MFA HANDBOOK

FOR STUDENTS STUDYING FOR THE MASTER OF FINE ART AT THE RUSKIN SCHOOL OF ART

2018 - 2019
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INTRODUCTION

This handbook applies to students studying for the Master of Fine Art in the Ruskin School of Art during the academic year 2018-19. The Examination Regulations relating to this course are available at https://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2017-18/moffineart/studentview/. Should there be a conflict between information in this handbook and the Examination Regulations then you should follow the Examination Regulations. If you have any concerns please contact Heather Savage (graduate@rsa.ox.ac.uk).

The information in this handbook is accurate as at October 2018; however, it may be necessary for changes to be made in certain circumstances, as explained at http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/courses/changes-to-courses. If such changes are made the School will publish a new version of this handbook together with a list of the changes and students will be informed.

The Ruskin MFA is an intensive one-year program made up of three compact eight-week terms. Students are encouraged to enhance their understanding of materials, media, processes and technical skills; to learn to reflect critically upon their practice and its context within the broader field of contemporary art and associated debates; to sharpen their analytical thought; to enhance their artistic and intellectual competences; and to develop an informed approach to artistic research. The theoretical and scholarly aspects of the course are deeply woven into the learning methodology and comprise an essential part of the tutorial, seminar and studio learning environments. Students will conduct their practice within the context of an inter-disciplinary, post-graduate, arts research environment shared with art historians and art theorists. The MFA group is an intimate one, typically comprising up to fifteen full-time – and a small number of part-time - students per year. This makes possible a student-to-staff ratio that is exceptional in UK art schools.

This handbook aims to provide you with a guide to essential facts about the Ruskin MFA programme and to the resources available to you both through the School and through the Humanities Division of the University. It should be consulted together with the current edition of the Examinations and Regulations (see above) since the official regulations presented there are expanded upon and explained here.
1. GENERAL INFORMATION FOR INCOMING MFA STUDENTS

*MFA Induction*

Induction sessions to libraries and research facilities for all incoming MFA students are organised by the School at the beginning of the first term. In addition, an ‘Introduction to the MFA Programme’ is offered by an MFA course leader. You will receive this information in the week before 0th week.

Inductions sessions focus on, among other things:

- An introduction to the Ruskin School of Art, its staff and students;
- Health and Safety procedures at the Ruskin’s High Street and Bullingdon Road sites;
- The MFA at the Ruskin, including tutorials, milestones during the degree, University policies and procedures, seminars and skills training;
- The Ruskin’s learning and research environment;
- An introduction to the Ruskin and Bodleian Libraries and what they offer graduate students in contemporary art.

*Registration and Student Self Service*

All new students are sent a college freshers’ pack containing details of how to activate their Oxford Single Sign-on account. The Oxford Single Sign-on is used to access Student Self Service to register online, as well as other central IT services such as free University email, and Weblearn.

In order to complete your registration as an Oxford University student, navigate to [http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/selfservice/](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/selfservice/) and log on using your Single Sign-on username and password. New students must complete their registration by the end of the first week of term in order to confirm their status as members of the University. Ideally students should complete registration before they arrive.

Once students have completed their University registration, an enrolment certificate is available from Student Self Service to download and print. This certificate may be used to obtain council tax exemption. In addition to enabling students to register online, Student Self Service provides web access to important course and other information needed by students throughout their academic career. Students can amend their address and contact details via Student Self Service, and they can use the Service to access detailed exam results, see their full academic record, and print transcripts.

*University Card*

The University Card provides students with access to facilities and services such as libraries, computing services and the Language Teaching Centre. In some colleges and faculties – including both the Bullingdon Road and the High Street buildings of
the Ruskin School - students also need the card as a payment card or to enter buildings, which have swipe-card access control. The University Card also acts as a form of identity when students are on college or University premises. Cards are issued to students by their college on arrival in Oxford once registration has been completed.

Email

Once a student’s registration details have been processed, the student will be able to find out their email address from IT Services (https://register.it.ox.ac.uk/self/index ) and have access to email either by the Webmail service (https://nexus.ox.ac.uk) or via an email client such as Thunderbird, Outlook Express, Netscape Mail or Eudora. The email system is controlled by the Oxford University IT Services (http://help.it.ox.ac.uk/help/request ) and problems should be referred to them.

Term Times

Michaelmas 2018: Sunday, 07 October - Saturday, 01 December
Hilary 2019: Sunday, 13 January – Saturday 09 March
Trinity 2019: Sunday 28 April – Saturday 22 June

General source of information about wide range of issues:
Student Gateway on the University website - www.ox.ac.uk/students/

Study and Residence Requirements

The residence limit for graduate students (other than those studying part-time) is twenty-five miles from Carfax. Application can be made by a student’s college to the Proctors for exemption from this limit (the relevant form may be downloaded from http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/proctors/oxonly/collegeforms.shtml ) but it is the University’s general expectation that only candidates who can meet the residence requirement will be accepted. This requirement does not apply to part-time students.

2. THE COURSE STRUCTURE

Aims and objectives of the MFA

The curriculum has been built with the understanding that none of its aims and objectives can be developed in isolation and it is only with effective engagement across the various components of the course that students will be able fully to develop their competences.

Creative Agency

Students will develop and create original and innovative works of art and situate them within the field of contemporary art with an awareness of the critical and theoretical concerns associated with it. Understanding of a range of contexts, materials, media and technical skills will be developed to enable students to employ
them flexibly in a variety of situations and to deal effectively and confidently with creative challenges they may encounter in the future.

Facility for Research and Development
Students will be able to recognize subject matter relevant to their artistic interests and formulate distinct methods of inquiry about them in order to enrich, sharpen and expand their studio and writing practices. They will be familiar with key debates within the fields of artistic and academic research and be able to orientate their practices towards potential doctoral level research.

Analysis, Self-Assessment and Reflection
Students will be able to understand the underlying technical, formal, material and conceptual concerns of their practice and how these relate to broader social and extra-artistic concerns. Through critical reflection on their practice and related research they will be able to ascertain whether their working methods are producing the results desired, and if not, to imagine and implement problem-solving alternatives.

Organization, Communication and Distribution
Students will have the capacity to plan, manage and direct complex creative projects, be able to communicate their intentions, processes and perceived results to an informed audience, and to develop a reflective balance between these. They will be able to see how the underlying motivations and understandings of their work relate to the materials and media used, and their methods of production, fabrication and distribution, in order to position their work effectively within the field of contemporary art.

Learning Outcomes

Although the learning outcomes below are grouped according to the components of the final assessment it is not essential that they are realized there but could be expressed in other components or throughout the course as a whole.

Extended Written Text
• Identify and use appropriate artistic and research methods relevant to your studio practice
• Identify artistic questions, hypotheses and concerns informing the Final Project and Extended Written Text
• Analyse and synthesize different methods and approaches
• Evidence awareness of the wider context for your studio practice and complementary research
• Communicate your intentions, experiences and understandings in clear and comprehensible language
• Conduct self-directed research
• Evidence awareness of issues within Fine Art and art theoretical debates of relevance to your personal studio, writing and research practices
Final Exhibition

• Conceive, plan, manage and execute a complex final project to a professional standard
• Show evidence of innovation and experimentation in the use of materials, media, approaches, formats and fabrication processes relevant to your final project
• Realize artistic intentions in a coherent and distinct work or body of works
• Communicate coherently and imaginatively across your chosen visual, spatial and material forms

Portfolio

• Record the development and completion of the final project
• Contain documentation of practice development evidenced through significant works made, and research undertaken, during the year
• Demonstrate critical reflection and analysis of research in your significant stages of development
• Communicate in clear, comprehensible form across effectively selected visual and textual components
• Use source materials effectively and creatively

Teaching and Learning Models

At the forefront of our learning and teaching strategy is a desire to create an inspiring, challenging and supportive learning environment for every student.

Teaching Strategy

The delivery of the course relies upon a range of teaching methods, which include artists’ talks, seminars, peer-group debate, personal tutorials and group critiques. Students are encouraged to explore different modes of communication and personal expression in a mutually supportive, peer-group environment. The overall aim is to assist students in developing their own set of resources and skills in order to support their creative abilities as agents who can shape contemporary art and its discourses. To this end the program fosters learning across research, practice and professionalization with the understanding that these are interrelated processes, and that skills are not developed in isolation but through the interweaving of these activities. All the staff meet at regular intervals to discuss individual student progress. This is also formally monitored by termly reports, which are submitted to students’ colleges.

Learning Strategy

As the course is short and intensive it is expected that students will commit themselves fully to the curriculum. Because we believe in the importance of students achieving independence of thought in the way they approach the organization of their studies, they are offered considerable freedom in how they interpret the curriculum, the assessed components of the program and its learning outcomes. Tutorials and seminar presentations offer students the opportunity to develop oral communication and public presentation skills, and, in providing a form of
continuous assessment, help students build goals and develop appropriate self-assessment models with which to evaluate their achievements. Student opinion of the course and curriculum is greatly valued and termly feedback is received through meetings of the Graduate Joint Consultative Committee and through student feedback forms.

**Artistic Research**

Research, in its most fundamental sense, is studious enquiry into a given field of activity or knowledge. Practice-led artistic research is therefore defined as enquiry into the specific forms, meanings, knowledges and experiences that issue from the production of artistic works. Artistic research is attentive to the particular knowledges gained through the manipulation of materials, tools, media, processes, forms and meanings used in the production, fabrication, performance, exhibition and distribution of artworks. Students will be introduced to a range of academic and artistic research methods - and contemporary debates associated with them - through both the tutorial and seminar components of the course, and through their participation in other programmes at the Ruskin (such as the Ruskin’s weekly Visiting Speakers programme). Students are encouraged to reflect on their practice-based knowledges and experiences, and their relation to the wider field of social and academic practices, from a range of theoretical, historical and philosophical perspectives introduced through the MFA Research Seminar.

**Course Components**

**Self-Directed Research and Practice**

The most significant point of reference for each student is their self-directed research and artistic production. The curriculum is designed to foster a student’s studious enquiry into the forms, meanings, knowledges and experiences that issue from the production of a body of artistic works, and to assist them in recognizing the questions, ideas or themes that motivate their practice. Students engage in processes of reflective assessment in order to analyse chosen working methods, and to build a critical framework to situate and speak about their work. Students are encouraged to understand their work contextually and to discuss its underpinnings in relation to theoretical and historical trajectories, with a view to generating informed meanings within a range of contexts.

**Studio Practice Seminar**

In the Studio practice seminars students will present finished work or work-in-progress to the peer group and two core members of faculty. The seminars are intended to stimulate critical and constructive discussion amongst the peer group and to help orientate students towards their final exhibition in a critical and self-reflective manner.

**Studio Practice Tutorials**

Students will have regular studio tutorials over the three terms, divided between their personal and elective tutors. In total, they will receive 12 x 60 minute tutorials over the year.
Tutor Group Crits
All students will be designated one of four personal tutors who will conduct short studio crits with their tutee group throughout the year.

Workshops
Throughout Michaelmas and Hilary terms there will be a series of workshops led by members of faculty. Some of these will focus directly on developing practical skills for professional practice, others relate to production and fabrication, while others will encourage students to engage experimentally with a particular approach, technique, medium or way of working. The workshops serve to demonstrate both specific skills codified in their form (such as Documentation) as well as involving students in the decision-making processes specific to a given medium, or a way of working, that is individual and may have emerged as much from context and imperfect means as from personal choice. The workshops will assist in developing problem-solving skills and innovative means to respond to a range of different creative circumstances and situations.

