**Programme Code(s)**	UUBAACUR_C (3 year, full-time) UBAAHCUR_C (4 year, part-time) UBAAHCUD_C (6 year, part-time)
5	*UCAS code (if applicable)*	4Q36
6	**Home Department**	History of Art
7	**Exit Award(s)**	
8	**Duration of Study** (number of years)	3, 4 or 6
9	**Mode of Study**	FT	x	PT	x	DL	
10	**Level of Award (FHEQ)**	6

11	*Other teaching depts or institution (or not applicable)*	Department of Film, Media and Cultural Studies
12	*Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details (or not applicable)*	N/A
13	**QAA Benchmark Statement** *(*	http://www.qaa.ac.uk/Publications/InformationAndGuidance/Pages/Subject-benchmark-statement-History-of-art-architecture-and-design.aspx

14	*Programme Rationale and Aims*
	- Offers a structured programme of courses which provide a sound training in the discipline of History of Art - Enables students to increase their knowledge of the history of Western art - Offers students the opportunity to develop a range of transferable skills - Offers a broad range of learning experiences - Provides relevant courses for those working, or seeking to work, in the visual arts, and offers opportunities to develop subject-specific skills - Provides intellectual stimulus and challenges for those studying for personal development - Promotes creative, critical engagement with the institutional, historical, social, economic and political contexts of arts organisations - Enables students to develop the skills necessary to conceive, produce and/or curate an arts project.

15	**Entry Criteria**
	UCAS entry (3 year, full-time): the UCAS tariff is currently 112. The UCAS tariff score is applicable to students who have recently studied a qualification that has a UCAS tariff equivalence. Students with work experience may be admitted under the mature student regulations. Birkbeck welcomes applicants without traditional entry qualifications, as we base decisions on our own assessment of qualifications, knowledge and previous work experience.

| | **Part-time pathway (4 year, 6 year)**: standard requirements are a minimum of two 'A' Levels or equivalent. Students with work experience may be admitted under the mature student regulations.

For the part-time pathway, admission is based on interview and a written exercise, in which candidates are invited to comment on a pair of paintings in the National Gallery chosen from a short list.

Students who complete Birkbeck's Certificate of Higher Education in History of Art are guaranteed a place on either the full-time or part-time BA, with the offer of exemption from the first-year modules. Applicants in this position do not need to provide an admissions exercise. |

16	**Learning Outcomes**
	By the end of the course students should have: *Knowledge and Understanding* • Acquired a general knowledge of the historical context and traditions of Western art and detailed knowledge of specific themes or periods • Acquired the ability to observe, identify and analyse works of visual culture • Become critically aware of the functions of such works within the social and cultural contexts of their production and reception • Become familiar with current debates and approaches to the discipline *Intellectual Skills* • Developed their ability to analyse and interpret critically historical evidence • Developed their ability to read critically and analyse the secondary literature • Developed their ability to construct and present coherent arguments orally and in writing *Practical and Transferable Skills* • Been encouraged to develop effective skills of presentation and communication • Been encouraged to develop skills in managing computer and audio-visual technology and resources • Been encouraged to develop skills of constructive debate • Increased responsibility for their own learning by undertaking independent research • Developed the ability to formulate, plan and pitch an achievable arts project • Acquired skills required for the conception, curation, research, planning and logistical development of an arts project for a specific venue.

17	**Learning, teaching and assessment methods**
	Learning and Teaching • The main teaching method for **Level 4** is the lecture to the whole year group, supported by smaller seminars, tutorials, workshops and blended learning. On 'Art History: A Survey', the lectures are supplemented by seminars in smaller groups every third week to encourage engagement with the themes of the lectures through discussion. 'Debates in Art History' uses a combination of lectures and small-group seminars; 'Material and Process in Art' uses lectures and staff-led field trips; 'Doing Art History' is taught through a combination of class talks and demonstrations, workshops,

seminars and blended learning activities using moodle.

