

University of applied sciences and arts of Southern
Switzerland (SUPSI)

Master of Arts in Artistic Research
Study plan

Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Aims and learning outcomes	4
3. Structure of the programme.....	5
4. Assessment.....	6
5. Progression	6
6. Module descriptions.....	7
7. Who's who on the MA in Artistic Research	13

1. Introduction

Concept of Artistic Research

Artistic Research is understood as a research field in its own right whose characteristic features include:

- the overall purpose to promote the role of the arts in society
- to have a strong orientation towards application and
- to avail itself of any scientific tool – knowledge and methodologies of any research discipline across social sciences, humanities, technology and natural sciences - that serves its overall purpose.

Typically, Artistic Research is collaborative research bringing together art practitioners and researchers from different scientific disciplines.

Rationale

The MA in Artistic Research is a response to the growing need to give students within the emerging field of Artistic Research the opportunities to develop a robust understanding of scientific inquiry, while gaining the critical and analytical skills necessary to conduct independent research. It is aimed at artists and teachers with the arts as well as students from other artistic and scientific disciplines with a strong interest in the arts.

Employability

The MA in Artistic Research is designed to equip students with the skills necessary to conduct independent research in the arts or any area in which knowledge of research methods and techniques would be an advantage. In this way, the MA aims to provide a bridge from the bachelors or masters' course in the arts (or indeed any other related bachelors courses) into a programme of research.

Programme content

The MA in Artistic Research provides training in areas that span the content from quantitative to qualitative methodologies, conceptual to empirical inquiry, historical to contemporary practice. In particular, students will take the following core modules:

- Epistemology of research
- Quantitative and qualitative research methods
- Research reporting and presentation
- Issues in Artistic Research
- Research project and dissertation

Students will attend and contribute to seminars and workshops, receive tutorial support for the written assignment and examination and conduct independent research to support these activities.

2. Aims and learning outcomes

The Master of Arts in Artistic Research has the following overall aims:

- to offer graduate students the opportunity to develop a robust understanding of scientific research in the arts
- to provide students with the critical, analytical and scientific skills necessary to conduct research in the arts or any area in which knowledge of research methods and techniques would be an advantage
- to equip students with the necessary skills for doctoral research and/or teaching in Artistic Research
- to acknowledge and reflect current trends in artistic research thinking and to demonstrate facility across both theory and practice

The Master of Arts in Artistic Research has been designed to generate specific learning outcomes; in the following table they are listed in relation to the Dublin Descriptors for second cycle study programmes.

Dublin Descriptor Second Cycle Learning Outcome	MA in Artistic Research Learning Outcome, Relevant Module
<p>Knowledge and Understanding Demonstration of knowledge and understanding that is founded upon and extends and/or enhances that typically associated with Bachelor's level, and that provides a basis or opportunity for originality in developing and/or applying new ideas, often within a research context.</p>	<p>Knowledge gained in the three modules <i>Epistemology of Research, Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods</i>, and <i>Issues in Artistic Research</i> will form the basis for students to formulate and conceptualise their own original ideas for potential future research projects.</p>
<p>Applying knowledge and understanding Application of knowledge and understanding, and problem solving abilities in new or unfamiliar environments within broader (or multidisciplinary) contexts related to their field of study.</p>	<p>The <i>Research Project and Dissertation</i> module will be the basis of the application of knowledge gained throughout the other 4 MA modules and will include work carried out in a multidisciplinary context.</p>
<p>Making judgements Ability to integrate knowledge and handle complexity, and formulate judgements with incomplete or limited information, but that include reflecting on social and ethical responsibilities linked to the application of their knowledge and judgements.</p>	<p>The outcomes of critical awareness will be developed through the modules on <i>Issues in Research in the Arts</i> as well as in the <i>Research Project and Dissertation</i>.</p>
<p>Communication Can communicate their conclusions, and the knowledge and rationale underpinning these, to specialist and non-specialist audiences clearly and unambiguously.</p>	<p>The dedicated <i>Researching Reporting and Presentation</i> module will ensure students have outcomes particular to communication competences such as the capacity to document, analyse and summarise one's project final outcomes and to write for different audiences.</p>
<p>Learning focus Have the learning skills to allow them to continue to study in a manner that may be largely self-directed or autonomous.</p>	<p>Throughout all modules and particularly the <i>Research Project and Dissertation</i> module, students will gain independence by developing their capacity to pursue one's own questions and ideas and to conduct research in a manner that may be largely self-directed and independent.</p>

