

Undergraduate Studies

Individual Study Abroad

“Leave your expectations at the door and embrace whatever inspiration comes your way.”

Elizabeth Bleyntat,
Sewanee: The University of the South, Study Abroad, Spring 2016

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Why Study Art Abroad?



Studying abroad helps you develop new perspectives on who you are as an artist, because in a new place you come to see your art and yourself through new eyes. In studying within a different culture you not only develop an appreciation of a way of life other than your own, but you also discover something new about yourself and your own culture. In this way you develop your capacity to exceed your own expectations and develop new creative strategies. Study abroad can be a life enhancing experience. If you want to go beyond the conventions of your upbringing and education so far – this educational programme may be for you.

The Individual Study Abroad programme at Burren College of Art is available to Bachelors students who wish to study abroad for one or two semesters at a specialist art college in a unique environment.

How to Create a 15 Credit Undergraduate Programme of Study at Burren College of Art

An undergraduate student's programme of study is based on his or her artistic interests and academic needs. Normally it comprises five three-credit courses in each semester.

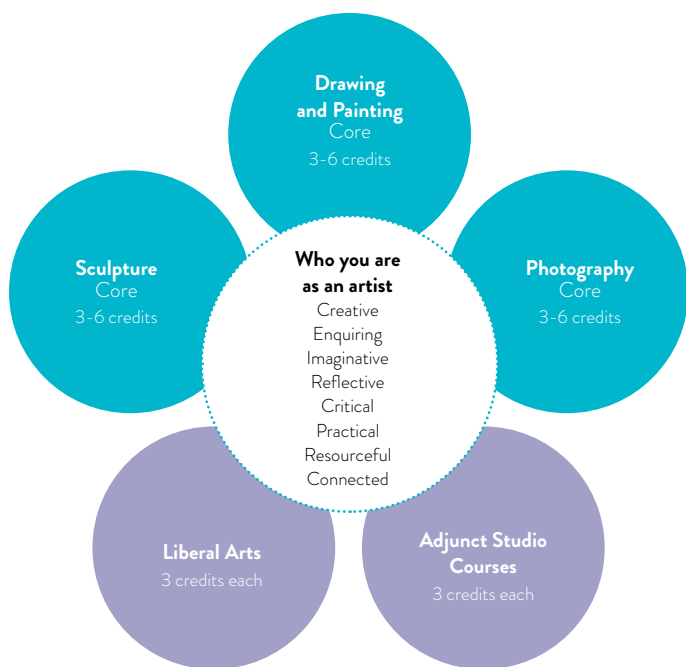
Studio courses are available in Drawing, Painting, Photography or Sculpture at Intermediate, Advanced or Independent level.

Additionally Adjunct Studio Courses are available in Mixed Media, Art in Context, Art and Ecology, Performance and Time Arts as mixed-ability courses. Liberal Arts Courses in Art History, Creative Writing and Irish Studies are also available. The diagram on the left shows the relationships of these courses. A typical programme of study comprises:

- The core of Studio Courses (normally no more than two in any one subject)
- an option of one or two Adjunct Studio Course(s)
- a requirement of one or two Liberal Arts Courses.

We recommend that all students take Irish Studies as this course provides invaluable insights to the Burren and Irish culture.

All applicants should check the requirements of their programme of study with an advisor at their home institution before applying to us. We are pleased to provide advice at any time, and our faculty review course choices face to face with students in the first week of each semester before programmes of study are confirmed. Once confirmed, courses may be changed within the first two weeks of study. Credits transfer to the home college at the end of semester, with a formal transcript sent by us to the academic registry of students' home institutions.



Modes of Study and Course Titles

Burren College of Art is often described as being at the confluence of cultures. Our undergraduate programme marries the best of the European and American traditions of art education. Like other art schools in Europe our students work throughout the week in dedicated studio space (available 24/7) with tutorial support, leaving the studios only for group teaching. Also, like art programmes in America, the learning experience is organized as a number of distinct courses. Therefore, we offer two modes of undergraduate study. Our courses are taught either as a **Tutorial Course** or as a **Group Course**.

