

BURREN COLLEGE OF ART

Post Bac (Higher Diploma in Fine Art) Academic Handbook 2007-08

Contents	Page
Personnel	3
Background to the programme	4
Award Titles	4
Mode of Study	4
The Aims of the programme	4
The Learning Outcomes	4
Programme Content	5
Programme Description	6
Assessment	6
Admissions	6
Financial Aid	6
Equipment	8
Transport	8
Required Reading	8
Recommended Reading	9
Advice on Progression to an MFA	9
Post Bac Programme Planning	10
Preliminary Assessment Of Your Artistic And Academic Needs (To be completed by the student and returned to the college)	11

PERSONNEL

BURREN COLLEGE OF ART

Mary Hawkes-Greene	President / Administrator
Prof. Timothy Emlyn Jones	Dean / Graduate Director
Tom Molloy	Head of Painting
Aine Phillips	Head of Sculpture
Martina Cleary	Lecturer in Photography and Art History
TBC	Director of Marketing and Admissions
Gwen Ryan	Librarian and Information Officer, and Student Affairs Officer
Brid O'Loughlen	Receptionist
Robert Wainwright	Campus Co-ordinator

NUI GALWAY

Prof. Kevin Barry	Dean, Faculty of Arts
Declan Ashe	Administrator, Faculty of Arts

GRADUATE MENTORS

Ken Fandell	School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Yve Lomax	Royal College of Art, London
Prof. David Rayson	Royal College of Art, London
Prof Nigel Rolfe	Royal College of Art, London

HIGHER DIPLOMA IN FINE ART (THE POST-BAC)

INTRODUCTION

The Higher Diploma in Fine Art is a joint Burren College of Art / National University of Ireland, Galway programme, based at the Burren College of Art. It is equivalent to the American Post Baccalaureate programme and is known informally as the "Post Bac."

TITLES OF AWARD

Higher Diploma In Fine Art 60 credits ECTS

MODE OF STUDY

1 year full time

AIMS

The main aim of the programme is to assist graduate students to identify their artistic identity and interests and to prepare them for the next step in their artistic careers.

The Post-Bac provides for three kinds of student:

- Students with a first degree in fine art who wish to progress to an MFA programme and but have not yet developed their portfolio of work and personal artistic rationale to the standard necessary for admission to an MFA.
- Students who have a good degree in a subject other than fine art and who wish to transfer into a fine art educational track by progressing to an MFA programme.
- Students with a first degree who wish to develop their artistic identity beyond undergraduate level for its own sake. For these students a masters degree and its demanding requirements are not an appropriate or necessary goal.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Successful Post-Bac students will:

Produce a final exhibition, the quality of which will demonstrate their understanding of fine art practice at the graduate level.

Be able to demonstrate their understanding of critical discourse within and related to fine art practice

Be ready for the next stage of their artistic development, either through a portfolio of work appropriate to application to an MFA programme, or through a body of work providing personal satisfaction.

PROGRAMME CONTENT

Since students whose artistic identity is not yet clearly formed are very diverse in their needs, this programme is structured flexibly so as to respond to and fulfil that wide range of needs and interests. Each student's programme is individually negotiated and agreed and formally validated in the first weeks of the academic year. This structural flexibility distinguishes it from the MFA programme, which offers a personally oriented developmental programme leading to professional practice.

Studio Practice and Critique 1 & 4

These modules are the core of the programme and take the form of one negotiated studies project each semester. Each student has his or her own dedicated studio space to which 24/7 access is available. Portfolios preparation and career planning are elements of these modules.

Studio Practice and Critique 2, 3, 5, 6

For those students who need instruction in the mediums of drawing, painting, sculpture, photography, mixed media or time arts a number of specialist classes are available in which Post-Bac students work alongside undergraduate students. These classes are most suitable for those Post-Bac students who have a first degree in a subject other than fine art and who need to acquire specialist skills and techniques in the fields of drawing, painting, sculpture, photography, mixed media, or time based arts.

An alternative is negotiated studio or location based projects.

Historical and Critical Studies 1&2

Students undertake a research project in a topic of their choice in which they research a subject relevant to their studio practice with reference to contemporary art and ideas. Students who wish to progress to an MFA and who do not already have a high quality dissertation are expected to write a 2000 word essay on the basis of this research. Coaching in study and writing skills is available.