3. Structure of the programme

The MA in Artistic Research lasts three semesters and is composed of 5 modules built up into patterns of study which occupy the 16-month period from September 2018 to January 2020. The total credit volume is 90 credits.

The language of instruction is English. However, where desirable and possible German, French and Italian may also be used.

Below is the template for full-time study:

MODULE	Number of taught units x minutes	Semester			ECTS
		1°	2°	3°	
Module 1 "Epistemology of research"	8 x 120				10
Workshops & labs	8 x 180				
Module 2 "Quantitative and qualitative methods"	16 x 120				15
Workshops & labs	16 x 240				
Module 3 "Research reporting and presentation"	8 x 120				10
Workshops & labs	8 x 160				
Module 4 "Issues in Artistic Research"	8 x 120				10
Reading Group	8 x 120				
Module 5 "Research project and dissertation"	32-x60				45
Individual tutorials					
Research colloquia	10 x 120				
Total number of contact hours: 280h • Lectures/seminars: 80 h • Support classes* a. Workshops, lab, reading group: 128 h b. Colloquia: 40 h • Individual tutorials: 32 h Total number ECTS: 90					

* These figures are indicative.

4 Assessment

Each module has its own associated elements of assessment. These may take the form of:

- a. an essay
- b. a spoken presentation
- c. a written or viva-voce (oral) examination

Academic work will be assessed employing the following marking methods:

- for essays, written assignments or written exams, completion of both a cover sheet and comments on scripts by two markers. In the rare event of a disparity between markers of more than one point, the work is referred to the external examiner;
- for spoken presentations, completion of a cover sheet and comments on presentations by two markers.

Assessment commissions consist of at least two assessors and the chair who moderates and supervises the procedure but does not participate directly in the assessment process.

The passing marks range from 4 (“sufficient”) to 6 (“excellent”).

The final overall mark is the average of the individual module marks, each weighted according to the credit volume of the respective module.

5. Progression

Those students who fail a module or who must defer assessment in a module must pass the module before the start of the new MA cycle. Any module assessment failed may be repeated once and only once.

Provided that they do pass, they then progress to the appropriate award.

6. Module descriptions

EPISTEMOLOGY OF RESEARCH

Module leader: Hubert Eiholzer

Delivery	Credits
Lectures/seminars (8x120 min.), plus support classes	10

Overview

This module provides an introduction to conceptual tools useful to conducting independent research in the arts. Focus is given to making and justifying knowledge claims. Arguments are constructed both practically and theoretically, with attention given to norms, incentives and dependencies typical of the research world.

Objectives

Successful completion of this module means that you will have:

- knowledge and understanding of key concepts underlying the notion of Artistic Research as knowledge contribution
- knowledge and understanding of contextual factors that may influence Artistic Research
- capacity to represent an Artistic Research project in terms of its argumentative structure
- capacity to contextualize given research in terms of factors that may promote or hinder Artistic Research.

Lecture topics
(E1) Making knowledge claims
(E2) Justifying knowledge claims I: Introducing deductive argumentation
(E3) Justifying knowledge claims II: Introducing inductive argumentation
(E4) Objectivity: Different uses of 'objective' and their implications for research
(E5) Experts and authorities, rankers and influencers, peers and competitors
(E6) Tricks and traps in research and research communication
(E7) Making a contribution: originality, innovation and state of the art
(E8) Good research in difficult times. On incentives for doing research

Contents

- attendance and contribution at lectures/seminars and support classes
- individual and/or group tutorial support for the written assignment and examination
- independent research to support these activities