Tutorial Courses are taught through scheduled one on one contact within each student's dedicated studio space, supplemented by regular scheduled group presentations, discussions and critiques. Some intermediate and all advanced and independent courses are Tutorial Courses.

Group Courses are taught as a unified class with all students present with the tutor at the one time. Group courses also include some one on one contact teaching. All introductory and liberal arts courses and some adjunct studio courses are Group Courses.

Level of Study

All courses assume students have had prior education in an art subject (including creative writing) at degree level. We do not provide any courses for absolute beginners.

Introductory Level

We describe a course as introductory when it is assumed that students have not studied the subject previously, but that they have studied some other art courses previously. These courses are suitable for students who wish to extend the range of their art studies by taking a new specialism. For example, Introductory Photography would be appropriate to Painting or Sculpture Majors who have not previously had the opportunity to extend their artistic interests through photography. Introductory courses are Group Courses.

Intermediate Level

We describe a course as intermediate when it is assumed that students have previously taken an introductory course but have not yet developed the knowledge, experience and ability to work on their own with the support of one on one tutorial. Often there are set assignments at this level. Intermediate courses are either Tutorial or Group Courses and the proportion of group activities, such as slide shows, discussion and critiques is normally greater than in advanced and independent level courses.

"I've learned how to just be in a place and just be with my work, letting it evolve in the most natural way possible ... time away from the pressures of finished production mentality, and time to take risks and make mistakes."

Emily Atchison,
Minneapolis College
of Art & Design, Study
Abroad Spring 2009

Advanced Level

We describe a course as advanced when it is assumed that students have previously taken an intermediate course and no longer require the continuous close support and attention of faculty. Typically, advanced students negotiate their projects and work-plans with faculty and meet one on one with faculty in the studio, on a scheduled plan, with some scheduled group activities such as slide shows, discussions and critiques. All Advanced courses are Tutorial Courses.

Independent Level

We describe a course as independent when it is assumed that students have previously taken an advanced course and are capable of working autonomously with faculty support as necessary. Typically, students in independent courses negotiate their projects with faculty at the beginning of the semester and sign up to meet with faculty when advice or other support is required. Independent students may participate in group activities such as slide shows, discussions and critiques. All Independent courses are Tutorial Courses.

Declaring an Emphasis

Students studying advanced or independent level courses in Drawing, Painting, Photography and Sculpture may elect to declare an emphasis or theme that will be reflected in the title of the course on the student's transcript. This means that students studying the same subject

at the same level – alongside each other in the studios – normally engage in a wide diversity of projects, and may be awarded different course titles on their transcripts. For example, three intermediate painters may work alongside each other, each with academic support from the same tutor, yet be awarded the following entries on their transcripts:

Student A:

Intermediate Painting

Student B:

Intermediate Painting: Narrative Painting

Student C:

Intermediate Painting: Landscape Painting

The declaration of an emphasis is restricted to advanced and independent courses. The declaration of emphases enables students to have more than one advanced or independent course identified on their transcript. Emphases may not be declared in Group Courses.

We have identified emphases that have proved popular, and these are listed in the relevant subject areas. Additionally, students may propose an emphasis for faculty approval.

Students may declare an emphasis either within their application or at the time of registration at the college. Faculty will be available to advise on emphases in the first week of each semester.

Each course description indicates whether a course is a Group Course or a Tutorial Course.

Whole-School Group Critiques

Group Critiques provide opportunities to gain insights into the artistic ideas and creative practices of other students and to gain the benefit of their insights into each other's work. Most of the studio courses include group critiques, and additionally all undergraduate students are required to participate in whole-school group critiques that bring together all students of all subjects to share ideas about their work. Graduate students may opt to be included in these gatherings. These take place on two or three occasions in the second half of each semester once students have had the opportunity to produce a body of work. Typically, each student displays a selection of their work, introduces it briefly to the group and engages in dialogue with the group. While facilitated by members of faculty, or by graduate teaching assistants, the discussion is peer review and is not faculty-led.