'Visual Art: Histories, Networks and Organisations' provides students with an overview of the working practices in the visual arts sector so as to allow them to develop a creative, enquiring and analytical approach to the issues involved in the presentation of the visual arts. It is designed as an introduction to the contemporary visual arts scene, curating and visual arts institutions. By examining contemporary case studies and historical examples, students consider how art is displayed, distributed and discussed. Students have the opportunity to explore their own ideas and interests in workshops, and are encouraged to reflect on their own personal and professional development. The module also contains a site visit and a 'spontaneous' curating workshop while each student will also present a comparative case study in class.

- At **Level 5**, lectures remain the principal teaching method for the History of Art option modules 'Art and Society in the Middle Ages and Renaissance', 'Art and Society in the Nineteenth Century' and 'Art and Society in the Twentieth Century' but smaller group sizes facilitate growing student participation. Classes are supported by directed visits to galleries and museums, which the students do in small groups in their own time.

- 'Curating Culture' examines prevalent forms of organising, programming and curating within the arts and cultural sectors, to create awareness of the curatorial logics of current exhibitions and events. Students will consider the types of narrative, connection and meaning that are created through curatorial practice and consider how these, in turn, produce and engage different audiences. Drawing on this understanding, students will create their own curatorial proposal for an exhibition or event that critically and creatively engages with their chosen field of practice. Through discussions, talks, and workshops students will consider the interrelationship of the what, when, where, how and, most, importantly, why of a curatorial proposition.

- At **Level 6** all teaching on taught option modules is conducted in small-group seminars. Student presentations are introduced and set texts are often used to structure seminar discussion. The focus on participation in progressively smaller groups aims to encourage and support engagement and independence.

Assessment

All taught modules, with the exception of 'Debates in Art History', 'Visual Art: Histories, Networks and Organisations' and 'Curating Culture' are assessed by means of a combination of coursework essays and examinations.

- At **Level 4**, 'Art History: A Survey' and 'Doing Art History' require essays of various lengths. The essays at this level are relatively short and purely formative, allowing students to settle in to academic writing in the discipline. 'Doing Art History' also requires a field report and visual analysis exercise, and 'Art History: A Survey' involves an unseen examination in the summer term. 'Debates in Art History' is assessed by means of an unseen examination in the summer term and a course journal completed during the year and submitted in the summer, which documents the student's engagement with the issues raised. 'Visual Art: Histories, Networks and Organisations' is assessed by means of a case study (50%) and an essay (50%).

- At **Level 5** the pattern is two longer essays per module, submitted around the end of the autumn and spring terms, and an unseen examination in the summer term, all of which contribute to the formal assessment. The essays and examination each contribute half of

the module mark. 'Curating Culture' students are assessed via a 4,000 word project proposal.

- At **Level 6** the assessment of the option modules continues the pattern of two essays and unseen examination but the balance of assessment shifts so that the essays constitute a higher proportion of the overall module mark. This structure is intended to foster and acknowledge students' increasing independence as they progress through the different levels of the degree.

- A **Level 5** 'Research Portfolio' module is completed in the penultimate year. It consists of a portfolio of work, including a critical bibliography and literature review, which will lead into work on the dissertation, and provide effective progression from skills training provided at level 4.

- The culmination of the programme is the **Level 6** 'Dissertation' module, which is completed in the final year.   The student defines and researches a topic of their own choosing under the supervision of a member of teaching staff.

18	**Programme Description**
	Are you interested in a career in galleries and museums, arts policy and education, or in the broader cultural and heritage sectors? On our BA History of Art with Curating you will learn to research the social and historical contexts in which visual art has been produced, and write confidently and analytically about texts and images. At the same time, you will be introduced to current curatorial approaches and debates, and given opportunities to put your knowledge and ideas into practice in a supportive and collaborative environment. Please refer to section 20 below for full programme structure details.