Methods of Assessment

- written assignments, on a topic selected from titles provided or on a different topic approved by the module leader, 70%
- viva-voce examination (30 minutes), on topics selected from titles provided, 30%

QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS

Module leader: Aaron Williamon

Delivery	Credits
Lectures/seminars (16 x120 min.), plus support classes	15

Overview

This module provides an overview of quantitative and qualitative methodological approaches appropriate to conducting independent research in the arts. Seminars and tutorials introduce methods of collecting, analysing and interpreting data in historical, empirical and technological domains. Focus is given to both quantitative and qualitative enquiry, providing grounding in the knowledge claims and assumptions of different research approaches. Methods of data collection, analysis and interpretation are introduced and critiqued, both practically and theoretically, with attention given to the ethical considerations of conducting research in the arts.

Objectives

Successful completion of this module means that you will have:

- knowledge and understanding of the application of empirical and historical research methods to educational and professional contexts in the arts
- knowledge and understanding of research ethics
- capacity to develop research designs
- capacity to use correctly laboratory equipment and other tools
- capacity to collect, analyse and interpret data using methods and tools appropriate in the field of Artistic Research

Lecture/seminar topics
(M-1) Planning research I: Research questions and approaches
(M-2) Planning research II: Ethics in research
(M-3) Conducting research I: Documentation
(M-4) Conducting research II: Observations, interviews and focus groups
(M-5) Conducting research III: Surveys and questionnaires
(M-6) Conducting research IV: Experiments
(M-7) Analyzing research I: Qualitative analysis
(M-8) Analyzing research II: Describing research findings
(M-9) Analyzing data III: Searching for differences (comparing means)
(M-10) Analyzing data IV: Searching for similarities (correlation)
(M-11) Data visualization I
(M-12) Historical methods in music, theatre, visual arts I
(M-13) Historical methods in music, theatre, visual arts II
(M-14) Data visualization II
(M-15) Historical methods in music, theatre, visual arts III
(M-16) Historical methods in music, theatre, visual arts IV

Contents

- attendance and contribution at lectures/seminars and support classes
- individual and/or group tutorial support for the written and oral examination
- independent research to support these activities

Methods of assessment

- written examination (90 minutes), on topics selected from titles provided, 70%
- viva-voce examination (30 minutes), on topics selected from titles provided, 30%

RESEARCH REPORTING AND PRESENTATION

Module leader: Massimo Zicari

Delivery	Credits
Lectures/seminars (8 x120 min.), plus support classes	10

Overview

This module considers methods of effective research dissemination and communication. Seminars and tutorials examine the skills required to make a convincing written and oral case for research, or to develop innovative forms of presentations, both before and after it has been undertaken, for audiences of different types and specialisms, including prospective funders, stakeholders, policymakers and other researchers within related scholarly and artistic communities. Students also gain practical experience of locating and engaging appropriate dissemination outlets, such as peer-reviewed journals, conferences and the media.

Objectives

Successful completion of this module means that you will have:

- knowledge and understanding of basic features essential to the activities prior to and after carrying out the actual project (e.g. developing a project proposal, seeking funds, presenting the results)
- knowledge of dissemination channels relevant to the field of Artistic Research
- capacity to structure research presentations according to scientific standards
- capacity to develop project presentations for different audiences

Lecture/seminar topics
(R-1) How to find the appropriate funding body
(R-2) Funding bodies and their presentation requirements
(R-3) How to write a grant proposal
(R-4) Dissemination channels (journal, conferences etc.)
(R-5) How to write an article for a peer-reviewed journal
(R-6) How to deal with peer reviews
(R-7) How to prepare and deliver a conference paper
(R-8) How to deal with conference questions

Contents

- attendance and contribution at Lectures/seminars and support classes
- individual and/or group tutorial support for the written and oral examination
- independent research to support these activities

Methods of assessment

- a critical review (6000-10000 characters) of a published article, 50%
- an assessed 20-minute presentation with 5 minutes questions from assessors on the outline of a research topic of student's choice, 50%

ISSUES IN ARTISTIC RESEARCH

Module leader: Ruth Hungerbühler

Module code	Delivery	Credits
	Seminars (8 x 120-min.), plus reading groups	10

Overview

This module supports students in developing a critical awareness of pertinent literature, research and practice. An expert speaker series introduces key topics and research methodologies, presenting real-life examples of their application to artistic practice. Complementing this, a journal discussion group encourages a breadth of reading within the field, encouraging students to synthesise, critique and discuss research methodologies and findings at an advanced level.