“The teachers at BCA understand that you are an artist who needs to express yourself, and that we all have different ways of getting through problems. . . that we don't all go down the same path. Because of that I was able to figure out what my art was. I was able to make good projects instead of just making projects that fit criteria.”

Jeanette Rodriguez,
Ringling College of Art and Design, Study Abroad Spring 2016



Drawing



Drawing is indispensable to learning how to see and how to think visually. It can be a mode of representing the world, a way of developing ideas, and it can be studied as an art form in its own right. We teach drawing to assist students to observe and investigate the world, to enrich their visual thinking and to express ideas in ways possible through no other medium. Students choose which orientation in drawing is most suited to them and develop their ideas and skills in consultation with faculty.

Students may propose an emphasis at Advanced and Independent levels.

These courses satisfy both the major and elective requirements for studio practice.

BCADR 2 Intermediate Drawing (Tutorial Course)

This course helps students to develop traditional drawing skills while being encouraged to investigate concepts in drawing within a contemporary context. Students are also encouraged to extend and broaden their experience of experimentation with both materials and techniques through assignments and projects.

BCADR 3 Advanced Drawing (Tutorial Course)

Students on this course already have a good working knowledge of traditional drawing skills and a willingness to experiment with both techniques and materials in a contemporary fashion. Students should be at the stage where they are starting to work in a self-motivated fashion, generating their own ideas in conjunction with the tutor.

BCADR 5 Independent Study Drawing (Tutorial Course)

Students on this course have a good working knowledge of drawing and can work in an independent and self-motivated fashion. Students should propose a specific topic for a body of work which they intend to complete during the course of the semester, and this is discussed with the tutor prior to approval.

BCADR 6 Life Drawing (Group Course)

This course is for both intermediate and advanced students. The primary focus is on observation and analytical representation of the human figure, and students are encouraged to consider different approaches to drawing. Experimentation is also encouraged, and students are helped to consider the place of the figure within contemporary art practice.

Painting

We consider painting to include visual enquiry and expression of ideas through colour and fluid mediums of any kind, possibly in conjunction with other materials. Painting ranges from traditional autographic 2D mediums such as oil, acrylic and watercolour paints to experimental use of any fluid medium as well as the digital extension of painting. Students are welcome to experiment with painting grounds too. We do not favour any one approach to painting and we encourage students to discover and develop their personal artistic standing as painters.

Approved emphases at Advanced and Independent Levels are: Figurative Painting; Abstract Painting; Narrative Painting; and Landscape Painting. Students wishing another emphasis to be identified on their transcript may apply for approval at the time of registration.

These courses satisfy both the major and elective requirements for studio practice.

BCAPA2 Intermediate Painting (Tutorial Course)

This course helps students to develop traditional or experimental approaches to painting in any painting medium(s) of the student's choice. Students are encouraged to investigate concepts in painting and the expression of painterly ideas within a contemporary context. Students are encouraged to extend and broaden their experience of techniques including

experimentation with materials through assignments and projects.

BCAPA5 Advanced Painting (Tutorial Course)

Students on this course already have a good working knowledge of traditional or experimental painting skills in one or more painterly mediums, and have a willingness to experiment with both techniques and materials in a contemporary idiom.

BCAPA7 Independent Study Painting (Tutorial Course)

Students on this course already have a good working knowledge of traditional or experimental painting skills in one or more painterly mediums. They should demonstrate willingness to experiment with both techniques and materials in a contemporary idiom, and be able to work in an independent and self-motivated fashion. Students should propose a specific topic for a body of work which they intend to complete during the course of the semester, and this is discussed with the tutor prior to approval.