MFA Research Seminar
The MFA Research Seminar addresses debates within contemporary art theory, art history, critical theory, aesthetics, philosophy and the discourses of contemporary art. Students are encouraged to experiment with the form of the seminar according to the orientation of their current studio work and research interests. The seminars will take place throughout Michaelmas term and will be convened by core MFA faculty the direction of the debate and discussion will run according to MFA students interests. The MFA Research Seminar is also intended to provide a critical and theoretical resource for the student’s Extended Written Text.

Extended Written Text
Students will write a text of at least 4,000 words and not more than 6,000 words, accounting for the methodology used in the studio project and an exposition of its theoretical framework or an essay on another topic of direct relevance to their practice. The written text will be considered an integral part of the student’s overall artistic production during the year. The writing will be based initially on their artistic and related research interests and will evolve in relation to their experiences and learning during the program. Students are encouraged to take an experimental approach to the practice of writing, particularly if such an approach complements their studio practice. Students will receive 4 x 30 minute tutorials for their written text in Michaelmas and Hilary terms, one with a course leader and the rest with a personal tutor. A 500-word proposal for the text will be submitted in week 6 of Michaelmas term and 2,000 – 3,000 words of the first draft by week 2 of Hilary term. The final text will be submitted to a deadline of noon on Monday of week 9 of Hilary term (of the second year, in the case of part-time students).

Professional Practice Symposium
During Hilary Term, there will be a day of workshops delivered by Ruskin faculty on a variety of professional practice-related topics.
Developing Practice Portfolio
Students are encouraged to keep a reflective journal of their experiences during the program. This will assist them when organizing towards their Developing Practice Portfolios which will be handed in finally at the end of Trinity term. The Portfolio should include a text of not more than 2,000 words that annotates and explicates the visual documentation of the final project, the provenance of the processes used and the strategies and ideas manifest in the final exhibition or presentation. Drafts of the Developing Practice Portfolio are submitted at the beginning of each term for discussion with the student’s personal tutor.

Final Exhibition and Degree Show
The Final Exhibition contains the work students have chosen to be examined for their final degree. It’s coordination and planning is done in collaboration with the MFA cohort, the Degree Show Tutor, technical support staff and the MFA core team. This is a mandatory part of the examination of each students’ work which subsequently forms part of any public Degree Show. The Degree Show itself is however not part of the marked assessment. Its organization, funding, promotion, production and documentation will be decided on and coordinated by the MFA cohort in consultation with the MFA Degree Show Tutor, BFA Cohort, Individual Colleges and Ruskin Staff

Course Structure

Michaelmas Term
Michaelmas term begins with introductory presentations by all students and core faculty on the MFA program introducing their work and research interests. These will be followed by studio tutorials with the personal tutor and elective tutors, Student-led Research Seminars, workshops in Text, Documentation and other relevant skills, and Personal Tutor Group Crits. In week 4 students will discuss their proposed topic for the written text with a course director, after which they will be paired with a personal tutor. In week 5 they will submit a 500-word proposal for their written text project that will be discussed with their personal tutor in week 7. There will be regular visiting artists’ talks throughout the term and initial degree-show planning meetings in week 2 and 8.

Hilary Term
Personal and Elective studio tutorials continue, as do Text tutorials. A draft version of the Developing Practice Portfolio is submitted on Monday of Week 1 for discussion in the first tutorial. Project Space Seminars run throughout Hilary on a weekly basis. Each will install a piece of work in the Project Space and give a brief 15-minute introduction to the work, including the questions and issues they want to discuss. This will be followed by a 45-minute group discussion of the work. Artists’ talks also continue throughout the term. At the end of week 2 students submit 2,000 – 3,000 words of the first draft of their written text, which will be discussed by their personal tutor in week 4. Degree show planning meetings will take place in weeks 1 and 8. On Monday of week 9 the final written text of 4,000-6,000 words is submitted.
Trinity Term
The final term is primarily dedicated to the development of the work for the final show. Studio tutorials and tutor group crits occur throughout the term. A draft version of the Developing Practice Portfolio is submitted on Monday of Week 1 for discussion in the first tutorial. The exhibition installation for final examination begins in week 6 and is completed to a deadline of noon on Wednesday week 7, after which the work is documented and examined. The Developing Practice Portfolios will be submitted by the same deadline of noon on Wednesday of week 7. In week 8 there will be an end of year review of the program. The joint BFA/MFA degree show opens to the public on Friday of week 8.

Departmental Statement of Provision for Postgraduate Taught Students

1. What induction arrangements will be made?
Induction sessions are organized by the either the school according to need, the earliest will begin at the start of Michaelmas Term, which will complement induction sessions offered by your college.

2. What workspace will be provided?
Shared studio space is provided for all MFA students.

3. What IT support/ library facilities/ other facilities will be available?
You will have access to the Ruskin School of Art’s Library (in addition to the Bodleian and other University libraries, and the centrally provided electronic resources), the School’s IT resources and workshop facilities, and the School’s Digital Media Specialist & IT Manager. Other bibliographic, archive or material sources are available as appropriate to the research topic. The provision of other resources specific to your project will be agreed with your course tutor as a part of the planning stages of the agreed project.

4. Which research seminars will be available?
MFA Research Seminars run on Wednesday in Michaelmas and Hilary Terms. MFA students are also encouraged to attend the weekly DPhil seminar series, on Tuesday afternoons, at which Fine Art and Contemporary Art History and Theory students discuss their current research projects (please email the DPhil seminar convenor/s beforehand if you would like to attend the seminar). The Ruskin’s Visiting Speaker series takes place on Thursdays every term and is open to the entire School and other departments. It offers a larger forum for invited external speakers to present their latest research, with the opportunities for tutorials in addition to the presentation. Graduate students have access to all other seminars taking place at the School, and open research seminars throughout the University.

5. What access to research funds will be available?
Your college should be your first point of contact for research fund requests. You will, however, be allocated a grant of £500 at the start of the programme to cover materials and research expenses.
You may also be awarded up to a further £150 grant to support the costs of installing your final exhibition. You will be required to submit an application, in which you provide receipted costings to demonstrate that the £500 initial grant has been fully committed, and in which you identify the purposes to which the additional funding sought will be put. Completed application forms should be sent as an email attachment to the Director of Graduate Studies (dgs@rsa.ox.ac.uk), and copied to the Secretary to the Graduate Studies Committee (heather.savage@rsa.ox.ac.uk) by Wednesday of the third week of Hilary term. Requests should include the reasons for funding, the amount requested and a brief budget for the proposed expenditure. You will be notified by the start of the sixth week of that term whether your request has been successful.

6. **What formal graduate skills training will be provided?**
Throughout Michaelmas and Hilary terms there will be a series of workshops led by members of faculty. Some of these will focus directly on developing practical skills for production and fabrication, while others will encourage students to engage with various aspects of professionalization and research. The workshops will assist in developing problem-solving skills and innovative means to respond to a range of different creative circumstances and situations. In week 7 of Hilary Term there will be a day of workshops delivered by Ruskin faculty on a variety of professional practice-related topics. Students will be introduced to a range of academic and artistic research methods - and contemporary debates associated with them - through both the tutorial and seminar components of the course, and through participation in other programmes at the Ruskin, such as the DPhil seminars.

7. **What arrangements for accommodation, meals and social facilities will be made on a year-round basis?**

**School:**
MFA students can use the common area at Bullingdon Road. This encourages interaction between research groups in the School. Seminars, reading groups and colloquia bring graduate students together with academic and other research staff in the School to hear about on-going research, and provide an opportunity for meeting people and socialising.

**College:**
Many colleges will be able to provide you with accommodation. Generally speaking, your college will provide meals throughout the year, but provision will vary from college to college, especially during vacations, and you will need to familiarise yourself with your college’s detailed arrangements. In addition, there are usually self-catering facilities available in graduate accommodation. You will be a member of the Middle Common Room, or equivalent, of your college, which is the main social centre for graduates. The MCR provides a common room and usually organises a programme of social events throughout the year. The college will also provide a bar, some computing facilities and a library, and may have dedicated funds for research (conference and field grants). It also represents the interests of its members to the college through an elected Committee or through elected representatives to College Committees. Again, details will vary from college to college. Graduates are also
welcome to participate in all other social and sporting activities of the college. Please see individual college websites for further details about all aspects of college provision.

Central:
Graduate Students may become members of the University Club in Mansfield Road, and participate in the range of sporting, musical and other activities supported by the University.

8. What arrangements are in place for pastoral and welfare support?

School:
Within the School, your supervisor, Director of Graduate Studies, the Head of Administration, and the Graduate Studies Administrator are all available to offer support. The Graduate Joint Consultative Committee provides a channel through which graduate students’ views and concerns can be brought to the attention of the School’s Graduate Studies Committee, and its main governing body, the Ruskin Committee.

College:
There is an extensive framework of support for graduates within each college. Your college will allocate to you a College Advisor from among its Senior Members (academic, and senior administrative staff), usually in a cognate subject, who will arrange to see you from time to time and whom you may contact for additional advice and support on academic and other matters. In college, you may also approach the Tutor for Graduates and/or the Senior Tutor for advice. The Tutor for Graduates is a fellow of the college with particular responsibility for the interests and welfare of graduate students. In some colleges, the Senior Tutor will also have the role of Tutor for Graduates. Each college will also have other named individuals who can offer individual advice. The University also has a professionally-staffed confidential Student Counselling Service, which offers assistance with personal, emotional, social, and academic problems. (See below.)

Central:
The University provides a Student Counselling Service
http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/counselling and Careers Service
http://www.careers.ox.ac.uk

9. How many hours' contact time with my supervisor or other tutors can I expect to have?
Contact time across the course includes engagement through seminars, workshops and tutorials. On average students have seminars weekly, and receive tutorials and workshops biweekly.
Assessment, Monitoring & Examinations

Students are graded on a Distinction, Merit, Pass and Fail basis.

**Distinction**: work that goes beyond what is required by the learning outcomes outlined in the course handbook, achieving a level of excellence that is outstanding at MFA level.

**Merit**: a high quality work with methods of construction that are coherent, inventive and informative. A self-reflective and nuanced understanding of the relationship between the written text and the student’s studio research interests should be demonstrated. The text will be informed by a clear and critical awareness of the wider context in which the overall body of work is situated and relevant theoretical issues associated with it.

**Pass**: work that meets the expected criteria outlined in the handbook and regulations.

**Fail**: work that, although not without merit, does not meet the assessment criteria outlined in the course handbook and regulations.

**Continuous Formative Assessment**

Students present their studio work to members of academic staff and peers on a regular basis in tutorials and studio seminars. Both of these forums offer students assistance in reflecting on their endeavours in order to assess how their work and research is progressing, while developing a critical framework and vocabulary for articulating their practice. The tutorial system is at the heart of continuous formative assessment. During a tutorial, observations and evaluations are made regarding the work presented for discussion. Tutorials assist the student to analyse their present working processes, hone aims and intentions, and determine areas of further research. Tutorials are an excellent place for students to ask questions and address problems arising within their work. Since all students are taught by more than one member of staff, there is ample opportunity for a variety of assessments of the same work.

For those presenting, the studio seminars offer a forum within which to reflect upon the development of their work with peers. The presentation of one’s work to a group encourages thinking through the work’s reception and its mode of address as staged for public presentation. Whether the work presented is finished or in progress, it should be installed with an exhibition situation in mind and forms of public exposition taken into consideration. It is this approach that will most assist your understanding of how the work stages its subject and generates meaningful interpretation. This will also assist your peers in reflecting on your artistic decisions and so offer the most astute discussions of the work’s connotations, implications and possible problems.

