



Master's degree in Fine Arts / Doctoral degree in Fine Arts

The Visual Arts Department at the University of Pretoria offers a Masters and a Doctoral programme in Fine Arts. The aims of the packages are to foster advanced creative development and investigation. The degree packages are research-based and have been designed in such a way as to equip you with specialised knowledge, skills and applied competence in the discipline of Fine Arts. The fundamental objective of the degrees is to provide you with the opportunity to gain cutting-edge knowledge and insight in the nature of Fine Arts as a discipline and to research pertinent questions and issues related to Fine Arts in a progressive manner.

Why choose us?

The Visual Arts Department is part of a University with a strong commitment to develop research expertise across a broad spectrum of academic disciplines. This research infrastructure allows us to provide forward-looking knowledge and academic training. We have an excellent reputation in the Visual Arts industry and academia for delivering graduates who become well-known professionals in the field of the visual arts. Modes of tuition are selected to meet the specific needs of students and include flexible contact sessions, e-groups, prescribed and structured self-study and individual supervision for research. In the postgraduate Fine Arts degrees, a practice-led approach is followed, meaning that the art object and artistic production are the departure points for study and research, although your research could have been instigated by a theory, viewpoint, event or other aspect which you would want to investigate within the context of the visual arts.

Master's of Arts in Fine Arts

Course structure

Module codes:

BKS 858
BKS 859
BKS 890

Focus area 1: Advanced research in Fine Arts: Dissertation (BKS 858).

Admission to this programme is by research proposal. The requirements of the degree programme entail a dissertation on an approved topic completed under supervision of a supervisor.

Focus area 2: Creative production and mini-dissertation (BKS 859)

Admission to this programme is by research proposal and should include a portfolio of your own creative work. The requirements of the degree programme entail a solo exhibition of creative work and a mini-dissertation, which will serve as a framing document and a catalogue for the exhibition. It is a requirement that the creative work and the mini-dissertation must be conceptually linked and integrated.

Focus area 3: Curatorial practice and mini-dissertation (BKS 860)

Admission to this programme is by research proposal. The requirements of the degree programme entail a curated exhibition and a mini-dissertation, which serves as a framing document and a catalogue for the exhibition. It is a requirement that the creative work and the mini-dissertation must be conceptually linked and integrated. A particular requirement of the programme is an internship of at least 200 hours at an approved museum or contemporary art gallery.

DPhil in Fine Arts

Course structure

Module codes:

BKS 900: Examination/defense of the thesis
BKS 901: Professional Curated Exhibition
BKS 902: Professional Solo Exhibition
BKS 903: Exhibition Catalogue
BKS 990: Thesis: Fine Arts
BKS 991: Thesis: Curatorial Practice
BKS 992: Thesis: Creative Production





Option 1: DPhil in Fine Arts (Research thesis)

This option comprises a thesis (BKS 900) based on independent research on an approved topic of choice. The study requires informed investigation, analysis and interpretation of the chosen topic that demonstrates critical engagement with the constructs of Fine Arts as a discipline. In the thesis, the ability to undertake advanced research that makes a contribution to the field should be demonstrated, as well as the ability to articulate the research findings in a sustained academic argument. In this option a defense of the thesis is required (BKS 900), which entails an oral examination during which the internal and external examiners will pose questions which you have to answer. It can be done in person or by video conference.

Option 2: DPhil in Fine Arts (Curatorial Practice)

This option entails a thesis (BKS 991), a curated exhibition (BKS 901) and a catalogue (BKS 903). The thesis should be about 120 pages of text excluding visual material, appendices and the bibliography. The exhibition should be professionally curated and demonstrate deep and wide consultation. It should be presented at an appropriate venue, accompanied by a professional catalogue with text and extensive documentation of the artworks. The research should make a primary and original contribution to the field of study, whether in terms of the conceptual approach and exploration or the manner and style in executing or installing or presenting the work. The thesis and the exhibition should be positioned in the same subject matter and critical discourses. For this option you need to provide proof of having spent at least 300 hours working at an approved gallery or museum as a trainee curator or museum/gallery assistant (without compensation).

Option 3: DPhil in Fine Arts (Creative production)

This option entails a thesis (BKS 992), an exhibition of creative work (BKS 902) and a catalogue (BKS 903). The thesis should be about 120 pages of text excluding visual material, appendices and the bibliography. The exhibition should be professionally presented and demonstrate deep and wide visual research. It should be presented at an appropriate venue, accompanied by a professional catalogue with text and extensive documentation of the artworks.

The research should make a primary and original contribution to the field of study, whether in terms of the conceptual approach and exploration or the manner and style in executing or installing or presenting the work. The thesis and the exhibition should be positioned in the same subject matter and critical discourses.

Selection and admission requirements

Selection for the course is on an individual basis and may require an interview. For admission you are required to have completed a four year degree in Fine Arts and to have received a mark of at least 65%.

The following is needed in the application:

- A complete academic record and recent CV
- A written research proposal of the planned study with reference to both the theoretical research and the creative work
- A portfolio of practical work which may be submitted as photos or slides

Bursaries

The University of Pretoria offers a variety of excellent bursaries for postgraduate students. To find out more about them, please consult the University of Pretoria bursary office at tel +27 12 420 2846.

For further information

To discuss your intention to register, contact the postgraduate studies coordinator, Prof Elfriede Dreyer, by email or arrange a personal interview before January 31 of the year of registration.

Prof E Dreyer
Department of Visual Arts
University of Pretoria
Pretoria 0002
Telephone: +27 12 420 2353
Fax: +27 12 420 3686
Email: elfriede.dreyer@up.ac.za
Website: www.up.ac.za/visualarts