Sculpture



We consider sculpture to be an open field of material practices that can additionally include aspects of other modes of art making including 2D images, 4D virtual realities, sound, video art, performance, political and socially engaged practices. Sculpture can also include temporary installations, permanent public sculpture and the world wide web as a platform for art. Our approach to teaching sculpture is interdisciplinary and focused on 'joined-up' thinking and action. We encourage a research-based studio practice that leads to innovation and the discovery and development of the students personal artistic language.



Approved emphases at Advanced and Independent levels are: Interactive and Socially Engaged Sculpture, Installation and Public Sculpture, Duration and Movement, Figurative or Sound and Virtual Space. Students wishing another emphasis to be identified on their transcript may apply for approval at the time of registration.

These courses satisfy both the major and elective requirements for studio practice.

BCASC1 Intermediate Sculpture (Tutorial Course)

This course will explore sculptural methods, techniques, materials and forms for the communication and expression of ideas. Contemporary concepts and themes will form

the basis of assignments alongside a focus on environmental and public sculpture, installation sculpture and the discrete object. Students will be encouraged to experiment with diverse, non-traditional materials and approaches to sculpture. The theory of contemporary sculpture practice will be explored through lectures, video presentations and field trips. The student will be enabled to begin developing personal artistic style and direction. This course is for intermediate sculpture students, as technical instruction is not provided.

BCASC3 Advanced Sculpture (Tutorial Course)

Advanced Sculpture is self directed, facilitated by the tutor as mentor, providing conceptual, critical and practical support. Students are encouraged to devise their own assignments in consultation with the tutor with group activities supporting them. A high level of dedication and understanding of the student's own sculpture practice is fostered and students are enabled to develop their own artistic style and direction.

BCASC4 Independent Sculpture (Tutorial Course)

The aim of the course is to aid development and sustain the artistic expression of the advanced student. The course is self directed and facilitated by the tutor in the role of mentor and fellow artist providing conceptual, critical and practical support.

Photography

We consider Photography to be a vehicle of expression, perception and artistic voice. Technical instruction is provided as appropriate. The programme is designed to encourage student engagement with the concepts as well as the mechanics of the field. Due to the relatively small scale of the college, students have a high level of concentrated access to the photographic facility as well as to tutors, peers and visiting artists. As well as working individually on guided or independent projects, students may also choose to work on a team-orientated assignment. Cross-media interaction and collaboration are actively encouraged.

Approved emphases at Advanced and Independent Levels are: Landscape and Environmental; Experimental and Conceptual; Street and Studio Portraiture; Documentary; and Student Proposed Emphasis.

These courses satisfy both the major and elective requirements for studio practice.

BCAPH1 Introductory Photography (Group Course)

This course is suitable for students who wish to learn the basics of photography through practical and technical instruction in the black and white chemical darkroom. Students learn about the history of photography along with key aesthetic and theoretical concepts which have influenced current developments in the field. Assignments include photograms, pin-hole photography, experimenting with a 35mm SLR, setting up a light studio, processing film and making high quality silver-gelatin prints. The basics of shooting, editing in CS4 and printing digital images will also be covered.





“This has been a really liberating experience. The change from the traditional assignment-based structure has allowed me to move at my own pace and that has really impacted on my work.”

Allison Cohen,
Massachusetts College of Art, Study Abroad, Spring 2009

BCAPH 3 Advanced Photography (Tutorial Course)

The course aims to provide a supportive context for the focused exploration and development of an advanced body of work. Students respond to a maximum of four thematically defined assignments, which cover conceptual and genre based classifications of photographic practice. Technical instruction is provided in accordance with individual student needs and college facilities. In addition to studio work, students will create a digital portfolio and give one researched presentation during the course. Field trips and team orientated projects may also be introduced where appropriate.

BCAPH 4 Independent Study Photography (Tutorial Course)

Students who have a special project in mind and who enjoy intensive in-depth, independent exploration benefit most from this course. It is also appropriate for students who wish to use photography to supplement or extend existing practice in other media, for example within video, performance, installation, collaborative or multi-media art forms. While this is a tutorial course, students will meet at key stages in individual project development for group critique and researched presentations which assist in contextualizing studio practice.