For those not presenting work, the studio seminars offer an opportunity to actively engage in reading work; to encounter a range of perspectives and approaches to a
work’s reception; to actively apply critical concepts from the discourse of contemporary art; and to practice the articulation of your viewpoints.

Graduate Supervision System (GSS): Changing to GSR (Graduate Supervision Reporting)

Termly reports are conducted through the Graduate Supervisory System or GSS: http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/gss/ They offer a summary of progress for reflection and to assist in future planning. They will consider the degree that a student has:

- Responded constructively to tutorial and seminar debate and discussion
- Developed independent learning abilities
- Identified relevant artistic questions and hypotheses relevant to their studio practice and Extended Written Text
- Contributed constructively to seminar discussion and debate
- Regularly attended Research and Studio Practice Seminars
- Contributed to Degree Show Planning
- Developed an experimental and exploratory studio practice informed by seminars, tutorial discussion and debate
- Clearly communicated their intentions, questions and learning to the peer and tutor group

Within this system, you have the opportunity to contribute to your termly supervision reports by reviewing and commenting on your own progress.

You are strongly encouraged to take the opportunity to review and comment on your academic progress, any skills training you have undertaken or may need to undertake in the future.

Your course tutor will review and comment on your academic progress and performance during the current term and assess skills and training needs to be addressed during the next term. They should discuss the report with you, as it will form the basis for feedback on your progress, for identifying areas where further work is required, for reviewing your progress against an agreed timetable, and for agreeing plans for the term ahead.

When reporting on academic progress, students on taught courses should review progress during the current term, and measure this progress against the timetable and requirements for their programme of study.

All students should briefly describe which subject-specific research skills and more general personal/professional skills they have acquired or developed during the current term. You should include attendance at relevant classes that form part of your programme of study and also include courses, seminars or workshops offered or arranged by your faculty or the Division. Students should also reflect on the skills required to undertake the work they intend to carry out. You should mention any
skills you do not already have or you may wish to strengthen through undertaking training.

If you have any complaints about the supervision you are receiving, you should raise this with your Course Leader or the Director of Graduate Studies. You should not use the supervision reporting system as a mechanism for complaints.

Students are asked to report in weeks 6 and 7 of term. Once you have completed your sections of the online form, it will be released to your supervisor/s for completion and will also be visible to your Director of Graduate Studies and to your College Advisor. When the supervisor sections are completed, you will be able to view the report, as will the relevant Director of Graduate Studies and your college advisor. Directors of Graduate Studies are responsible for ensuring that appropriate supervision takes place, and this is one of the mechanisms they use to obtain information about supervision. College advisors are a source of support and advice to students, and it is therefore important that they are informed of your progress, including concerns (expressed by you and/or your supervisor/s).

To access the GSS, please visit http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/gss/ You will be able to log on to the site using your single sign-on details. Full details of how to use the site are provided at the on-line help centre. However, should you need additional support, please contact your Graduate Studies Administrator in the first instance.

FINAL ASSESSMENT
There are three components for the final assessment which are evaluated holistically according to the Learning Outcomes listed above in 2. ‘Course Details’.

Extended Written Text
A written text of at least 4,000 words, and not more than 6,000 words, accounting for the methodology used in the studio project and an exposition of its theoretical framework or an essay on another topic of direct relevance to the practice. The work is to be submitted by noon on Monday Week 9 of Hilary Term (of the second year, in the case of part-time students). Texts must be submitted to the Chairman of the Examiners, MFA in Fine Art, c/o Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford OX1 4BG. The completed text should be submitted as a PDF (on a digital memory device), together with 3 printed copies.

Final Exhibition
An exhibition - or other presentation as appropriate - of completed artworks in any medium including 2D, 3D installation, performance, moving image, writing and sound. Full time candidates must submit this by 12.00 on Wednesday of Week 7 in Trinity term. Part time candidates must submit this 12.00 on Wednesday of Week 7 in Trinity term of their second year. The Final Exhibition is a mandatory part of the examination of each student’s work which subsequently forms part of any public Degree Show. The Degree Show itself, however, is not part of marked assessment (See p.12, The Final Exhibition and Degree Show).
Developing Practice Portfolio
The Developing Practice portfolio should comprise: (1) Visual documentation of the final project, which may include up to 20 minutes of moving image in a universal file of digital format, on DVD or hard-drive; and (2) a text of not more than 2000 words to annotate and explicate the visual documentation, and 3) contain documentation and evidence of significant work made and research undertaken during the year, the provenance of the processes used, and the strategies and ideas manifest in the final exhibition. This is to be submitted by 12.00 noon on Wednesday of Week 7 for full-time candidates. Part-time candidates must submit an initial Developing Practice Portfolio of not more than 1,000 words by 12.00 noon on Wednesday of Week 7 of their first year, and a final Developing Practice Portfolio of not more than 2,000 words by 12.00 noon on Wednesday of in Week 7 of their final year.

Examination Regulations

The Examination Regulations provide the authoritative statement on the means by which courses are examined. The regulations for the MFA can be found online at https://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2017-18/moffineart/studentview/

Examining Conventions

Introduction
Examination conventions are the formal record of the specific assessment standards for the course or courses to which they apply. They set out how examined work will be marked and how the resulting marks will be used to arrive at a final result and classification of an award.

The Supervisory body responsible for approving the MFA examination conventions is the Ruskin Committee.

Rubrics for individual papers

Final Exhibition
An exhibition - or other presentation as appropriate - of completed artworks in any medium, including 2D, 3D installation, performance, moving image, writing and sound. Full-time candidates must submit this by 12.00 noon on Wednesday of Week 7 in Trinity term. Part-time candidates must submit this by 12.00 noon on Wednesday of Week 7 in Trinity term of their second year.

Developing Practice Portfolio
Visual documentation of the final project and the developments leading up to its presentation, annotated and explicated through a text of not more than 2,000 words. Topics to be covered include the provenance of the processes used, strategies for assessing progress, and the ideas informing the Final Exhibition. It should contain documentation of practice development evidenced through significant works made, and research undertaken, during the year. The thought processes articulated in the Developing Practice Portfolio do not need to be fully resolved but there should be
evidence of an ability to identify appropriate research material and to analyse the working methods employed. The Developing Practice Portfolio should include between 10 - 30 still images and may also include up to 20 minutes of moving image or sound work in a universal file of digital format on DVD or hard drive. If submitting 20 minutes of moving image, the number of accompanying still images should be kept to the minimum. The Developing Practice Portfolio is to be submitted by 12.00 noon on Wednesday of Week 7 for full-time candidates. Part-time candidates must submit an initial Developing Practice Portfolio annotated and explicated through a text of not more than 1,000 words by 12.00 noon on Wednesday of Week 7 of their first year, and a final Developing Practice Portfolio annotated and explicated through a text of not more than 2,000 words in Week 7 of their final year.

Written Text
A written text of at least 4,000 words, and not more than 6,000 words, accounting for the research methods used in the studio project and an exposition of its theoretical framework or an essay on another topic of direct relevance to the practice. Where appropriate, students may be encouraged to take an experimental approach to the practice of writing, particularly if such an approach complements their studio practice. The Written Text is to be submitted by 12.00 noon on Monday of Week 9 of Hilary Term. Part-time candidates must submit this by 12.00 noon on Monday of Week 9 in Hilary term of their second year.

Marking conventions

University scale for standardised expression of agreed final marks

Agreed final marks for individual papers will be expressed using the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marks</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>70-100</td>
<td>Distinction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65-69</td>
<td>Merit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-64</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-49</td>
<td>Fail</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Qualitative criteria for different types of assessment

Final Exhibition (50%)

*Distinction* – an exceptionally original, well-planned and professionally executed exhibition or other form of presentation that shows outstanding artistic competence within its chosen media and formats. The exhibition should be informed by a challenging and reflective use of critical frameworks appropriate to the body of work and a sophisticated awareness of current issues within contemporary art.

*Merit:* an innovative, well-structured and soundly exhibition or other form of presentation that shows artistic refinement and originality within its chosen media and formats. The exhibition should be informed by a challenging and reflective use
of critical frameworks appropriate to the body of work and an in-depth and specific employment of current issues within contemporary art.

Pass – an innovative, well-executed exhibition or other form of presentation that shows a high level of artistic competence within its chosen media and formats. The exhibition should show reflective use of the student’s research and a good awareness of concerns in contemporary art.

Fail – a poorly executed exhibition or other form of presentation that is insufficiently supported by evidence of the student’s use of their research in a purposeful manner.

**Portfolio (30%)**

**Distinction** – work that documents and communicates the development of the final exhibition in inventive and original ways. The ideas, analysis and research methods deployed should show an unusually astute and complex acknowledgment of the wider context in which the research is situated.

**Merit** – work that documents and communicates the development of the exhibition in clear, inventive and original ways. The methods and ideas focused upon are described in a manner that shows rich understanding and astute reflection as well as a complex acknowledgement of the wider context in which the research is situated.

**Pass** – work that clearly documents and communicates the development of the final exhibition and reflects cogently upon the important phases of the learning and creative process, using source materials in a highly competent manner. The work should show a reflective awareness of the learning processes involved and an understanding of the wider context in which the research is situated.

**Fail** – work that does not complement the final exhibition, gives little or no account of its development and uses documentation in a poor and/or insufficiently professional manner.

**Written Text (20%)**

**Distinction** – Work of an exceptional quality in which the methods of writing, composition and construction are coherent, inventive and informative. A self-reflective and nuanced understanding of the relationship between the written text and the student’s studio research interests should be demonstrated. The text will be informed by a sophisticated awareness of the wider context in which the overall body of work is situated and relevant theoretical issues associated with it.

**Merit** – A high quality work with methods of construction that are coherent, inventive and informative. A self-reflective and nuanced understanding of the relationship between the written text and the student’s research interests should be demonstrated. The text will be informed by a sophisticated awareness of the wider context in which the overall body of work is situated and relevant theoretical issues associated with it.
Pass – Work that, using well-chosen methods and appropriate use of language, deploys creative writing methods and/or academic conventions directly relevant to the student’s research interests. It should also reveal an ability to engage with the wider context in which the student’s overall body of work is situated and show awareness of relevant theoretical issues associated with it.

Fail – Work that shows little awareness of the contemporary context for the practice, is highly derivative, poorly written and researched, and/or unreflective about the methods of its construction.

Verification and reconciliation of marks

All the work submitted for examination will be independently marked by at least two internal examiners. The external examiner will also review all the work submitted for examination. Although a percentage of marks is allocated to each of the three assessed components, the marking will be informed by a holistic concern for the interrelation of the Final Exhibition, Portfolio and Written Text.

Reconciliation of marks will take place through a discussion of each student’s submission by the internal examiners and the external examiner to determine the final results.

Short-weight convention and departure from rubric

There are no formal penalties for short-weight in the Portfolio and the Written Text. However, Portfolios and Written Texts that are significantly shorter than the rubric are likely to be inadequate in their coverage and content, and will be so marked.

Penalties for late or non-submission

The scale of penalties agreed by the board of examiners in relation to late submission of assessed items is set out below. Details of the circumstances in which such penalties might apply can be found in the Examination Regulations (Regulations for the Conduct of University Examinations, Part 14.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Late submission</th>
<th>Penalty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to one day (submitted on the day but after the deadline)</td>
<td>-5 marks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Each additional day (i.e., two days late = -6 marks, three days late = -7 marks, etc.; note that each weekend day counts as a full day for the)</td>
<td>-1 mark (-1 percentage point)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Failure to submit a required element of assessment will result in the failure of the whole MFA Examination.

