Faculty of the Victorian College of the Arts and Melbourne Conservatorium of Music

The Faculty of VCA and MCM is one of Australia’s leading institutions for education and training in the visual and performing arts, where creative people from a diverse range of cultures gain the skills, inspiration and confidence to thrive in a competitive environment.

The Faculty combines the facilities of seven disciplines and two centres dedicated to educating and training artists in the following art forms: visual art, dance, film and television, music, music theatre, production and theatre practice.

The Faculty enjoys wide recognition among the international arts community. It is a member of the European League of Institutes of the Arts (ELIA); the International Council of Fine Arts Deans (ICFAD); the International Association of Film and Television Schools (CILECT); the Australian Council of University Art and Design Schools (ACUADS) and is an international affiliate of the Association of Independent Colleges of Art and Design (AICAD).

Visual Art

Visual Art provides studio and workshop facilities which offer students the opportunity to explore both traditional and new media under the guidance of some of Australia’s most challenging art educators and respected artists.

Programs

Master of Contemporary Art (exchange)

The Master of Contemporary Art is a two-year postgraduate professional degree for artists. It is designed to encourage speculative, experimental and lateral thinking and a critical engagement in the procedures of Contemporary Art. Its emphasis is on the refinement of individual art practice and its material and theoretical realisation. The course is organised into two semester–long projects in first year, and one year-long project in the second. There is also an art-theoretical subject taken simultaneous to the projects. Successful exchange applicants would normally be admitted into the first year of the course, but final decisions on this are taken in negotiation around the applicant’s folio and academic record.

Contact hours per week
9 hours per week in the first year of the program and 6 hours per week in second year of the program

Course Duration
14 week semester plus assessment and exhibition periods

Materials Costs
Materials costs vary according to the student’s project and media.

Tuition Fees
Tuition fees are covered under the Exchange agreement between the University of Melbourne and your home institution.

Bachelor of Fine Arts (Visual Art) (exchange)

Studio Studies in the Bachelor of Fine Arts (Visual Art) degree offers programs with an academic focus in Painting, Drawing and Printmedia, Photography, or Sculpture and Spatial Practice.

Students choose from a menu of studio programs, according to specific technological and material practices, that provide an imaginative and creative focus for their studies. In addition to studio studies students are required to undertake the adjunct studies as a co-requisite, including Critical and Theoretical Studies and the elective or Intensive Practice subject.
Areas of Study

Drawing and Printmedia
Drawing and Printmedia at VCA School of Art, is taught in an engaging, immersive, studio and workshop based environment. This course will assist you to develop your technical and conceptual skills across a wide range of methodologies. Drawing and Printmedia will also provide you with the opportunity to develop additional skills to pursue the practice of a professional working artist, and prepare you to critically engage in the debates of contemporary visual art.

The course in Drawing and Printmedia will assist you to:

- Develop your imaging skills through practical experience in a range of Drawing and Printmedia methodologies.
- Employ a variety of experimental strategies using new and traditional technologies to develop a range of innovative visual solutions.
- Build skills in critical analysis and debate through the expression of your opinions, ideas and observations.
- Analyse and contextualise visual concepts with reference to contemporary practice.
- Develop an in depth understanding and knowledge of Drawing and Printmedia practice within historical, contemporary and theoretical contexts
- Gain artistic independence to develop a professional attitude toward studio practice

Painting
Painting at VCA is taught in an immersive, studio-based environment. The Painting program reflects the diversity of contemporary visual art and provides assistance and encouragement in the development of independent and conceptually innovative practice. The program encourages you to explore the protocols of painting through a range of techniques and methodologies, in addition to alternative media, new technologies and procedures in order to develop independent thinking and personal direction.

The course assists you to:
Develop a sound knowledge of traditional and contemporary painting skills, techniques and concepts.

- Gain experience in new technologies and procedures and alternative media and methodologies.
- Build skills in critical analysis, to enable confident expression of your opinions, ideas and observations.
- Gain awareness of the broader, historical, contemporary and theoretical context in which you work.
- Engage in informed critical debate while developing independent modes of practice.
- Facilitate the development of independent concepts applicable for a career as a practicing professional artist.