Adjunct Studio Courses

Adjunct studio courses are interdisciplinary courses that reflect the move away from single disciplines within contemporary fine art practice. They are suitable for intermediate and advanced students.

These courses may satisfy both major and elective requirements for studio practice.

BCAAE1 Art & Ecology (Group Course)

This course is designed for students who wish to expand their artistic practice through engaging with concepts relating to ecology, earth systems and environmental change. Through fine art practice students will investigate how our social and earth ecologies coexist within the unique context of the Burren. Through seminars, studio and site specific projects, individual tutorials and group critiques, students will explore the interconnectivity between artistic practice, ecological thinking and the changing global climate. This course is open to Intermediate and Advanced level students working across all artistic disciplines.

BCAAJ1 Live Art (Group Course)

Students are introduced to principles of live art, performance and video art practice. This course explores the body and actions of the artist as an artistic medium, the use of new media, video, sound recording and photography in relation to durational art. Practical performance workshops, including body and voice exercises are facilitated alongside basic instruction in video recording



and editing techniques for dedicated video art, video installation and documentation purposes. Generating visual and written documentation is a course requirement.

BCAAJ2 Art in Context (Tutorial Course)

This course focuses advanced and independent students on a singular project exploring a specific physical or conceptual context through art. It introduces the practice of dedicated research methods to explore the context or topic of the project. Projects are self-directed by the students with faculty support.

BCAAJ3 Mixed Media (Group Course)

This dynamic course in contemporary art practice requires students to create art works in response to current issues, exploring concepts, processes and an ideas-led approach to mixed media art. The course is structured with regular assignments inspiring students to experiment with multiple materials, methods and art forms. The class incorporates slide lectures, discussions on the assignment topics and group critiques of finished work. This course is for intermediate and advanced students only.

Liberal Arts Courses



Students may choose up to two liberal arts courses to complement their studio courses. We recommend all students take Irish Studies unless their home institution disallows it.

BCANS1 Irish Studies (Group Course)

The focus of the Irish Studies Course is to introduce students to the Burren and to provide them with a sense of place, locally, nationally and in the context of Europe. Comprising a mixture of lectures and fieldtrips, the curriculum is broad-based and holistic beginning with natural history and expanding to social history. The unique landscape features and flora and fauna of the Burren are highlighted and contrasted with other regions, such as Connemara. The course deals chronologically with Ireland's fascinating social background, from earliest pre-history to the present day. The weekly fieldtrip incorporates elements of archaeology, folklore, anthropology, architecture and artistic representation. The Gaelic Revival is afforded special coverage. The course also includes exploration of contemporary issues such as agricultural change, tourism and environmental impact. The course ends with an investigation of the background to the Northern 'troubles' and subsequent peace and the artist's role in reconciliation.

BCANS2 Art History (Group Course)

The emphasis of this course is on 20th and 21st Century developments in the visual arts, with attention to the context within which

artists developed their practice. The focus is upon movements within European and Irish Art, with reference to their relationships to contemporary American art. The course is delivered as a series of topical lectures followed by individual research projects and presentations, aimed to help contextualize students' studio practice.

This course is available in the Spring Semester only

BCANS3 Creative Writing (Group Course)

The aim of this course is to enable course participants to write original works in both poetry and prose with an understanding of some of the technical aspects of poetry and fiction writing. The course looks at key movements in literature; modernism, postmodernism, formalism. Students examine such issues as individual motivation, development of style, evaluation of classical and contemporary models, mechanics of form, experimentation, style and subject matter. There are writing exercises conducted in class facilitating the opening up of the creative subconscious, and writing assignments to be completed between classes. All students are expected to maintain a writing journal. Over the course of the semester participants are expected to complete a series of poems and one short story or novel outline with initial draft chapter.

This course is available in the Autumn Semester only.