**Penalties for over-length work**

[Examination Regulations, Regulations for the Conduct of University Examinations, Part 16, Regulation 16.6]

The Board has agreed the following tariff of marks to be deducted for an over-length Extended Written Text or final Portfolio:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage by which the maximum word count is exceeded:</th>
<th>Penalty (up to a maximum of –10)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5% over word, image and/or minutes limit</td>
<td>-1 mark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10% over</td>
<td>-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15% over</td>
<td>-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Each further 5% over</td>
<td>-1 more</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Final outcome conventions**

**Qualitative descriptors of Distinction, Merit, Pass, Fail**

**Distinction:** outstanding work that goes beyond what is required by the learning outcomes outlined in the course handbook, achieving a level of excellence which consistently exceeds expectations and challenges received views while demonstrating high-levels of proficiency in professional, linguistic, academic and artistic competencies. It will demonstrate an exceptionally high level of artistic intelligence and creative coherence between the different components of the examined work.

**Merit:** work that exceeds the criteria outlined in the handbook at points, and shows a high level of artistic competence within its chosen media and formats. The work should show evidence of astute analysis and sophisticated questioning with the field and a developed knowledge of the work’s contemporary context. Work across all submitted elements should be well-organized and articulate while revealing visual intelligence, inventiveness and originality. There should be clear and considered
relation between the three components of the examined work and all the components should be completed to a professional standard.

*Pass:* work that meets the expected criteria outlined in the handbook and regulations, and that shows a high level of artistic competence within its chosen media and formats. The work should show evidence of a broad-based engagement with the field and a developed knowledge of the work’s contemporary context. Textual and portfolio submissions should be well-organized, clearly argued and comprehensibly articulated while revealing visual intelligence, inventiveness and originality. There should be clear and considered relation between the three components of the examined work and all the components should be completed to a professional standard.

*Fail:* work that does not meet the assessment criteria outlined in the course handbook and regulations and is deficient in understanding and depth. Submissions in this class may show evidence of poor judgment, lack of organization and even ignorance of, or disengagement from, the subject. There may also be a shortage of finished work or supporting material.

**Final outcome rules**

The fundamental criterion for assessment is whether, during the course of the programme, a student has effectively developed their creative practice and independent learning to reflect the course aims and objectives. As a result, the student’s work should show a creative engagement with experimentation, a highly developed visual and conceptual language, and a sense of how it engages with theoretical issues that inform contemporary art practice. The work should show a confident understanding and inventive use of any chosen media and evidence a flexibility of thought between different creative processes.

The course aims to move fluidly through all aspects of the programme. Although the course learning outcomes are graded holistically, each individual component constitutes a specific percentage of the overall grade. All of the components will be examined together by the internal and external examiners.

Final Exhibition – 50%
Portfolio – 30%
Written Text – 20%

Candidates who have initially failed any element of the examination will not be eligible for the award of a Distinction.

**Use of vivas**
Viva are not used as part of the assessment for this course.

**Resits**
In the event that an element, or elements, of the MFA examination are failed at the first attempt, candidates are entitled to one further attempt, with resubmission of the
failed element to be at the end of the Michaelmas Term following the examination. Marks for any element that has been successfully completed at the first attempt may be carried forward, and therefore it will only be necessary for students to re-sit the failed element(s).

Factors affecting performance
Where a candidate or candidates have made a submission, under Part 13 of the Regulations for Conduct of University Examinations, that unforeseen factors may have had an impact on their performance in an examination, a subset of the board will meet to discuss the individual applications and band the seriousness of each application on a scale of 1-3 with 1 indicating minor impact, 2 indicating moderate impact, and 3 indicating very serious impact. When reaching this decision, examiners will take into consideration the severity and relevance of the circumstances, and the strength of the evidence. Examiners will also note whether all or a subset of components of the examination were affected, being aware that it is possible for circumstances to have different levels of impact on different elements. The banding information will be used at the final board of examiners meeting to adjudicate on the merits of candidates. Further information on the procedure is provided in the Policy and Guidance for examiners, Annex B and information for students is provided at www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/guidance.

Details of examiners and rules on communicating with examiners
Examiners to be confirmed subject to the approval of the Proctors.

Anonymity of Submitted Work
All examination of work undertaken for Oxford University degrees adheres to the principle of ‘blind’ marking, in which candidates’ personal identity is not made known to the examiners by name. Work must therefore be submitted with your candidate number as identifier, and not your personal name. This includes all written, visual and exhibited work.

3. STUDYING ON THE MFA

Students are responsible for their own academic progress. At Oxford the terms are short. For this reason, it is important that all course participants attend all of their scheduled sessions. Students’ work will be continually monitored through tutorials and regular staff discussion.

Access
Both the High Street and Bullingdon Road are open from noughth week to ninth week from Monday – Friday, 9.00am until 9.15pm. On Saturdays of weeks 1-8 during term both sites are open 9.00am – 1.00pm. Subject to the completion of mandatory induction activities, and with the agreement of the Head of School and the Health & Safety Officer, graduate students may be provided with additional hours of access to their studios, but not to workshops. Your University card provides access to Bullingdon Road and to the High Street.
Equipment and Book Deposit

The Ruskin has a wide range of film, photography and sound equipment for your use. We also have our own specialist book and DVD library. Part of this is for reference only but there is a substantial loan collection for your use. In order for the School to run smoothly it is essential that whatever you borrow you take care of and return at the specified time.

Before you can borrow any equipment, or take out any loans from the library, you will need to make a £100 deposit. This is refundable when you leave but is dependent upon responsible borrowing. Your deposit should be paid online using this link: https://www.oxforduniversitystores.co.uk/product-catalogue/the-ruskin-school-of-art/ruskin-departmental-items/library-and-equipment-deposit-2018. Any problems paying your deposit should be reported to the Graduate Studies Administrator. It is your responsibility to report any damage to or theft of loaned materials immediately.

Studio Space

All studio spaces in the School are shared. Within these areas at any one time you will find multiple activities, a wide variety of materials and many interactions. Please be aware that, under Health & Safety considerations, you are not permitted to use aerosol spray paints in your studio space. You may use spray paints at Bullingdon Road, only after induction by Ruskin staff and in line with instructions. The Ruskin provides fire-proof units at the Bullingdon Road site for the storage of aerosol cans. Aerosols must not be brought onto the High Street premises.

Miscellaneous

At the High Street and Bullingdon Road there are water coolers for your use. Please ensure that any food wrappers, plastic bottles/cups or general waste are disposed of in the recycling bins and disposal units provided.

4. COMMUNICATION AT THE RUSKIN

Ruskin Mailing Lists

Make sure that you register your preferred (i.e. either college or Ruskin) email address with the Office so that it can be added to the mailing lists. The Ruskin has a number of separate electronic mailing lists, which are used to circulate important information and allow its community to keep in touch. The relevant mailing lists for postgraduates are the ‘MFA List’ (MFA students only) and the ‘All Students List’ (all students). If you would like to email either group, you can use the following addresses:

ruskin-mfastudents@maillist.ox.ac.uk
ruskin-allstudents@maillist.ox.ac.uk
Please check your email regularly (at least once a day during full term).

There is also an email list for all Ruskin graduate students (MFA and DPhil), which is used principally for communication between the two groups. Please be mindful when sending emails to a mailing list. The university has a set of guidelines that must be followed. Please have a look at the link before making your first post: http://help.it.ox.ac.uk/email/netiquette/index

**Weekly Information and the Online Calendar**

Events and information change and develop very rapidly in the School, and you need to keep up to date. The best way to do this is via email and the web. You are reminded also to check the online calendar, where you will find all the dates of events, visitors and activities that go on in the School. You should check it daily. There are various ways in which you can see the calendar.

Follow the links to the calendar from the home page of the Ruskin website:

http://www.rsa.ox.ac.uk

Many calendar applications that you may use on your own computer allow you to subscribe to other calendars that use the same. This means that details will be automatically updated to your own calendar. You can subscribe to the Ruskin calendar using a link provided on the Ruskin website.

For example, one method is to use Apple's ical application for your calendar and to subscribe to the Ruskin calendar. Once you have subscribed by entering the link, the calendar automatically updates every half an hour or so with new events or changes. You can also do the same with Google calendar. By subscribing you don't need to go and get the information, it comes to you.

If you are having any problems setting this up or need further explanation, then please contact Jon Roome.

**Contact Details**

We need to know how to get in touch with you. Whenever possible we will do so by use of your university email address, and you are asked to use this for all of your Ruskin-related email communications. It is also helpful if we have a mobile number for you (please provide to the High St office), and it is important that we are informed promptly of any change of address.

The contact numbers for staff at both the High Street and Bullingdon Road sites are listed below. To dial internally from a University telephone, just drop the initial number:

**Academic Staff**

Anthony Gardner, Head of School, History & Theory Tutor 01865 (2) 76943
Jason Gaiger, History & Theory Tutor, DGS 01865 (2) 76940
Oreet Ashery, Studio Tutor & DPhil Seminar Co-convenor 01865 (2) 76940
Corin Sworn, Studio Tutor & MFA Co-convenor 01865 (6) 16700
Katrina Palmer, Study Tutor & MFA Co-convenor 01865 (2) 76940
Samson Kambalu, Studio Tutor 01865 (2) 76940
Ian Kiaer, Studio Tutor & Director of Undergraduate Studies 01865 (2) 76942
Daria Martin, Studio Tutor 01865 (2) 79312
Malcolm Bull, History & Theory Leader 01865 (6) 16700

Studio, Administrative, & Support Staff
Richard Sykes, Head of Administration & Finance 01865 (2) 76944
Juliet Franks, Deputy Administrator 01865 (2) 76946
Heather Savage, Graduate Studies Administrator 01865 (2) 76941
John Grieve, Facilities Assistant, High Street 01865 (2) 76949
Lucy Till-Awny, Receptionist, High Street 01865 (2) 76940
Laura Unwin, Librarian 01865 (2) 76941
Ruth McGuire, Finance Assistant 01865 (2) 76946
Simon Lewis, Senior Technician, Bullingdon Road 01865 (2) 83898
Jon Roome, Electronic Media Specialist 01865 (2) 83899
Matthew Terry, Technician, Bullingdon Road 01865 (2) 83898

Visiting Tutors can be contacted via pigeon-hole at the High Street site; or via email: firstname.surname@rsa.ox.ac.uk.

Emergency Contact Number: 01865 (2) 89999
University Security Services 01865 (2) 72944

Noticeboards, Student Post & University Messenger
There are a number of boards at the High Street and Bullingdon Road with details of forthcoming exhibitions, notices, and other events across the University, including external prizes, seminars and trips. The notice boards in the Ruskin are used for sign-up sheets for departmental group events or small workshops, and photo galleries of students in the department.

Contact numbers for tutors, students and all emergency numbers are also displayed on these boards, as well as a list of key dates for each term in the Fine Art department’s calendar. The academic calendar, that includes dates for all the examinations in the forthcoming year, is also included at the back of this handbook.

At the High Street, tutors have pigeonholes in the office. Student mail sent to the Ruskin is forwarded to the colleges. The University messenger system, where mail is transferred to all other departments and colleges, collects and delivers to the Ruskin twice a day. Any mail for this service can be left in a pigeonhole in the Ruskin office.

Ruskin Administration and Support Team
The office is open Monday-Friday, 9 am – 5 pm.

Richard Sykes is the Head of Administration and Finance (HAF) at the Ruskin. The HAF is responsible for the effective and efficient day-to-day non-academic management and administration of the School. Working with the Head of School and
other senior academic staff, the HAF plays a key role in the School’s strategic and operational planning, designing and implementing School policies and procedures, and ensuring that the School meets Divisional and University requirements. Duties include personnel and financial management, as well as oversight of academic and student administration and premises management.

