

## Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
1	<b>Course Title</b>	Masters by Research (MRes) Creative Arts
2	<b>Course Code</b>	PT1705 (Sep) PT1707 (Jan)
3	<b>Awarding Institution</b>	Birmingham City University.
4	<b>Teaching Institution(s)</b> (if different from point 3)	N/A
5	<b>Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation</b> (if applicable)	N/A

6	<b>Course Description</b> (Marketing text for website)
	<p>The Masters by Research (MRes) Creative Arts course is a flexible research-based course designed to provide graduates with a foundation for a career in research, the public/private sector, the arts or academia (i.e. PhD studies). The purpose is to offer high quality postgraduate training in methods and practice of research and relevant transferable skills that offer a unique learning experience to advance knowledge within your specialist area of the arts or humanities.</p> <p>The MRes offers a foundation of advanced knowledge, specialist research skills and transferable attributes to prepare for academic and professional research careers. It seeks to develop reflexive independent researchers who can operate at the forefront of their academic discipline and of professional practice. The content and approach of the curriculum has a strong emphasis on independent scholarship and professional development. You will develop a keen understanding of research processes and methodologies, resulting in a research proposal and a reflection on your professional development and career ambitions.</p> <p>The MRes Creative Arts allows integration with the wider community of arts and humanities research-orientated postgraduate students at Birmingham City University, ensuring a thriving culture of learning and investigation. The award explicitly prepares students for further doctoral study in their area of expertise, which is developed throughout their studies, culminating in an independent research project, either by dissertation or by practice and supported by expert supervision from leading researchers. Students are encouraged to organise and extend their learning in a way that suits their individual ambitions and needs</p>

7	<b>Course Awards</b>		
7a	<b>Name of Final Award</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Credits Awarded</b>
	Master by Research Creative Arts	7	180
7b	<b>Exit Awards and Credits Awarded</b>		
	Postgraduate Certificate in Creative Arts	7	60

8	<b>Variation from the University Regulations</b>
	This course has approved variations to the University's Academic Regulations. These can be accessed via the student contract page: <a href="https://www.bcu.ac.uk/student-info/student-contract">https://www.bcu.ac.uk/student-info/student-contract</a>

<b>9 Delivery Patterns</b>			
<b>Mode(s) of Study</b>	<b>Location(s) of Study</b>	<b>Duration of Study</b>	<b>Code(s)</b>
Full Time (September)	City Centre	12 Months	PT1705
Full Time (January)	City Centre	12 Months	PT1707

<b>10 Entry Requirements</b>	
	The admission requirements for this course are stated on the course page of the BCU website at <a href="https://www.bcu.ac.uk/">https://www.bcu.ac.uk/</a> or may be found by searching for the course entry profile located on the UCAS website.

<b>11 Course Aims</b>	
1	Identify and critically discuss issues, challenges and questions at the forefront of your specialist area of interest as context for original research
2	Select, design and deploy innovative methodologies and critically evaluate their uses and limitations
3	Formulate original research questions and conduct an independent large-scale piece of unique and systematic research using innovative methodologies, producing new insights within your specialist area
4	Review, evaluate and undertake opportunities for ongoing professional development and preparation for doctoral level study
5	Participate in and contribute to a rich interdisciplinary research culture

<b>12 Course Learning Outcomes</b>	
1	Exhibit comprehensive expertise in a specialised field to demonstrate an in-depth knowledge and critical understanding of the latest research and contemporary issues within that area.
2	Formulate conceptual frameworks to challenge orthodox theoretical perspectives that assess and interpret issues and debates within an area of specialism.
3	Synthesise critical thinking and analytical skills to assess and select the most suitable research approaches and methodologies for an area of specialism.
4	Deliver a substantial piece of independent research which shows evidence of original thinking required for doctoral level research using appropriate advanced level research skills and methods
5	Audit personal, professional and academic achievements and skills to set personal development objectives
6	Produce developed plans identifying opportunities for further study through engagement with professional and creative practices.

<b>13 Level Learning Outcomes</b>	
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<b>Upon completion of 60 credits at Level 7 / the PG Cert, students will be able to:</b>	
<b>1</b>	Communicate the theoretical, methodological and practical aspects of the research and their impact.
<b>2</b>	Situate the project in its relevant field(s) and articulate the potential contribution/s their work will make to the existing body of knowledge.
<b>3</b>	Formulate clear and relevant research questions and methods, and justify the development of an appropriate plan to realise the project.
<b>4</b>	Critically reflect on your progress as a postgraduate researcher and formulate a plan for your future professional development.