Irish Studies

The west coast of Ireland provides a unique context for personal and artistic development. This class introduces students to a wide range of environmental and cultural studies in the west of Ireland, ranging from natural history and geology through archaeology, art history to modern history. This course is invaluable to students seeking an understanding of the context of their new learning environment. Working alongside undergraduate students, Post-Bac students explore each week a topic that is introduced through a lecture and then explored through field studies (one semester only)

In addition to taught classes the above modules are enhanced by The Wednesday Session, a group session for all BCA students including visiting artists and group critiques and by gallery and museum study in Dublin, with optional additional educational visits to London and Paris or another European city.

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Module Title	Core/Optional	ECTS	Marks
<i>Year 1, Semester 1</i>			
<u>Studio Practice and Critique 1</u>	Core	20	200
<u>Studio Practice and Critique 2</u>	Optional	5	50
<u>Studio Practice and Critique 3</u>	Optional	5	50
<u>Historical and Critical Studies 1, Introduction</u>	Optional	5	50
<u>Irish Studies</u>	Optional	5	50
Year 1, Semester 2			
<u>Studio Practice and Critique 4</u>	Core	20	200
<u>Studio Practice and Critique 5</u>	Optional	5	50
<u>Studio Practice and Critique 6</u>	Optional	5	50
<u>Historical and Critical Studies 2, Artist's Statement,</u>	Core	5	50
Total, maximum		60	600

ASSESSMENT

Assessment is by exhibition at the end of the programme and by essay where applicable. Results are determined on a pass/fail basis.

ADMISSIONS

Applicants should normally have a Bachelors Degree with honours. A Major in fine art is not required for this programme. Applicants should also demonstrate their suitability for graduate level fine art study by means of a portfolio of at least ten items (slides, CD or video) and a supporting statement of 500 words maximum. All eligible applicants are interviewed either in person or by telephone.

FINANCIAL AID FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

Burren College of Art Awards

1. *Michael Greene Memorial Scholarship Fund*
This Trust provides means-based part scholarships to facilitate participation by the most talented artists from outside the EU on the MFA programme. A number of awards up to €5,000 per year of tuition are made. Selection is based on evaluation of financial need and portfolio assessment.
2. *Burren College of Art President's Award*
Scholarships are available to successful applicants from Ireland and the EU who demonstrate exceptional ability on entering the Burren College of Art. These represent €11,500 per year of tuition over the two-year period, conditional on maintaining the required standard of excellence throughout the programme. Selection is based on portfolio evaluation.

National University of Ireland, Galway

1. *NUI Galway Post-Graduate Fellowship*
A two-year fellowship of up to €7,000 is available through the Arts faculty at NUI Galway. This is normally awarded every other year on merit and evidence of financial need. The next award should become available in 2007-08

Applications for the above should be made only by successful applicants to the MFA programme.

EXTERNAL SOURCES OF FUNDING

1. *The O'Reilly Foundation Scholarship Programme*
1-2 Upper Hatch Street, Dublin 2
Contact: Amanda Hopkins
Email: info@oreillyfoundation.ie
Web: www.oreillyfoundation.ie
O'Reilly Scholars are Irish/EU individuals who have an excellent academic record and have demonstrated leadership qualities, as well as the potential and desire to make a significant contribution to the future of Ireland.
2. *Bank of Ireland Millennium Scholars Trust*
The Trust Office, National College of Ireland, IFSC, Dublin 1
Email: boischolars@ncirl.ie
Web: www.ncirl.ie
Open to Irish applicants who must be proposed by a nominating body - i.e. the Burren College of Art.
3. *Clare County Council Scholarship*
Clare County Council Arts Office offer one scholarship annually for an outstanding MFA applicant. The value of this scholarship is €14,000. Contact the College for more information on this award.
4. *North-South Scholarships*
Universities Ireland, the body which promotes collaboration between the 9 universities in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, is offering 2 scholarships to students undertaking a recognised Master's course. This scholarship is worth €20,000 and must be taken up in September/October 2006. The closing date for applications is 5pm, Monday 12th June and further information is available from :
Patricia McAllister
Universities Ireland
C/O The Centre for Cross Border Studies, 39 Abbey Street, Armagh BT61 7EB
Email: p.mcallister@gub.ac.uk
5. *The Leverhulme Trust "Study Abroad Scholarships"*
Web: www.leverhulme.org.uk
This scheme supports postgraduate-level and postdoctoral-level scholars. Its aim is to support students from the UK to spend an extended period of advanced study or research at a centre of learning overseas. Approximately 20 awards are offered annually.
6. *Federal Financial Aid for US Students*
Successful US students seeking federal financial aid should note that for this purpose the designated institution is the National University of Ireland, Galway (ID No: G12766) rather than the Burren College of Art.
If you are applying for Federal Aid you should look at the NUIG Student Fees and Grants Office webpage for information on tracking your application
Web: http://www.nuigalway.ie/fees_grants/services/us_federal_aid.html
The School of the Art Institute of Chicago website has useful links for applying for federal financial aid on its website.
Web: <http://www.saic.edu/>
7. *The US-Ireland Alliance*
This organisation sponsors a prestigious, competitive, national scholarship to enable US citizens between the ages of 18 and 30 to study at universities on the island of Ireland. The George J. Mitchell Scholarships are intended to familiarise and engage the next generation of America's leaders with the island of Ireland. These scholarships allow Americans to pursue one year of post-graduate study in any discipline offered at institutions of higher learning in Ireland and Northern Ireland. The Mitchell Scholarship provided tuition and housing for one year along with international travel and a living expenses stipend.

