Visual Cultures
MPhil/PhD Research Proposal

September 2024

Many thanks for your interest in studying in the Visual Cultures department.

To apply, please complete this form – answering each question separately under each point – and upload it as part of your online application. This standardised form helps us to ensure a fair process when dealing with many applications. Without this completed proposal your application will be regarded as incomplete. We thank you for your cooperation!

# Personal Details & General Application Information

1. Name and contact details, including email address.
2. Do you have an MA or equivalent in a cognate subject? If so, please supply the title of MA and grade, the name of the awarding institution, and the date of the award.
3. Would you be a Home or International student?
4. Would you be a Full-time or Part-time student?
5. Which MPhil/PhD programme are you applying for: Visual Culture or Advanced Practices?
6. Are you applying for CHASE funding (Round One/Autumn applicants only)?
7. Are you applying for SENSS funding (Round One/Autumn applicants only)?

# Your Research Project

1. What is the title (or indicative working title) of your project?
2. With which Visual Cultures Research Cluster(s) would your project be most usefully affiliated?
3. Are you applying for a PhD completed by a written thesis of 80,000-100,000 words?
4. If you are applying for a practice-based PhD project – i.e. a written thesis (50,000 to 70,000 words) plus a practice-based component – what will your practice research component consist of? (e.g. video, audio, photographic, performance based, curatorial, web-based artistic practice or any other creative artistic practice). Please outline your practice briefly (up to 150 words)
5. What is your key research question or proposition? Here we are looking for a concise and carefully focused response (up to150 words)
6. Engagement with critical literature. What are the main theoretical resources underpinning your project and why? What are the theoretical debates, contexts, and questions that your project engages with? (approx. 750 words)
7. What is your project’s original contribution to knowledge, and what gaps will it fill? Please use appropriate evidence to demonstrate the gap within existing scholarly debate (outlined above) that your project addresses, or the orthodoxy from which it departs. (approx. 750 words)
8. What is your proposed methodology and why? How do you plan to research your subject? What kinds of materials are you likely to use or have already engaged with? (approx. 750 words)
9. Please include a bibliography of 10 key references.
10. Please include a timeline for your research project.

# Your Motivations and Commitment

1. Please provide a brief account of your personal investment in this project. Why do you believe that this work needs to be done? (approx. 150 words)
2. Completing a PhD is a matter of resilience and determination as well as intellectual ability. What evidence can you provide of your capacity to successfully work to deadline, overcome obstacles, and invest in complex or extended projects? (approx. 150 words)
3. On what basis are you confident that - as far as you can judge at this stage - you have the necessary resources in terms of time and finances to commit to this long-term project? Are you applying for external funding? (approx. 150 words)
4. Explain your interest in the Visual Cultures department. Why do you think your project is well placed here? What aspect are of particular interest to you, your research project, your approach to academic study? (In addition to your work with a supervisor or supervisor team, we are keen for every postgraduate researcher to become part of your research community and for you to benefit from it.) (approx. 150 words)

# Additional Materials

You may include visual materials where appropriate (please make sure the overall PDF does not exceed 5MB). Where necessary, you should also comment upon the balance of practical/theoretical research in your overall research scheme.

Thank you very much for your time and interest and we look forward to reading your application!