19	**Programme Structure**

Full-Time programme (3 year)

Year 1

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
4	ARVC205S4	Art History: A Survey	30	Compulsory
4	ARVC206S4	Doing Art History	30	Compulsory
4	AHVM019S4	Debates in Art History	30	Compulsory
4	ARMC120S4	Visual Art: Histories, Networks and Organisations	30	Compulsory

Year 2

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
5	ARMC249S5	Curating Culture	30	Compulsory
Two Level 5 optional modules, chosen from the first three listed below:				
5	ARVC239S5	Art and Society in the Middle Ages and Renaissance	30	Optional
5	AHVM010S5	Art and Society in the Nineteenth Century	30	Optional
5	AHVM011S5	Art and Society Between 1900 and the Present	30	Optional
5	ARVC221S5	Research Portfolio	30	Compulsory

Year 3

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
6		Level 6 optional module	30	Optional
6		Level 6 optional module	30	Optional
6		Level 6 optional module	30	Optional
6	ARVC220S6	Dissertation	30	Compulsory

Part-Time programme (4 year)

Year 1

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
4	ARVC205S4	Art History: A Survey	30	Compulsory
4	ARVC206S4	Doing Art History	30	Compulsory
4	ARMC120S4	Visual Art: Histories, Networks and Organisations	30	Compulsory

Year 2

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
4	AHVM019S4	Debates in Art History	30	Compulsory
5	ARMC249S5	Curating Culture	30	Compulsory
One Level 5 module, chosen from:				
5	ARVC239S5	Art and Society in the Middle Ages and Renaissance	30	Optional
5	AHVM010S5	Art and Society in the Nineteenth Century	30	Optional
5	AHVM011S5	Art and Society Between 1900 and the Present	30	Optional

Year 3

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
6		Level 6 optional module	30	Optional
6 or 5		Level 6 optional module *or* Level 5 module chosen from above list	30	Optional
5	ARVC221S5	Research Skills for Portfolio	30	Compulsory

Year 4

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
6		Level 6 optional module	30	Optional
6		Level 6 optional module	30	Optional
6	ARVC220S6	Dissertation	30	Compulsory

Part-Time programme (6 year)

Year 1

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
4	ARVC205S4	Art History: A Survey	30	Compulsory
4	ARVC206S4	Doing Art History	30	Compulsory

Year 2

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
4	AHVM019S4	Debates in Art History	30	Compulsory
4	ARMC120S4	Visual Art: Histories, Networks and Organisations	30	Compulsory

Year 3

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
5	ARMC249S5	Curating Culture	30	Compulsory
One Level 5 module, chosen from:				
5	ARVC239S5	Art and Society in the Middle Ages and Renaissance	30	Optional
5	AHVM010S5	Art and Society in the Nineteenth Century	30	Optional
5	AHVM011S5	Art and Society Between 1900 and the Present	30	Optional

Year 4

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
6 or 5		Level 6 optional module or Level 5 module chosen from above list	30	Optional
5	ARVC221S5	Research Portfolio	30	Compulsory

Year 5

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
6		Level 6 optional module	30	Optional
6		Level 6 optional module	30	Optional

Year 6				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
6		Level 6 optional module	30	Optional
6	ARVC220S6	Dissertation	30	Compulsory