Further information and application forms can be obtained on www.us-irelandalliance.org
Any scholarship related queries should be addressed to Dell Pendergrast, Director, Mitchell Scholarships.
Email dellp@us-irelandalliance.org

Additional information on financial aid is made available from time to time

ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT

Students should own the following items at the beginning of the Post Bac programme

- Laptop or desktop computer
- Camera, 35mm or digital
- Sketchbook for day to day recording of visual material. This should be A5 or larger.
- Journal for day to day recording of textual material.
- Waterproof medium size haversack or rucksack, large enough to carry your sketchbook, camera, folding stool and other art material
- Anorak and waterproof leggings, Strong walking shoes or boots

OTHER EQUIPMENT

Other items used routinely in art practice are obtainable from the small art supplies shop in the College or from the several sources of art supplies in Galway. There are many further sources of art materials in Dublin, and some of these will mail items direct to you in Ballyvaughan. UK brand items such as Winsor and Newton and Rowney are easily obtainable.

You may wish to bring items of other equipment and materials with you, but this is not necessary for routine items, which can be obtained in Ireland. If you have some favourite item or brand of equipment or materials, especially if it is unusual then we recommend that you do bring them with you.

If you envisage working out of doors regularly then you should obtain a folding stool.

TRANSPORT

The college provides students with a daily minibus service between the college and Ballyvaughan village in the mornings and at the end of the day although some students prefer to walk, especially in good weather. The college can also provide students with pedal cycles at cost, the benefit of these being greater flexibility of mobility within the Burren. Some graduate students have chosen to buy a used car at the beginning of the programme that they sell after graduation. This not only provides increased mobility within the Burren, but also enable travel further afield such as to Galway when city resources are required. We recommend that all graduate students consider getting a car as experience has shown that this greatly enhances the experience of being here. There are several vendors of cars in the area including one in Ballyvaughan.

Being a rural area, public transport here is somewhat limited. There is a daily public bus service that connects Ballyvaughan and Galway. From Galway it is possible to travel by coach or train to other Irish cities such as Dublin.

There are several taxi services locally.

REQUIRED READING

Barrett, Terry, *Why Is That Art: aesthetics and criticism of contemporary art*. Oxford University Press
Berger, John, *Ways of Seeing*. Penguin
Moon, Jennifer, *Learning Journals*. Routledge

RECOMMENDED READING

Robertson, Jean and McDaniel, Craig, *Themes of Contemporary Art: Visual art after 1980*. Oxford University Press

ADVICE ON PROGRESSION TO AN MFA PROGRAMME

If you do intend applying for an MFA programme you should begin your investigation of possible MFAs now. Please research online information by visiting the website of colleges and universities to which you are considering applying. It would be help us to assist you if you make up a shortlist of up to 10 MFAs before the start of the Autumn semester. So as to make timely applications you need to identify the closing date for applications for each MFA – these may vary. We recommend the following MFAs for your consideration. This is necessarily not a definitive list of excellent MFAs and the absence of any college or university carries no significance. We have restricted this selected list to countries in which teaching is undertaken in English. Please feel free to research other programmes too (and tell which ones look interesting).