Juliet Franks is the Deputy Administrator. Juliet works with the Director of Undergraduate Studies & BFA Course Leader to address the department’s undergraduate academic administration, including admissions, on-course support and examinations. She also manages the Professional Practice Programme, and is the alumni co-ordinator.

John Grieve is the Facilities Assistant and is based at the High Street. John is the person you contact to borrow any tools or materials or discuss any particular workshop or studio requirements.

Simon Lewis is the Ruskin’s Senior Technician who works at Bullingdon Road to support students in the studio work and workshop needs.

Jon Roome is the Electronic Media Specialist, which includes the role of IT manager. Jon is also the School’s Health & Safety Officer and is based at Bullingdon Road.

Heather Savage is the Ruskin’s Graduate Studies Administrator. Heather works with the Director of Graduate Studies to address the department’s graduate academic administration, including admissions processes, on-course support and examinations. She also provides PA support to the Head of School, and oversees departmental and University awards and prizes for which Ruskin students are eligible.

Matthew Terry, Technician, is also based at Bullingdon Road and works with Simon and Jon and, on occasion, at the High Street studios as well.

Lucy Till-Awny is the Receptionist and works in the office from 9.30 am – 5.30 pm during term time, 0th – 9th weeks. Lucy should be your first point of contact in the office for any queries.

Laura Unwin is the Ruskin’s Librarian and works part-time during each academic term, on Monday and Thursdays. Laura manages the library collections, can advise on new materials in the Ruskin library and assist with information about other University libraries.

The Ruskin’s Finance Office Ruth McGuire works in the office on Thursday. She processes orders and expenses forms, and addresses other departmental financial responsibilities.
**Evening and Saturday Morning Porters**

Angela Carpenter is the Evening Porter at the High Street who works during term time only, from Monday–Friday of 1st – 9th weeks, from 5.00pm – 9.15pm each evening.

Jonathan Gordon is the Saturday morning Porter at 74 High Street, and works during term time on Saturdays from 1st to 8th week from 9.00am – 1.00pm.

Geoffrey Howell is the Evening Porter at Bullingdon Road who works during term time only, from Monday–Friday of 1st- 9th weeks, from 5.00pm – 9.15pm each evening; and Saturdays of 1st-8th weeks, 9.00am – 1.00pm.

**Key Academic and Administrative Staff for MFA Students**

**Course Leader**
The course leader has overall responsibility for the MFA. Corin Sworn (Corin.Sworn@rsa.ox.ac.uk) is course leader for 2018-19. She should be contacted in the first instance for matters relating to the programme.

**Director of Graduate Studies**
The Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) has general oversight of the Ruskin Graduate Programmes and their development, and has a particular responsibility for recruitment and admissions, in addition to acting as a supervisor and internal examiner. The DGS is available to provide academic advice to all graduate students and should be contacted if it has not been possible to resolve a difficulty. The Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) is Anthony Gardner (Anthony.Gardner@rsa.ox.ac.uk) for Michaelmas Term, with Jason Gaiger being DGS for Hilary and Trinity Terms.

**College Adviser**
The college adviser’s field of expertise will not necessarily be fine art, but may be a related discipline. Your college adviser operates as an additional source of support, should this be required, and therefore contact may be limited or intermittent.

**Administrative Staff**
The Head of Administration, Richard Sykes (richard.sykes@rsa.ox.ac.uk), is also available to discuss any matters you wish to raise in confidence.

Mrs Heather Savage is the Graduate Studies Administrator at the High Street (heather.savage@rsa.ox.ac.uk), who should be contacted in the first instance on any other matters specific to the MFA.

**Student Consultation and Feedback**

Graduate Joint Consultative Committee
The Graduate JCC (Joint Consultative Committee) meets once a term to discuss matters related to the postgraduate programmes, raise any issues of concern, and collect feedback from all. A further opportunity to discuss graduate matters as a
group with tutors is offered in the context of the weekly Seminars and by special appointment at other times.

The MFA Rep is elected on an annual basis. A Graduate Rep chairs the JCC, which reports to the Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) and the Ruskin Committee for unreserved business at their regular meeting once a term.

Graduate Studies Committee
The Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) is chaired by the DGS and meets in 4th or 5th week of every term. Decisions are then notified to the individual students by the Graduate Studies Office. The GSC is attended by the MFA Rep for unreserved business only.

5. LEARNING RESOURCES

University Libraries
The Ruskin School of Art, as a department of the University of Oxford, benefits from excellent library provision.

The Bodleian Library
The Oxford University Libraries, centred around the Bodleian, are the UK’s largest academic library collection. The integrated library service of the University of Oxford comprises of nearly 40 libraries, many offering borrowing rights. The Bodleian Library (https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk) is a copyright library and has long collected copies of all works published in the United Kingdom, in addition to an extensive range of foreign publications. Please note that the Bodleian is a reference library; items are not available for loan.

Sackler Library
The Sackler Library, is one of the Bodleian Libraries’ principal research libraries with collections focusing (broadly) on the study of archaeology and the ancient world, art and architectural history.

The Sackler is a main point of reference for most Ruskin DPhil students. It has incorporated the collections of the former Ashmolean Library (Western Art), History of Art, East Asian Art and Classics libraries. Its holdings are in excess of 200,000 volumes, and include monographs, catalogues, periodicals on fine and decorative art, theory, criticism, historiography, as well as the collections of Edgar Wind and Francis Haskell. All books and periodicals are open access.

The Ruskin School of Art Library
The Ruskin has its own specialised in-house library of more than 6,500 volumes, comprising of lending and reference collections, both of which include written material on art history, art theory, art techniques, human anatomy, exhibition catalogues and artists’ monographs. The Ruskin Library has a particular focus on twentieth-century and twenty-first century materials, complementing the research collections of the Bodleian and Sackler Libraries.
The Ruskin holds around 20 sets of art journals and more than 2,000 art-related pamphlets. The library is fully integrated into the University’s electronic circulation system and the Ruskin Library terminals offer full access to the electronic resources of the Oxford University, most notably *The Grove Dictionary of Art*, ARTbibliographies, the *ARTstor Digital Library*, *The Bibliography of the History of Art*, *The Design and Applied Arts Index*, *Art Abstracts*, and *e-Journals* (including *JStor*), among numerous others.

**The Ruskin Librarian**

Laura Unwin is the Ruskin Librarian her normal working hours are Monday and Thursday 9.30am-2.30pm (weeks 0-9). She is here to help so please email her at: laura.unwin@rsa.ox.ac.uk with any enquiries during term-time. Please contact: info@rsa.ox.ac.uk during the vacation period.

**Library Opening Hours**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday – Friday: 9am – 5pm (week 0)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday – Friday: 9am – 9.15pm (weeks 1-9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 9am – 1.15pm (weeks 1-8). Closed Sunday.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Ruskin Library is open during term-time only and is closed during vacations.

**Library Loan Information**

All Ruskin students may borrow from the main library and use the reference collection.

Items can be located through the SOLO online catalogue at:

http://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk

The Ruskin Library works on a self-service issue system. Any books being taken out must be scanned at the computer terminal situated in the main library, a Bodleian card is required for this process. (All DVD boxes are empty, so please request the item from the librarian before scanning the barcode).

In summary, the library loan information including renewals and fines is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Loan Type</th>
<th>Number of items</th>
<th>Loan Period</th>
<th>Renewals</th>
<th>Fines for Late Returns</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Standard Loan</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>14 days</td>
<td>6 times</td>
<td>20p per day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Loan</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3 days</td>
<td>6 times</td>
<td>£1 per day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DVDs</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7 days</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>£1 per day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note, all returns should be placed in the white book bin situated in the main library.

Books not taken out of the main library should be replaced on the re-shelving shelf and not re-shelved by the reader. Items from the reference library should not be
removed from the library. These should be placed on the re-shelving trolley after viewing.

Any Ruskin Library fines will be removed from your student deposit at the end of the academic year.

Additional information regarding the RSA library can be found on WebLearn under the heading Library Resources at: https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/x/xNV6vH or at the Ruskin website at: http://www.rsa.ox.ac.uk/about/library

**Electronic Information Resources**

The University subscribes to a very large collection of electronic information resources, most of which can be accessed by university members anywhere in the world.

SOLO (Search Oxford Libraries Online): http://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk gives access to the largest electronic resources in any UK university, including the option of cross-searching many of our collections

OxLIP+: http://oxford1-direct.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/V/ is the Oxford Library Information Platform, gateway to all the University’s extensive databases, electronic reference works, e-books and e-journals, which allows cross-searching

WebLearn: https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/portal/site/humdiv/ruskin A Virtual Learning Environment which contains induction and course materials and tools for learning.

Museums and Collections:

http://www.ox.ac.uk/about_the_university/museums_and_collections/index.html information about the holdings at the University.

Oxford Art Online: http://www.oxfordartonline.com/ allows you to search a number of extremely useful resources: the Grove Dictionary of Art, the Oxford Companion to Western Art, Concise Oxford Dictionary of Art Terms, and the Encyclopaedia of Aesthetics.

Copac: http://copac.ac.uk/ is the main library catalogue for (almost) all UK libraries.

Suncat: http://suncat.ac.uk/ provides locations to journals throughout the UK, and links to articles and tables of contents.

**Graduate Seminars and Lecture List**

The Ruskin website is regularly updated to include information on the graduate seminars and artists’ talks. Please consult the School lecture list every term. Hard copies are available from the Office and online at http://www.rsa.ox.ac.uk

Following the same link above, you are advised to consult the lecture lists of related disciplines across the Humanities and Social Sciences, in particular the lecture list of
the Department of History of Art (also announced on the website http://www.hoa.ox.ac.uk) as well as the ‘Special Lecture List’.

There is also an Oxford-wide events list available at http://www.ox.ac.uk/events-list

**IT Resources**
For advice on the use of the Ruskin’s IT facilities contact Jon Roome (jon.roome@rsa.ox.ac.uk)
For IT courses run by the Oxford University Computing Services see http://www.it.ox.ac.uk/do/training-and-facilities/itlp-courses
You are encouraged to make use of these resources in order to establish good basic research and presentational skills (e.g. bibliographic tools, PowerPoint presentations, etc.)

**FACILITIES**

**74 High Street**
This building is close to the centre of the city and has four levels from basement studios to a top floor mezzanine. It stands next door to the Exam Schools, on the corner of Merton Street.

**Ground Floor:**
*Library*
The School has its own library focusing on fine art, art history and theory, art techniques and human anatomy. There is a particular emphasis on 20th- and 21st-century materials and the Ruskin’s collection complements the research collections at the Bodleian and Sackler Libraries. The library is open term time only and all Ruskin students are able to borrow books.

*Theory Studio*
This room houses the reference library, and provides a workspace for postgraduate research. It is a quiet space with desks, lamps and electrical sockets for charging laptops etc.

Ruskin students do not need to book to use this space, as it is freely available between Monday – Friday from 9am – 9pm, and on Saturdays from 9.15 – 12.30pm

*Ruskin Offices*
The Head of School, Head of Administration and the administrative team are based in offices at this location.

*Foyer*
The foyer at the High Street is used as an exhibition space by students, for individual and group displays. It is also used for the annual large-scale anatomy exhibition at Easter. Biannual drawing sales (public fundraising events) take place in the foyer.
**First Floor:**

*Old Masters’ Studio*

This room is used for presentations and talks and can accommodate up to 50 people. It is a versatile space that can also be used for group crits, to photograph and document student work and for informal gatherings and committee meetings. Within the corner of this room, there is also a relaxed reading area with sofas and low tables, where tutors and students can meet for tutorials or informal discussions. There is a projector, speakers for audio and film projections and a drop-down screen. Tables are also available, along with stackable seating. The office can provide a laptop for talks, or dongles to link guest laptops to the projector.