Objectives

Successful completion of this module means that you will have:

- knowledge and understanding of current issues in Artistic Research and their principal representatives
- knowledge and understanding of aspects of Artistic Research that underpin its public presentation and image
- capacity to approach critically pertinent literature and to discuss it in conference type settings

Seminar topics

Detailed schedule and activity programme will be communicated to the students at the beginning of the study programme.

Contents

- attendance and contribution at seminars and readings group sessions
- individual and/or group tutorial support for the written and oral examination
- independent research to support these activities

Methods of Assessment

- a critical review (7000-12000 characters) of one of the attended presentations, 70%
- viva-voce examination (30-minutes), on topics selected from titles provided, 30%

RESEARCH PROJECT AND DISSERTATION

Module leader: Ruth Hungerbühler

Delivery	Credits
Individual tutorials (32 x 60 min.), plus colloquia	45

Overview

The research project and dissertation are central components of students' learning on the MA in Artistic Research. The colloquia are designed to help students learn from one another through presentation, discussion and reflection on their research ideas, and individual tutorials serve to provide critical expert feedback for students on their projects.

Objectives

Successful completion of this module means that you will have:

- understanding of the state-of-the-art of knowledge relevant to your research project
- awareness of and respect for standards of excellence
- capacity to understand, to communicate and to discuss key features of your project with experts and non-experts
- capacity to critically reflect the project's epistemic scope (knowledge contribution, limitations of results)

Content

- individual tutorial support from a supervisor
- attendance and contribution at colloquia
- independent research to support these activities

Methods of Assessment

- a project proposal of 9000-12'000 characters, on a topic approved by the module leader and chosen project supervisor. The proposal must outline the relevant literature, research question, methods suitable for the research, and ethical considerations, 10%
- a 20-minute spoken presentation, on the extended and refined project proposal, 10%
- a dissertation of 60'000-120'000 characters, on a topic informed by the completed project, 80%
- a viva-voce examination on the project.

7. Who's who on the MA in Artistic Research

Michele Biasutti, *PhD*

Professor of experimental pedagogy, Department of Philosophy, Sociology, Education and Applied Psychology, University of Padua

Massimo Botta, *PhD*

Professor of design, Laboratory of Visual Culture; Department of Environment, Construction and Design SUPSI

Cinzia Cruder, *MA*

PhD student and graduate teaching assistant, Department of Business Economics, Health and Social Care SUPSI and University of Music SUPSI

Hubert Eiholzer, *PhD*

Head of research and vice director, University of Music SUPSI

Ruth Hungerbühler, *PhD*

Head of Master in Artistic Research (together with Hubert Eiholzer), Theatre Academy Dimitri SUPSI

Stéphanie Lupo, *PhD*

PhD in theatre studies, theatre teacher and actress

Paolo Paolantonio, *MA*

PhD student and graduate teaching assistant, University of Music SUPSI

Vega Tescari, *PhD*

PhD in visual and literary studies, lecturer at the Institute for the History and Theory of Art and Architecture (ISA), Academy of Architecture, Mendrisio (USI - Università della Svizzera italiana)

Richard Weihe, *Prof. Dr.habil.*

Professor of Theory and Theatre Practice at Accademia Teatro Dimitri, SUPSI, Verscio

Aaron Williamon, *PhD*

Prof. Performance Science, Royal College of Music London and University of Music SUPSI

Massimo Zicari, *PhD*

Research fellow and deputy director of research, University of Music SUPSI