AUSTRALIA

College of Fine Arts, UNSW, Sydney
Monash University, Melbourne.
The Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne
Tasmanian University, Hobart
Australian National University, Canberra
Queensland College of the Arts, Griffith University, Brisbane

CANADA

Emily Carr Institute, Vancouver (MAA)

For other MFAs go to http://www.gradschools.com/listings/canada/art_fine_canada.html

IRELAND

Burren College of Art, Co Clare
National College of Art & Design, Dublin

NEW ZEALAND

Elam School of Art, University of Auckland

UNITED KINGDOM

Camberwell College of Arts & Crafts, University of the Arts, London
Central St Martins College, University of the Arts, London
Chelsea College of Art, University of the Arts, London
Duncan of Jordanstone College, University of Dundee, Scotland
Edinburgh College of Art, Scotland
Falmouth College of Art, Cornwall
Glasgow School of Art, Scotland
Goldsmiths College, University of London
Manchester Metropolitan University
Norwich College of Art, Norfolk
Royal College of Art, London
University of Newcastle
Wimbledon College of Art, University of the Arts, London

Winchester School of Art, University of Southampton, Winchester

For a portal to all UK colleges and universities go to www.hero.ac.uk

USA

Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, CA
California College of the Arts, San Francisco, CA
California Institute of the Arts, San Francisco, CA
Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore
Massachusetts College of Art, Boston
Minneapolis College of Art & Design
Otis College of Art & Design
Pratt Institute, New York
Rhode Island School of Design
Ringling School of Art & Design
San Francisco Art Institute
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
School of Visual Arts, New York
Tyler School of Art, Temple University, PA
Virginia Commonwealth University
Yale University

Also see www.aicad.org/grad

or <http://nasad.arts-accredit.org/index.jsp?page=Member+Lists>

POST BAC PROGRAMME PLANNING

Introduction

The Post Bac programme is designed with core and elective elements to be responsive to the individual needs of three kinds of students:

- Students with a first degree in fine art who wish to progress to an MFA programme and but have not yet developed their portfolio of work and personal artistic rationale to the standard necessary for admission to an MFA.
- Students who have a good degree in a subject other than fine art and who wish to transfer into a fine art educational track by progressing to an MFA programme.
- Students with a first degree who wish to develop their artistic identity beyond undergraduate level for its own sake. For these students a masters degree and its demanding requirements are not an appropriate or necessary goal.

Since the needs of these three kinds of students differ, we have instituted a planning process to assure that all individual students' needs are addressed within both core and elective programme elements. The three stages of this process are:

- preliminary assessment of your artistic and academic needs by questionnaire (in July - August)
- refinement of core studies programme in the light of student needs (through August)
- initial planning of your elective studies (through August)
- refinement and formalisation of your electives (first week of Autumn semester)
- registration of your personal programme (second week of Autumn semester)

Preliminary Assessment Of Your Artistic And Academic Needs

We would be grateful if you could answer the following questions and return this form to us so we may make a preliminary assessment of your needs. Please be candid in responding as we need to identify your needs as much as your strengths, so please do not try to impress us in your replies (we are already sufficiently impressed as to have accepted you!):

Your name _____

Do you wish to progress to an MFA programme on completion of the Post Bac?	Yes	No			
If yes, do you favour progression to an MFA in...	Europe	USA	other country (please specify)		
If yes, do you have a particular MFA in mind? (please specify)					
Have you applied to an MFA programme previously?	Yes	No			
Have you written a dissertation or essay of at least 5,000 words in the last 5 years?	Yes	No			
If yes, how would you rate the quality of your writing?	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	
If yes, what was the subject?					
Please rate your practical standing in the following:					
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Beginner	Have no interest
life drawing					
landscape painting					
still life drawing					
colour theory					
painting					
digital photography					
black and white photography					
colour photography					
video					
installations					
fine art performance					
sculpture					
other (please specify)					
other (please specify)					
other (please specify)					

Please rate your understanding of the following:					
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Beginner	Have no interest
history of modern art					
developments in contemporary art					
art theory					
abstract art					
conceptual art					
issues based art					
the idea of art as a process of enquiry					
What is needed to gain admission to an MFA programme					
Please rate how well the following terms describe your own art making					
	This is me	Good	Fair	A little	Nothing like me
Painter					
Drawer					
Photographer					
Sculptor					
Performance artist					
Video artist					
Enquiring					
Expressionist					
Conceptual					
Feminist					
Documentary					
Politically oriented					
Socially oriented					
Contemplative					
Focussed on materials					
Other					
Other					
Other					
Your programme will have individually negotiated projects as a core element. If in addition to these you would like some taught courses please select up to two of the following:					
	Beginner		Intermediate		Advanced
Drawing					
Painting					
Sculpture					
Photography					
Video					
Performance Art					
Mixed media					
Art History					
Irish Studies					