*The Drawing Studio*

This area is used for the teaching of the anatomy course and is also where BFA students can select studio space. In term time, the evening life drawing classes are based in one half of this studio and outside of term the studio is used for short courses and access workshops, and postgraduate final exhibitions, (as this image, opposite, shows). There are drawing boards, easels and donkeys available for student use. In addition, for life drawing and anatomy teaching, there are two skeletons, a mattress and screen, a platform and large mirror.

**Second Floor:**

*Mezzanine*

The mezzanine is a small gallery area that is used by students for temporary installations and exhibitions, and for group crits. It is a bookable space for independent projects and is managed by an undergraduate student, on a rotational basis.

*Studios*

There is a top floor studio for undergraduates and a further studio area for postgraduates.

**128 Bullingdon Road**

*Ground Floor:*

*Project Space*

Measuring approximately $20m^2$, the Project Space can be used for student exhibitions, performances and film screenings. The main window uses smart glass panels to provide privacy when required, or act as a large back screen projection screen, allowing the front of the building to serve as a large screen. Whilst students can book the area for their independent and / or collaborative projects, it is also used for group crits, the weekly series of talks in term by visiting speakers and for photography and film workshops.

*Print Room*

The printmaking studio provides facilities for students to explore and develop their fine art practice through both traditional and contemporary printmaking techniques.
The studio has provision for intaglio, relief, and screen printing. Housing a 66cm x 121cm [26" x 48"] Rochat etching press, we offer autographic intaglio using traditional hard & soft grounds, drypoint, aquatint & chine colle. Zinc is etched in nitric. In screen printing the studio is equipped with 2 new 30" x 40" Natgraph Hand Tables, 2 drying racks, a back lit washout booth, Natgraph UV exposure unit, screen drying room, and a 1.5m lightbox for working on artwork and film positives. The studio uses the TW Graphics water based screen printing ink system. The recent addition of a Beevers hydraulic Press with a 22" x 16" platen, facilitates the production of lithographs, etching, relief, collograph, embossings, and die cut work.

Throughout the academic year students have the opportunity to learn techniques and processes which are taught and facilitated by practising artists and printmakers through a course of regular technical workshops taught by studio staff, printmaking-related events, and invited practitioners and speakers.

**Media Lab**

The Ruskin media lab is designed to be an open exploratory space: users can work with image, video and physical production using the inventory of equipment, much of which is sourced from the MIT FAB Lab inventory. The main media lab area has two large format printers, a laser cutter, vinyl cutter, milling machine, and 3d printer. There is an electronics / soldering area where students undertake physical computing projects using arduino, raspberry pi, and other sensors and electronics.

The media lab studio is mainly Mac-based with a number of iMacs connected to video grade central storage. Each student has their own home account, which is available at whatever workstation they are using. Software includes Adobe Suite, max-map, Final-Cut Pro, Ableton Live, and Logic Pro. Other software may be acquired and used when necessary to a project.

A range of equipment can be borrowed, including Canon 5D cameras, a Black Magic Cinema Camera, various microphones and audio hard disk recorders, as well as portable projectors. Digital files can be produced in the media lab and sent to the workshop wood CNC machine and Metal plasma CNC machine.

The media lab also includes three edit suites.

One is contained within the media lab room and acts as a general edit suite as well as an ingest station for material shot with the black magic camera. One is an acoustically treated sound room with a 7.1 Genelec surround sound system, audio recording facility, midi keyboards and large screen. One is a control room for the project space below, where audio and video can be controlled, as well as the main large screen projector and the two side projectors. The side projectors are mapped to the Project Space front ‘smart screen window’ which can act a giant back screen projector providing a video / image interface with the outside front of the building. The project space also has a 7.1 surround sound speaker system so work produced in the audio edit suite can be easily presented in the Project Space.
Casting Room
The casting room is a bespoke wet and dry facility for mould-making and casting a variety of materials. These include rigid mould-making in plaster and fibreglass as well as flexible mould-making in silicones and vinyl mould. In addition, we also do life-casting here. We can offer a range of casting mediums such as polyurethane and polyester resins, glass-reinforced plastics (GRP), silicone and polyurethane rubber and foams, cement fondu, Jesmonite and plaster. We also have a vacuum forming machine available, as well as filtering down draught tables for both dust and resins.

Metal and Wood Workshops
The metal shop is setup for fabricating and manipulating metal. We can offer arc-welding, MIG and TIG welding in mild, stainless steel in addition to aluminium. The welding area is equipped with both overhead extraction and a filtered down draught table. We can cut metal in a number of ways: cold cut saw, angle grinder, guillotine, band saw, hand-held plasma cutter or our state-of-the-art CNC plasma-cutting table. Shaping the metal can be done with the fly press, slip roller, finger break and an induction forge.

The wood workshop is equipped with table saw, sliding miter chop saw, pillar drill, bandsaw, disk and belt sanders and a 3.5 meter wall.

Reference Shelves.
A selection of manuals and technical guides are provided for students for their practical and studio work. In particular, these titles are for the practice of printmaking, digital art, photography and sculpture.

Bullingdon Road - First Floor:
Studios
The MFA + DPhil student cohorts are based in the first floor studios.

Seminar Room
This space is used for student meetings, presentations and staff meetings. There is a full complement of AV equipment for use in presentations and talks.

Equipment for Loan
There is a booking system within the school so Fine Art students can take out on loan cameras, sound and film equipment for their projects.

University Language Centre
The Language Centre is a central academic service for all matriculated students. It is open on weekdays all year, except for two weeks at Christmas and one week at Easter, and on Saturday mornings in full term.

The library is the only one in Oxford to specialise in language learning, and about 130 languages are represented. Course books are often accompanied by audiotapes, videotapes or CDs. Live satellite television is available in fourteen languages. There
are numerous quiet study spaces which users are very welcome to use individually or for a language exchange.

Courses are offered in eight European languages and in Mandarin. These courses normally last all year and are very popular. Students who need a language for study or research should ask about priority application. For highly motivated students who wish to obtain a certificate, the OPAL programme offers fee-paying evening courses in French, German, Italian and Spanish. If you are unable to take a place on a course the librarian provides advice on self-study learning and there is guidance from advisors in French and German in the Lambda project.

International students whose first language is not English may take courses in English for Academic Studies, which are aimed at improving students’ use of English, with classes focusing on oral English or on academic writing.

Contact: The Assistant Administrator, Oxford University Language Centre, 12 Woodstock Road, Oxford OX2 6HT. Tel: (2)83360; email: admin@lang.ox.ac.uk; http://www.lang.ox.ac.uk/.

6. APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Style and format of your essays and dissertation

Examination regulations
Read carefully the regulations given in the Examination Regulations for the preparation and submission of theses. They are University regulations and must be complied with.

Word limits
The word limits stated include footnotes, bibliography and appendices.

Styling your written work as you write it
There are several sets of conventions and published guides to explain them. None is obligatory, but you should follow one system consistently. The forms given below should meet the needs of most candidates when they present extended written work, but other guides you could consult include:


Notes and Bibliography: Sample Citations
The following examples illustrate citations using the Chicago Manual of Style’s notes and bibliography system.
Examples of notes are followed by examples for how to cite the source in a bibliography.
For more details and many more examples, see Chapter 14 of The Chicago Manual of Style.

The purpose of source citations
Ethics, copyright laws and courtesy to readers require authors to identify the sources of direct quotations or paraphrases and of any facts or opinions not generally known or easily checked. Conventions for documentation vary according to scholarly discipline, the preferences of publishers and authors and the needs of a particular work. Regardless of the convention being followed, the primary criterion of any source citation is sufficient information either to lead readers directly to the sources consulted or, for materials that may not be readily available, to positively identify the sources used, whether these are published or unpublished, in printed or electronic form.

Basic structure of a note
A footnote or an endnote generally lists the author, title, and facts of publication, in that order. Elements are separated by commas; the facts of publication are enclosed in parentheses. Authors’ names are presented in standard order (first name first). Titles of larger works (e.g., books and journals) are italicised; titles of smaller works (e.g., chapters, articles) or unpublished works are not italicised, but are enclosed in quotation marks.

Footnotes and endnotes—an overview
As their name suggests, footnotes appear at the foot of a page. In a journal, endnotes appear at the end of an article; in a book, at the end of a chapter or, more commonly, at the back of the book. Authors can work with whichever form seems most convenient, though notes should be created with a word processor’s note function to facilitate renumbering when notes are added or deleted.

Basic structure of a bibliography entry
In a bibliography entry, the elements are separated by full stops rather than by commas; the facts of publication are not enclosed in parentheses; and the first-listed author’s name, according to which the entry is alphabetized in the bibliography, is usually inverted (last name first). As in a note, titles of larger works (e.g., books and journals) are italicised; and titles of smaller works (e.g., chapters, articles) or unpublished works are enclosed in quotation marks but not italicised.
Format and placement of bibliography
A bibliography arranged in a single alphabetical list is the most common and usually the most reader-friendly form for a work with or without notes to the text. All sources to be included—books, articles, dissertations, papers—are alphabetically arranged in a single list by the last names of the authors (or, if no author or editor is given, by the title or a keyword readers are most likely to seek). In a printed work, a bibliography is normally placed at the end.

Placement of note number
A note number should generally be placed at the end of a sentence or at the end of a clause. The number normally follows a quotation (whether it is run in to the text or set as an extract). Relative to other punctuation, the number follows any punctuation mark except for the dash, which it precedes.

“This,” wrote George Templeton Strong, “is what our tailors can do”.¹
The bias was apparent in the Shotwell series³—and it must be remembered that Shotwell was a student of Robinson’s.
A note number normally follows a closing parenthesis.
(In an earlier book he had said quite the opposite.)²

Multiple citations and multiple references
A note number cannot reappear out of sequence; the substance of a note that applies to more than one location must be repeated under a new note number. To avoid such repetition, especially for a longer discursive note, a cross-reference may be used.

18. See note 3 above.
Although more than one note reference should never appear at a single location (such as ⁵ ⁶), a single note can contain more than one citation or comment.

Citations plus commentary
When a note contains not only the source of a fact or quotation in the text but related substantive material as well, the source comes first. A full stop usually separates the citation from the commentary. Such comments as “emphasis mine” are usually put in parentheses.


Substantive notes
Substantive, or discursive, notes may merely amplify the text and include no sources. Such notes may augment any system of documentation. When a source is needed, it is treated as in the following example:

1. Ernst Cassirer takes important notice of this in *Language and Myth* (59–62) and offers a searching analysis of man’s regard for things on which his power of inspired action may crucially depend.

Citations taken from secondary sources
To cite a source from a secondary source (“quoted in . . .”) is generally to be discouraged, since authors are expected to have examined the works they cite. If an
original source is unavailable, however, both the original and the secondary source must be listed.


**Chicago-Style Citation Quick Guide**

This material is derived from the following source, which you can also consult:


**Book**

One author

Notes:

Bibliography:


Two or more authors

Notes:

Bibliography:


For four or more authors

List all of the authors in the bibliography; in the note, list only the first author, followed by *et al.* (“and others”):

1. Dana Barnes et al., *Plastics: Essays on American Corporate Ascendance in the 1960s . . .*
2. Barnes et al., *Plastics . . .*

**Editor, translator, or compiler instead of author**

Notes:

Bibliography:


**Editor, translator, or compiler in addition to author**

Notes:

**Chapter or other part of a book**

Notes:

**Bibliography:**

**Chapter of an edited volume originally published elsewhere (as in primary sources)**

Notes:

**Bibliography:**

**Preface, foreword, introduction, or similar part of a book**

Notes:
2. Rieger, introduction, xxxiii.