“The second I came here I knew I needed to give into instinct, because this is the type of place that you have to engage with. You have to let every moment feed your work.”

Illesha Khandelwal, Massachusetts College of Art and Design,
Study Abroad Spring 2016



List of Course Titles Available on a BCA Transcript

Drawing

Course code	Course Title	Course Type
BCADR 2	Intermediate Drawing	Tutorial
BCADR 3	Advanced Drawing	Tutorial
	Students may propose an emphasis*	Tutorial
BCADR 5	Independent Drawing	Tutorial
	Students may propose an emphasis*	Tutorial
BCADR 6	Life Drawing	Group

*subject to faculty approval

Painting

Course code	Course Title	Course Type
BCAPA2	Intermediate Painting	Tutorial
BCAPA5	Advanced Painting	Tutorial
	Students may select from one of the following emphases: Narrative Painting, Landscape Painting, Abstract Painting, Figurative Painting or propose their own*	
BCAPA7	Independent Painting	Tutorial
	Students may select from one of the following emphases: Narrative Painting, Landscape Painting, Abstract Painting, Figurative Painting or propose their own*	

*subject to faculty approval



Sculpture

Course code	Course Title	Course Type
BCASC1	Intermediate Sculpture	Tutorial
BCASC3	Advanced Sculpture Students may select from one of the following emphases: Interactive and Socially Engaged, Installation and Public Sculpture, Duration and Movement, Figurative, Sound and Virtual Space, or propose their own*	Tutorial
BCASC4	Independent Sculpture Students may select from one of the following emphases: Interactive and Socially Engaged, Installation and Public Sculpture, Duration and Movement, Figurative, Sound and Virtual space, or propose their own*	Tutorial

*subject to faculty approval

Photography

Course code	Course Title	Course Type
BCAPH1	Introductory Photography	Group
BCAPH 3	Advanced Photography Students may select from one of the following emphases: Landscape and Environmental, Experimental and Conceptual, Street and Studio Portraiture, Documentary, or propose their own*	Tutorial
BCAPH 4	Independent Study Photography Students may select from one of the following emphases: Landscape and Environmental, Experimental and Conceptual, Street and Studio Portraiture, Documentary, or propose their own*	Tutorial

*subject to faculty approval

Adjunct Studio Courses (Emphases not available)

Course code	Course Title	Course Type
BCAAE1	Art and Ecology	Group
BCAAJ1	Live Art	Group
BCAAJ2	Art In Context	Tutorial
BCAAJ3	Mixed Media	Group

Liberal Arts Courses (Emphases not available)

Course code	Course Title	Course Type
BCANS1	Irish Studies	Group
BCANS2	Art History (Spring Semester Only)	Group
BCANS3	Creative Writing (Autumn Semester Only)	Group

Accreditation and Academic Credits

The Burren College of Art is approved by the Department of Education in Ireland.

Undergraduate courses at Burren College of Art meet the requirements of the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD) of which the college is an International Affiliate. Students may receive 15-17 credit hours each semester.

Art schools and colleges in the U.S. accept undergraduate credit directly from Burren College of Art. Member schools of the Association of Independent Colleges of Art & Design (AICAD) have a consortium agreement with Burren College of Art facilitating easy transfer of students.

Graduate programmes at Burren College of Art are accredited by the National University of Ireland, Galway.



Admissions

Application forms for all our programmes are available online at www.burrencollege.ie as well as information on our application deadlines, fees and financial aid.

Please feel free to contact Lisa Newman, Director of Marketing and Admissions, for information on the following:

- Graduate Studies (PhD, MFA and Post Bac)
- Undergraduate Studies (Individual Study Abroad)
- Undergraduate Studies (Group Study Abroad)
- Artist Residencies
- Scholarship Fund

Lisa is also available to discuss your application with you at any stage. She can be reached at lisa@burrencollege.ie or by calling (+353) 65 707 7200

We look forward to hearing from you.

Acknowledgements

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