Photography
Photography at the VCA provides rich experience in contemporary photographic practice and theory. The program reflects the diversity of contemporary art and the nature of critical discourse.

If you study photography at the VCA, you will be introduced to the wide range of technical and conceptual photographic practices necessary for developing your own professional art practice.

Your studies will focus on the studio environment. It is here that you are encouraged to explore independent modes of practice, examine various methodologies, and hone your technical skills in black and white photography, colour processing and printing, digital imaging and the projected image in installation.

In addition to the hands-on photography experience, our Professional Practice subject introduces you to procedures, practices and protocols that give you the necessary skills and knowledge to function as practicing professional artist.
**Sculpture and Spatial Practice**

Study Sculpture and Spatial Practice at the VCA and step into a world that prepares you for a rewarding and engaging career as a practicing artist.

The Sculpture and Spatial Practice program will give you the framework, information, ideas, experiences and skills that you need to pursue a future as a practicing artist in a broad range of contemporary sculptural, spatial and related activities.

Students are encouraged to identify and pursue personal interests and approaches, initially through structured semesters followed by independently led studio practice. The program is located within critical art discourse and students are encouraged to engage in the techniques and processes that fully expand their emerging artistic endeavours. These often include installation, public art, mould making, bronze casting, assemblage, construction, video and other media.

The unique combination of studio time, lectures, workshops and tutorials, alongside access to the various Art Workshops and technicians, is designed to nurture students’ practical and conceptual development, whilst encouraging individuals to pursue diverse directions and goals.

**Subjects**

Successful Exchange applicants normally enter into second year. However, this is determined upon examination of the applicant’s folio and academic record.

Below is an example of a typical second year course for 2013:

**Semester one:**
- Studio Studies 3
- Critical and Theoretical Studies 3
- VCA Elective or Studio Options 1

**Semester two:**
- Studio Studies 4
- Critical and Theoretical Studies 4
- VCA Elective or Studio Options 2

Further information is available from the University of Melbourne undergraduate handbook at [https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au](https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au)

**Contact hours per week**

The Visual Art exchange course involves between 8 and 12 contact hours and between 17 and 21 supervised studio hours per week.

Contact and supervised studio hours are included in each of the subject descriptions in the handbook (see the link above) to accurately reflect the mode of teaching and supervision.

Contact hours include attendance at classes, tutorials, workshops, demonstrations, other individual instruction and excursions. Supervised studio hours are the hours that students are expected to commit to working in their studios to fulfil course requirements.

Mid-semester reviews are held in the middle of each semester of the course to monitor progress in the studio subject and to give each student an opportunity to formally address any issues affecting the student’s work.

**Course Duration**

12 weeks per semester, plus 2 weeks folio preparation
Tuition Fees
Tuition fees are covered under the Exchange agreement between the University of Melbourne and your home institution.

Material Costs
Please note that the tuition fee does not include any costs incurred by the successful applicant in order to complete their course. Successful applicants can expect to spend in the vicinity of AUD$500 - AUD$750 during a semester. However, the cost of materials will depend on the scope and scale of the work undertaken.

Visual Art conducts a voluntary materials levy scheme which successful applicants may choose to use to purchase certain materials. In 2013 the levies for a full year are dependant on the year level and practice area. Further information is available from the School Office or the Student Centre.

Art works that are produced as part of the course remain the property of the successful applicant.

Course Enquiries
Email: vcamcm-app@unimelb.edu.au
Telephone: 61 3 9035 9469 (Monday-Friday 9.00am –4.00pm EST)
Fax: 61 3 9035 9358
Web: http://www.vca-mcm.unimelb.edu.au/international/mobility

Application Instructions

1. Complete the online application process at:

2. Prepare a folio of digital images or video as per the guidelines below. The folio should consist of, or document, recent work relevant to the chosen stream – a maximum of 15 images or 10 minutes of video on either CD ROM or DVD.