**Bibliography:**

**Book published electronically**

If a book is available in more than one format, cite the version you consulted. For books consulted online, list a URL; include the date that you accessed the book online. If no fixed page numbers are available, you can include a section title or a chapter or other number.
Notes:

Bibliography:

Article in a print journal
In a note, list the specific page numbers consulted, if any. In the bibliography, list the page range for the whole article.
Notes:

Bibliography:

Article in an online journal
Include a DOI (Digital Object Identifier) if the journal lists one. A DOI is a permanent ID that, when appended to http://dx.doi.org/ in the address bar of an Internet browser, will lead to the source. If no DOI is available, list a URL. Include the date you accessed the journal.
Notes:

Bibliography:

Article in a newspaper or popular magazine
The following examples show the more formal versions of the citations. If you consulted the article online, include a URL; include the date you accessed the article.
If no author is identified, begin the citation with the article title.

Notes:
4. Stolberg and Pear, “Wary Centrists”.

Bibliography:

Book review
Notes:
2. Kamp, “Deconstructing Dinner”.

Bibliography:

Exhibition Titles
Titles of world’s fairs and other large-scale exhibitions and fairs are capitalised but not italicised. Smaller exhibitions (e.g., at museums) and the titles of exhibition catalogues (often one and the same) are italicised.

the Great Exhibition of the Works of All Nations; the Great Exhibition of 1851; London’s Crystal Palace Exhibition; the exhibition the World’s Columbian Exposition; the New York World’s Fair the Century-of-Progress Expositions (included more than one fair)

but

A remarkable exhibition, *Motor Cycles*, was mounted at the Guggenheim Museum. We saw the exhibition *Ansel Adams at 100* when visiting the Museum of Modern Art. We decided to buy the catalogue *Ansel Adams at 100*, by John Szarkowski.

Thesis or dissertation
Notes:
2. Choi, “Contesting *Imaginaires*”.

Bibliography:

*Paper presented at a meeting or conference*

Notes:
2. Adelman, “Such Stuff as Dreams”.

*Bibliography:*

*Website*
A citation to website content may be styled as in the examples below. Because such content is subject to change, include an access date or, if available, a date that the site was last modified.
3. “Google Privacy Policy”.

*Bibliography:*

*Blog entry or comment*
Blog entries or comments may be cited formally in the following way. There is no need to add pseud. after an apparently fictitious or informal name. (If an access date is required, add it before the URL; see examples elsewhere in this guide.)

Notes:

*Bibliography:*

*E-mail or text message*
E-mail and text messages may be cited formally in the following way:
Appendix 2: Academic Good Practice & Plagiarism

What is plagiarism?
Plagiarism is the copying or paraphrasing of other people’s work or ideas into your own work without full acknowledgement. All published and unpublished material, whether in manuscript, printed or electronic form, is covered under this definition.

Collusion is another form of plagiarism involving the unauthorised collaboration of students (or others) in a piece of work.

Cases of suspected plagiarism in assessed work are investigated under the disciplinary regulations concerning conduct in examinations. Intentional or reckless plagiarism may incur severe penalties, including failure of your degree or expulsion from the university.

Why does plagiarism matter?
It would be wrong to describe plagiarism as only a minor form of cheating, or as merely a matter of academic etiquette. On the contrary, it is important to understand that plagiarism is a breach of academic integrity. It is a principle of intellectual honesty that all members of the academic community should acknowledge their debt to the originators of the ideas, words, and data which form the basis for their own work. Passing off another’s work as your own is not only poor scholarship, but also means that you have failed to complete the learning process. Deliberate plagiarism is unethical and can have serious consequences for your future career; it also undermines the standards of your institution and of the degrees it issues.

What forms can plagiarism take?

- Verbatim quotation of other people’s intellectual work without clear acknowledgement. Quotations must always be identified as such by the use of either quotation marks or indentation, with adequate citation. It must always be apparent to the reader which parts are your own independent work and where you have drawn on someone else’s ideas and language.

- Paraphrasing the work of others by altering a few words and changing their order, or by closely following the structure of their argument, is plagiarism because you are deriving your words and ideas from their work without giving due acknowledgement. Even if you include a reference to the original author in your own text you are still creating a misleading impression that the paraphrased wording is entirely your own. It is better to write a brief summary of the author’s overall argument in your own words than to paraphrase particular sections of his or her writing. This will ensure you have a genuine grasp of the argument and will avoid the difficulty of paraphrasing
without plagiarising. You must also properly attribute all material you derive from lectures.

• Cutting and pasting from the Internet. Information derived from the Internet must be adequately referenced and included in the bibliography. It is important to evaluate carefully all material found on the Internet, as it is less likely to have been through the same process of scholarly peer review as published sources.

• Collusion. This can involve unauthorised collaboration between students, failure to attribute assistance received, or failure to follow precisely regulations on group work projects. It is your responsibility to ensure that you are entirely clear about the extent of collaboration permitted, and which parts of the work must be your own.

• Inaccurate citation. It is important to cite correctly, according to the conventions of your discipline. Additionally, you should not include anything in a footnote or bibliography that you have not actually consulted. If you cannot gain access to a primary source you must make it clear in your citation that your knowledge of the work has been derived from a secondary text (e.g. Bradshaw, D. Title of Book, discussed in Wilson, E., Title of Book (London, 2004), p. 189).

• Failure to acknowledge. You must clearly acknowledge all assistance which has contributed to the production of your work, such as advice from fellow students, laboratory technicians, and other external sources. This need not apply to the assistance provided by your tutor or supervisor, nor to ordinary proofreading, but it is necessary to acknowledge other guidance which leads to substantive changes of content or approach.

• Professional agencies. You should neither make use of professional agencies in the production of your work nor submit material which has been written for you. It is vital to your intellectual training and development that you should undertake the research process unaided.

• Autoplagiarism. You must not submit work for assessment which you have already submitted (partially or in full) to fulfil the requirements of another degree course or examination.

Not just printed text!
The necessity to reference applies not only to text, but also to other media, such as computer code, illustrations, graphs etc. It applies equally to published text drawn from books and journals, and to unpublished text, whether from lecture handouts, theses or other students’ essays. You must also attribute text or other resources downloaded from web sites.

For further information, visit:
http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/guidance/skills/plagiarism

Appendix 3: Complaints and Appeals Procedures
1. The University, the Humanities Division and the Ruskin School of Art all hope that provision made for students at all stages of their programme of study will make
the need for complaints (about that provision) or appeals (against the outcomes of any form of assessment) infrequent.

2. However, all those concerned believe that it is important for students to be clear about how to raise a concern or make a complaint, and how to appeal against the outcome of assessment. The following guidance attempts to provide such information.

3. Nothing in this guidance precludes an informal discussion with the person immediately responsible for the issue that you wish to complain about (and who may not be one of the individuals identified below). This is often the simplest way to achieve a satisfactory resolution.

4. Many sources of advice are available within colleges, within faculties/departments and from bodies like OUSU or the Counselling Service, which have extensive experience in advising students. You may wish to take advice from one of these sources before pursuing your complaint.

5. General areas of concern about provision affecting students as a whole should, of course, continue to be raised through Joint Consultative Committees or via student representation on the faculty/department’s committees.

Complaints

6. If your concern or complaint relates to teaching or other provision made by the faculty/department, then you should raise it with the chairman of the Graduate Studies Committee or with the Director of Graduate Studies as appropriate. Within the faculty/department the officer concerned will attempt to resolve your concern/complaint informally.

7. If you are dissatisfied with the outcome, then you may take your concern further by making a formal complaint to the University Proctors. A complaint may cover aspects of teaching and learning (e.g. teaching facilities, supervision arrangements, etc.), and non-academic issues (e.g. support services, library services, university accommodation, university clubs and societies, etc.). A complaint to the Proctors should be made only if attempts at informal resolution have been unsuccessful. The procedures adopted by the Proctors for the consideration of complaints and appeals are described in the University Student Handbook known as Proctors and Assessor’s Memorandum [http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/proctors/pam/] and the relevant Council regulations [http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/statutes/regulations/]

8. If your concern or complaint relates to teaching or other provision made by your college, then you should raise it either with your tutor or with one of the college officers, Senior Tutor, Tutor for Graduates (as appropriate). Your college will also be able to explain how to take your complaint further if you are dissatisfied with the outcome of its consideration.

Academic appeals

9. An appeal is defined as a formal questioning of a decision on an academic matter made by the responsible academic body.

10. For undergraduate or taught graduate courses, a concern which might lead to an appeal should be raised with your college authorities and the individual responsible for overseeing your work. It must not be raised directly with examiners
or assessors. If it is not possible to clear up your concern in this way, you may put your concern in writing and submit it to the Proctors via the Senior Tutor of your college. As noted above, the procedures adopted by the Proctors in relation to complaints and appeals are on the web [http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/statutes/regulations/].

11. For the examination of research degrees, or in relation to transfer or confirmation of status, your concern should be raised initially with the Director of Graduate Studies. Where a concern is not satisfactorily settled by that means, then you, your supervisor, or your college authority may put your appeal directly to the Proctors.

12. Please remember in connection with all the cases in paragraphs 5 - 7 that:
   (a) The Proctors are not empowered to challenge the academic judgement of examiners or academic bodies.
   (b) The Proctors can consider whether the procedures for reaching an academic decision were properly followed; i.e. whether there was a significant procedural administrative error; whether there is evidence of bias or inadequate assessment; whether the examiners failed to take into account special factors affecting a candidate’s performance.
   (c) On no account should you contact your examiners or assessors directly.

13. The Proctors will indicate what further action you can take if you are dissatisfied with the outcome of a complaint or appeal considered by them.

Appendix 4: Buildings, Health & Safety

Local Rules Concerning the Land, Buildings, Services, and Facilities at 74 High Street & 128 Bullingdon Road

All students should note that any breaches of the following departmental rules will be reported to the Proctors. Breaches of any of these rules – or any other behaviour which is deemed by the Safety Officer and Head of School to constitute a wilful disregard of health and safety requirements - may result in the person or persons responsible being immediately excluded from the department on a temporary basis.

1. It is forbidden to climb on roofs or buildings.
2. Tampering with any fire precautions or fire-fighting equipment is a criminal offence, punishable in the courts by large fines and possible imprisonment. In addition, the Head of School will take the strongest possible internal disciplinary action against offenders.
3. The actual lighting of fires, or reckless behaviour likely to cause a fire, are serious disciplinary offences.
4. Students must ensure that any electrical equipment brought into the department is safe and maintained in a safe condition. Electrical circuits must not be overloaded. Improvised wiring is not permitted. Government safety regulations require that any electrical equipment brought into the department must be tested and certified as such by the designated Departmental Safety Officer. The Head of School and Safety Officer visit all the rooms in the department regularly and have the authority to remove or disable electrical equipment which is deemed to be unsafe.
5. In the interest of safety, smoking is never permitted in the School buildings at Bullingdon Road or 74 High Street. This includes the area outside the entrance to the Bullingdon Road site and the steps of the High Street building.

6. It is forbidden for students to tamper with the fabric of the building or any of its services in any way. Please note that this includes the application of paint to any electrical or heating installation, however small.

7. Students intending to display their works (e.g. in connection with an examination) must obtain express permission from the Head of School and ensure that they comply with the conditions set in each case for affixing and removing such works. Action taken by the Proctors against offenders might affect students’ permission to graduate, or result in increased fines (perhaps with compensation orders to enable the School to remove the works and make good any damage).

8. Materials other than those used in normal practice i.e. chemicals, unusual paints, organic materials etc must be checked with the Safety Officer before being used in the studios.