<b>14</b>	<b>Course Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy</b>
	<p>The programme provides a supportive environment that fosters critical debate, amongst peers and partners, promotes intellectual curiosity and rigour. It facilitates transcultural and interdisciplinary dialogues; peer-to-peer interaction; collaborative practices, experimentation, risk taking and active engagement with professionals all within an international context. The course introduces key topics and issues through a variety of learning activities including lectures, seminars, practice-led, self-directed and experiential learning. The course is delivered in person with support material available through our Virtual Learning Environment (VLE).</p> <p>This diversity reflects and supports the range of skills, learning outcomes and the breadth of knowledge explored (practical, tacit, conceptual, analytic, methodological and professional). Reflective practice is embedded within each module, to encourage you to consider your own individual experience and response to the sessions; to assist you in establishing your own position and voice within your field; to facilitate a greater awareness and understanding of your personal transformation and learning journey.</p> <p>The programme cultivates students who are aware of their position and critical disposition within the field, able to manage uncertainty and review and adapt their own projects accordingly. As the programme progresses you will develop awareness of, and sensitivity towards the potential impact of your approach, research and practice within and beyond the field. You will be equipped with the necessary skills to be flexible and adaptable to rapid changes, specific demands and evolving creative communities, particularly in the field of media and cultural studies, and able to respond to what your research uncovers.</p> <p>You will receive training through workshops, seminars, group and individual tutorials, to assist in identifying specialist areas for research, research methods, project and time management. You are expected to work independently applying knowledge gained in response to assignments using your initiative to identify pertinent issues/problems within the field (in relation to your own specialist interest) and to propose innovative solutions. The programme includes opportunities to work individually and as part of a team. You will present and communicate your research and practice to peers and other partners, disseminating your research, ideas, and works through examining alternative modes and contexts (live and/or speculative) to different audiences.</p> <p>While the programme provides a structured framework to assist you in navigating your personal learning journey through individual tutorials and reflexive activities, you are responsible for your learning and professional development, proactive in extending your professional networks. You will be encouraged to be ambitious, to actively seek out and take up opportunities, gaining professional experience, and working on live research projects within the faculty's rich research culture.</p> <p>Formative activities and feed-forward sessions are embedded within each module, designed to prepare you to complete your assignment and support your progression throughout the course. Each module has a summative assessment, and all assignments should be shaped by and</p>

	reflect your individual research interests. Feedback will be provided in a variety of formats with an opportunity to discuss your progress with your tutors. Under the supervision of expert academic staff, you will devise your own research project, undertake original investigation in your chosen area and direct your own studies. Culminating in the submission of a written thesis at the end of the study period.
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<b>15</b>	<b>Course Requirements</b>
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<b>15a</b>	<p><b>Level 7:</b></p> <p><b>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 180 credits):</b></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 20%;">Module Code</th> <th style="width: 60%;">Module Name</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>RES7020</td> <td>Researcher Development</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>RES7021</td> <td>Major Project (Masters by Research)</td> <td>120</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	RES7020	Researcher Development	60	RES7021	Major Project (Masters by Research)	120
Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value								
RES7020	Researcher Development	60								
RES7021	Major Project (Masters by Research)	120								

**15b Structure Diagram**

Please note list of optional modules is indicative only. Students' choice will not be guaranteed for optional modules but a fair and transparent process will be adopted and shared with students.

Include a structure diagram for each mode of study. Level 4 is completed as an example including modules which extend the whole year.

**Level 7**
**September start:**

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO	SEMESTER THREE
Core: Research Development (60 credits)	Core: Major Project (120 credits)	

**January start (year one):**

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO	SEMESTER THREE
	Core: Research Development (60 credits)	Core: Major Project (120 credits)

**January start (year two):**

SEMESTER ONE		
Core: Major Project (120 credits) (continued)		

**16 Overall Student Workload and Balance of Assessment**

Overall student workload consists of class contact hours, independent learning and assessment activity, with each credit taken equating to a total study time of around 10 hours. While actual contact hours may depend on the optional modules selected, the following information gives an indication of how much time students will need to allocate to different activities at each level of the course.

- Scheduled Learning includes lectures, practical classes and workshops, contact time specified in timetable
- Directed Learning includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning
- Private Study includes preparation for exams

The balance of assessment by mode of assessment (e.g. coursework, exam and in-person) depends to some extent on the optional modules chosen by students. The approximate percentage of the course assessed by coursework, exam and in-person is shown below.

**Level 7****Workload****2% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Number of Hours</b>
Scheduled Learning	42
Directed Learning	40
Private Study	1718
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>1800</b>

**Balance of Assessment**

<b>Assessment Mode</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Coursework	93%
Exam	
In-Person	7%