FOLIO GUIDELINES

Drawing and Printmedia
A comprehensive folio (twenty selected works minimum) demonstrating an engagement in drawing and/or printmedia. The folio should include: life and general drawings, sketchbooks; and/or any other relevant work, such as paintings, photographs, journals, three-dimensional objects and new media works.

Painting
Eight to ten paintings, a folio of drawings and other works on paper, which may include: prints, collage, photo and digital based works; other relevant materials which may indicate broader aspects of the applicant’s practice.

Photography
Visual material that demonstrates an exploration and expression of ideas with an emphasis on lens-based media including: prints, videos and films. The folio should include visual diaries and other relevant work that indicates broader aspects of the applicant’s practice.

Sculpture and Spatial Practice
Evidence of developing an interest in sculpture and spatial practice, preferably by the presentation of works or projects. Other evidence of research and inquiry into the discipline, such as journals, notebooks, drawings and essays will be an advantage. Support material can include: life drawings, paintings, prints, photographs and other relevant material, which may indicate broader aspects of the applicant’s practice.
FOLIO SPECIFICATIONS

- Digital images must be saved as JPEG files on CD-ROM. File size should be about 500kb. No single image should exceed 1mb. Recommended resolution is 1024 x 768, 72dpi.
- Video, sound and film-based artists should make a compilation DVD of their work. Video works must be submitted as QuickTime files on CD-ROM or DVD.
- All files must be numbered to correspond to a separate listing of the title, date, medium and dimensions of each work.
- Applicants should provide explanatory notes of the folio of up to 300 words in English.
- Please check all disks before submission to ensure they play as intended. Disks are to be labelled clearly with your full name, course name, application ID number and contact details.

3. Obtain letters of recommendation from two lecturers, artists or professors

4. Send your folio CD and letters of recommendation to:

Melbourne Global Mobility
John Smyth Building
Swanston Street
The University of Melbourne
Parkville Victoria 3010
Australia

NOTES

- Please note: All written documentation and audition CDs or DVDs will be retained by the Faculty
- Information provided in languages other than English must be accompanied by an official certified translation.

OTHER INFORMATION

Financial Aid for USA Students
The University of Melbourne is able to accept USA students who are recipients of USA Federal Aid Student Loans. Applicants are required to state the University of Melbourne's school code when applying for a loan. The school code for the University of Melbourne is G08505.

Transport
The Faculty’s Southbank campus is located along St Kilda Road and is 20 minutes from the airport by taxi. In addition, Melbourne has an excellent public transport system with trams, buses and trains running everyday throughout the city.

Accommodation
The University of Melbourne offers a housing service to Study Abroad and Exchange students. Information about the accommodation options available, as well as the on-line application form, is available at:

Work
Part time work is possible for exchange students although there will be restrictions on where and the amount of hours students are allowed to work.
Melbourne: the Arts Capital of Australia
The Faculty of the VCA and Music is located in the thriving arts precinct in Melbourne, which is home to the Australian Ballet, Playbox Theatre Company, the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, the Chunky Move Dance Company, the ABC Studios, the State Theatre, Hamer Concert Hall and the National Gallery of Victoria.

This vibrant cultural city is the home of the annual Melbourne International Arts Festival, the Melbourne Fringe Festival, the Melbourne Comedy Festival, the Melbourne International Film Festival – one of the longest running – and the Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition.

The Economist Intelligence Unit has twice rated Melbourne the most liveable city in the world. The survey ranks 130 cities against factors such as health and safety, infrastructure, culture and environment (Economist Intelligence Unit, London, 2004).

Melbourne has a population of approximately 3.52 million people. Languages most commonly spoken in Australia are English, Italian, Greek, Cantonese, Arabic, Vietnamese and Mandarin. Collectively, Australians speak over 200 languages, including 45 indigenous languages (Australian Bureau of Statistics, Year Book Australia 2004).

Due to its multicultural influences, Melbourne is home to some truly diverse food representing the multitude of ethnic groups in Australia with various restaurants and eateries to cater for every taste and budget.