9. All plans for installations that effect access in both buildings, should be made in consultation with the Safety Officer.

10. All passages, staircases and walkways must remain clear of stored materials or other obstructions; especially for examinable exhibitions.

Health & Safety
Safety is a very important element at the Ruskin School of Art. Students and staff are working in intimate and sometimes demanding spaces with many different processes. Constant supervision is carried out by the Departmental Safety Officer, academic and technical staff and by students themselves. Regular inspections are conducted under the supervision of the Head of School and the Departmental Safety Officer. Many substances in use in the school may be volatile or hazardous. These are strictly controlled and supervised under COSHH guidelines. Students may not bring unauthorized materials into the studios. All processes and materials are monitored through the Safety Officer. General tidiness and awareness of prohibited storage areas is essential. Walkways and fire exits are continually inspected to be certain of unrestricted passage in the event of emergency.

The Health & Safety Officer at the Ruskin is Jon Roome.

Workshops
Students may only use power tools after they have been instructed in their use by a qualified technician or member of staff. Sensible clothing must be worn in all workshop areas. Ear-defenders, gloves, goggles and face masks are provided at all work stations. Special aprons and other protection is available for specialist work, such as welding, etching, grinding, etc. Eye wash stations are provided in workshop areas.

Electrical Equipment
All electrical equipment is checked by the safety officer and technical staff, and specialized equipment is monitored by experts. Students may not bring unchecked electrical equipment into the School. All items are marked safe and dated.

First Aid
Staff at 74 High Street and 128 Bullingdon Road have been trained in First Aid. Most of the accidents in the school are trivial and often caused by lack of attention, minor cuts from Stanley knives being the most regular. While all is done to guard against accidents, individual awareness and responsibility are still key factors in prevention. On every level in the High Street and at Bullingdon Road there are first aid kits available for your use when needed. All accidents, however trivial, should be recorded in the accident book. There is one of these in each building.

Fire
Fire alarms are fitted throughout the School. Fire drill is conducted once a term. Fire extinguishers are stationed in all buildings and staff and students are required to familiarize themselves with their location. Fire alarms are tested at the High Street every week, usually on Friday mornings.

Safety meetings are held once a term to examine potential problems and update information received from the University Safety Department. Special meetings and memos may occur throughout the term about specific subjects e.g. arrangements for the degree show etc.

Safety notice boards are in both buildings. These are updated when appropriate and should be consulted. The Safety Officer is available for consultation or advice on any safety matter.

Appendix 5: Specialist Services

Student Health and Welfare
Health and welfare is primarily a college responsibility and colleges make arrangements for students to register with a college doctor. In most cases there is also a college nurse.

Tutors, the college chaplain, and in many cases women’s or other advisors, who can be contacted informally and confidentially, make up a network of support for students in college. For further information on consult page 177 of the Undergraduate Prospectus and the Proctor’s Memorandum relating to Health and Safety.

The University offers a counselling service to help students with personal, emotional, social or academic problems which they feel are interfering with their ability to make the best of their time at the University. More information about this service can be found here: http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/counselling
For information on additional student health and welfare support that is available to you, see [http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare)

The University has a Code of Practice on Harassment making it a disciplinary offence for any student or employee to harass another on any grounds. Each college and department has an adviser on harassment who can be contacted for help. The University has an Advisory Panel on harassment which supports the advisers or can be contacted directly: [http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/harassmentadvice/](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/harassmentadvice/)

Details of the Harassment Advisors for the Ruskin are posted on noticeboards at both the Bullingdon Road and High Street sites. For the academic year 2017-18, the Harassment Advisors are Professor Malcolm Bull and Professor Daria Martin.

The Student Union also has a Welfare Officer and a Women’s Officer and works actively to promote student health and welfare. Their website offers details of the services they provide: [http://ousu.org/advice/life-welfare/](http://ousu.org/advice/life-welfare/)

The Disability Advisory Service (DAS) can provide information, advice and guidance on the way in which a particular disability may impact on your student experience at the University and assist with organising disability-related study support. For more information visit: [www.ox.ac.uk/students/shw/das](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/shw/das)

A range of services led by students are available to help provide support to other students, including the peer supporter network, the OUSU Student Advice Service and Nightline. For more information visit: [www.ox.ac.uk/students/shw/peer](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/shw/peer) OUSU also runs a series of campaigns to raise awareness and promote causes that matter to students. For full details, visit: [https://www.oxfordsu.org/communities/campaigns/](https://www.oxfordsu.org/communities/campaigns/)

There is a wide range of student clubs and societies to get involved in - for more details visit: [http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/life/clubs](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/life/clubs)

**Other**

A range of services led by students are available to help provide support to other students, peer support, OUSU Student Advice Service and Nightline.

Visit: [www.ox.ac.uk/students/shw/peer/](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/shw/peer/)

**Dyslexia**

The University offers support to students with dyslexia. This might include being allowed extra time in written exams, assistance with essay writing, or the provision of special software. If you wish to be tested for this, please contact your college office and they will make the arrangements for you.
Financial hardship

College hardship funds
Many colleges offer hardship funds to support students who are experiencing unexpected financial difficulties. Information is usually available from the College Office.

University Hardship Fund
The Committee on Student Hardship makes awards on the grounds of unforeseeable hardship and may provide help in the form of a grant or loan, depending on the applicant's circumstances. Awards to successful applicants are made on the basis of a comparison of a student's finances for the current academic year with University estimates of finances required. The Committee meets on a termly basis but will not normally consider more than one application per student per year, unless there have been significant changes in that student's circumstances. Awards generally do not exceed £2000. All students registered for a degree at the University are eligible to apply to the Committee.

You should collect a form from your College Secretary and visit the College Hardship Officer at your College before completing the application. Your application will need to be supported by both your college and your tutor/supervisor.

Deadlines: Monday of fourth week (Friday of second week in Trinity Term). All parts of the application form must have been received by these dates. Your college will send the form in on your behalf when all parts have been completed.

Application forms are available from College Secretaries and College Hardship Officers.

Further information at:  http://www.ox.ac.uk/current_students/funding.html and http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/fees-funding/assistance/hardship

International Student Advisory Service
This University service offers orientation programmes and further advice on visa and immigration-related matters to international students. On their website, you will also find information on study abroad opportunities.
See www.ox.ac.uk/students/international_students/

Childcare services
Full information available at: http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/child

University Policy on Student Maternity, Paternity and Adoption leave

Careers Guidance
The Careers Service helps you (whether you are a current or recent Oxford University undergraduate or postgraduate student, or research staff) make and implement well-informed decisions about your career. In particular the Service encourages and enables you to appreciate and explore the range of opportunities
available; to clarify your values and interests and to relate them to possible career choices; to recognise and further develop your abilities and skills; and to formulate and realise your early career plans.

The Service provides a wide range of information about occupations, employers, jobs and vacation work, postgraduate study and vocational training. Its information and reception staff are available to help you to find your way around and to find specific information or to see a Careers Adviser for a careers discussion. In addition, each day in term time, an experienced Careers Adviser is on duty in the Information Room for a 10-15 minute quick discussion and you can book for a 45 minute in-depth career review. Each term the Service lays on a full programme of talks and events. The office at 56 Banbury Road is normally open from Monday to Friday 10.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m. Tel. (2)74646, fax (2)74653. The web-site www.careers.ox.ac.uk contains a wide range of guidance and information, as well as comprehensive and searchable databases of vacancies and events.

Equality and Diversity at Oxford

“The University of Oxford is committed to fostering an inclusive culture which promotes equality, values diversity and maintains a working, learning and social environment in which the rights and dignity of all its staff and students are respected.” Equality Policy (2013).

Oxford is a diverse community with staff and students from over 140 countries, all with different cultures, beliefs and backgrounds. As a member of the University you contribute towards making it an inclusive environment and we ask that you treat other members of the University community with respect, courtesy and consideration.

The Equality and Diversity Unit works with all parts of the collegiate University to develop and promote an understanding of equality and diversity and ensure that this is reflected in all its processes. The Unit also supports the University in meeting the legal requirements of the Equality Act 2010, including eliminating unlawful discrimination, promoting equality of opportunity and fostering good relations between people with and without the ‘protected characteristics’ of age, disability, gender, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and/or belief and sexual orientation. Visit the website for further details or contact us directly for advice: http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop or email equality@admin.ox.ac.uk.

The Equality and Diversity Unit also supports a broad network of harassment advisors in departments/faculties and colleges and a central Harassment Advisory Service. For more information on the University’s Harassment and Bullying policy and the support available for students visit: http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/harassmentadvice

There is range of faith societies, belief groups, and religious centres within Oxford University that are open to students. For more information visit:
Student Welfare and Support Services
The Disability Advisory Service (DAS) can provide information, advice and guidance on the way in which a particular disability may impact on your student experience at the University and assist with organising disability-related study support. For more information visit: http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/shw/das

The Counselling Service is here to help you address personal or emotional problems that get in the way of having a good experience at Oxford and realising your full academic and personal potential. They offer a free and confidential service. For more information visit: http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/shw/counselling

A range of services led by students are available to help provide support to other students, including the peer supporter network, the OUSU Student Advice Service and Nightline. For more information visit: http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/shw/peer

OUSU also runs a series of campaigns to raise awareness and promote causes that matter to students. For full details, visit: https://www.oxfordsu.org/communities/campaigns/

There is a wide range of student clubs and societies to get involved in - for more details visit: http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/life/clubs

Appendix 6: Links to Useful Information

Funding:
A comprehensive guide to funding opportunities is provided by the Humanities Division. For detailed information see: http://www.ox.ac.uk/feesandfunding/

University Student Handbook commonly known as Proctors’ and Assessors Memorandum:
www.admin.ox.ac.uk/proctors/info/pam/index.shtml

Includes information on Welfare Matters; Oxford University Student Unions; Sport, Clubs and Recreation; Conduct; Disciplinary Procedures; Medical Incapacity; Complaints Procedures; Freedom of Speech

Examinations: Examination Regulations:
http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/information/contents/
Supervision: Memorandum of Guidance for Supervisors and Research Students in the Examination Regulations

Fieldwork: Safety in fieldwork - www.admin.ox.ac.uk/safety/policy-statements/s5-07/
Data Protection:
University Policy on Data Protection – http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/dataprotection/

IT:
(i) Regulations and Policies applying to all users of University ICT facilities: http://www.it.ox.ac.uk/do/governance-and-policies
(ii) Regulations relating to the use of Information Technology Facilities
www.admin.ox.ac.uk/statutes/regulations/196-052.shtml

Research Ethics
The University is committed to ensuring that its research involving human participants is conducted in a way that respects the dignity, rights, and welfare of participants, and minimises risk to participants, researchers, third parties, and to the University itself. All such research needs to be subject to appropriate ethical review.

More information can be found at the Research Ethics website and an online training course can be accessed on Weblearn
(i) Research integrity and ethics - www.admin.ox.ac.uk/researchsupport/integrity/
(ii) Policy on the ethical conduct of research involving human participants and personal data - www.admin.ox.ac.uk/curec/policystatement/

Study skills and training http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/guidance/skills

Guidance and online training on the avoidance of plagiarism:
http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/guidance/skills/plagiarism

Complaints and academic appeals:
http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/regulations

University Policy on Harassment and Bullying:
http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/media/global/wwwadminoxacuk/localsites/equalityanddiversity/documents/harassment/harprint.pdf

Code of Conduct for Using IT Facilities:
The University regulations relating to the use of Information Technology facilities can be found at: http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/statutes/regulations/196-052.shtml

University Code of Practice Relating to Harassment:
The University code of practice relating to harassment can be found at: https://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/harassmentadvice/policyandprocedure /