Indicative Level 6 Optional Modules	
Module Code	Module Title
ARVC197S6	Art Writing/Writing Art: 1900 to the Present
AHVM007S6	Art and Architecture in Rome c 1500 - 1527
ARVC193S6	Art and Design in Victorian Britain
AHVM008S6	Art and Identity
ARVC189S6	Art and Nationalism in Europe 1860-1914
ARVC145S6	Art and Patronage in Papal Rome c. 1534-1590
ARVC146S6	Art and Scandal in the Modern Period
AHVM089S6	Art and War: 1914 to the Present
ARVC179S6	Art and the Sacred in the Middle Ages
AHVM068S6	Art in America Since 1945
ARVC181S6	Art in Baroque Rome
AHVM014S6	Art in Renaissance Venice c 1475-1530
ARVC186S6	Art of the British Empire
ARVC147S6	Art, Caricature and Satire in Early Modern Europe (1500-1750)
AHVM090S6	Curating and Preserving Digital and Dynamic Art
AHVM022S6	Eighteenth-Century Britain: The Arts in a Polite and Commercial Society
AHVM084S6	Electronic Visions: Video, Animation, Kinetic and Computer Art since the 1950s
AHVM029S6	Fin De Siècle Vienna
AHVM028S6	Fin De Siècle and the Avant Garde in Europe 1880-1900
AHVM071S6	From Church to Palace: Architecture and Art in 14th Century England and France
ARVC132H4	History, Memory and Post-War Art
ARVC071S6	Medici Patronage in Florence c.1420-1534
ARVC178S6	Modernism in Scandinavian Art and Design
AHVM041S6	Narrative Art in the Age of Giotto
AHVM045S6	Paris Moderne: Art Design and Modernity 1889-1939
AHVM001S6	'Paris Moderne': Modernism and Decoration in France 1889 - 1939
ARVC067S6	Photography and the Arts in the Nineteenth Century
AHVM049S6	Portraiture in England in the Long Eighteenth Century
ARVC152S6	Post-War Art and the Politics of Memory, From the 1960s to the Present
ARVC187S6	Seventeenth-Century Painting in the Netherlands
ARVC177S6	Spaces of Modernity: City, Suburb and Countryside in the Nineteenth Century
ARVC188S6	Strategies of Display: Avant-Garde Exhibitions, The White Cube and Beyond
ARVC153S6	The Golden Age of Painting and Sculpture in Spain (1600-1700)
AHVM066S6	The Gothic Cathedral
ARMC229S6	Aliveness and the Arts
ARMC230S6	Memory and Media
FFME050S6	Globalisation and Media Cultures
ARMC036H6	Understanding Audiences

20	**Regulations**
	Admissions This programme adheres to the College Admissions Policy: http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/documents/admissions-policy.pdf ***Credit Transfer*** Accredited Prior Learning will be considered in line with the College Policy on Accredited Prior Learning http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/documents/accreditation-prior-

learning.pdf

- *Programme Regulations*
  This programme adheres to the College Common Awards Scheme
  http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/regulations

- *Programme Specific Regulations (or not applicable)* N/A

21	**Student Attendance Framework** – *in brief*
	The full version of the 'Student Attendance Framework' is available http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/rules/Attendance-Framework.pdf . **Principle** Consistent and regular student attendance in class (or equivalent) promotes and affords student success. Inconsistent and irregular attendance is less likely to result in student success and is consistent with lower marks and degree classifications being achieved and awarded. **Attendance expectation** Birkbeck, University of London expects you to consistently attend all timetabled sessions, including lectures, seminars, group and individual tutorials, learning support sessions, workshops, laboratories, field trips, inductions and demonstrations. **E-Registers** All Birkbeck students are issued with student cards. Students are expected to take them to classes and to assessment venues and to present them to a member of staff if requested. This is for the purpose of identifying Birkbeck students.

22	**Student Support and Guidance**
	All Birkbeck students have access to a range of student support services, details can be found on our website here: http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/facilities

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23	**Methods of Enhancing Quality and Standards**
	The College has rigorous procedures in place for the monitoring and enhancing its educational provision. This includes regular monitoring of programmes drawing on feedback from various sources including external examiner's reports, student feedback, student achievement and progression data. In addition, departments are reviewed every four to five years through the internal review process that includes external input. For more information please see the Academic Standards and Quality website http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/about-us/operations-and-quality .

24	**Programme Director**	Dr Suzannah Biernoff
25	**Start Date** *(term/year)*	October 2015
26	**Date approved by TQEC**	March 2014
27	**Date approved by Academic Board**	March 2014
28	**Date(s) updated/amended**	18 April 2018 (Dr Suzannah Biernoff)