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 Art (exchange)

Studio Studies in the Bachelor of Fine Arts (Visual Art) degree offers programs with an academic focus in Drawing, Painting, Photography, Printmaking, and 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 courses delivered through the Centre for Ideas.
Areas of Study

Drawing
Drawing aims to assist the successful applicant to develop proficient imaging skills through practical experience in a range of drawing mediums and methodologies; to gain experience using a range of new and traditional technologies; to utilise innovative approaches and participate in critical debate; to consider their work within a broad cultural context; to develop conceptual awareness and an independent, professional attitude to studio practice.

Painting
Painting aims to assist students to explore a range of new and traditional painting methodologies through individual studio-based practice. The course is designed to include painting as part of the diverse framework of contemporary visual arts practice and the critical discourse which surrounds it. Students are encouraged to experiment broadly, utilising innovative conceptual and technical approaches to develop independent modes of practice.

Photography
Photography aims to provide successful applicants with experience in contemporary photographic theory and practice. The course is designed to reflect the diversity of contemporary fine art and the nature of critical discourse with which it is involved. The studio is where the successful applicant is encouraged to develop independent modes of practice. Successful applicants explore various methodologies that are supported by technical classes in black and white, colour processing and printing, digital imaging and the projected image in installation.

Printmaking
Printmaking provides an introduction to the techniques, materials and expressive potential of printmaking in the areas of media, viz., intaglio and relief and direct and offset lithography. The course is designed to reflect the diversity of contemporary fine art and the nature of critical discourse with which it is involved. The studio is where the successful applicant is encouraged to develop independent modes of practice.

Sculpture and Spatial Practice
Sculpture & Spatial Practice aims to provide the successful applicant with experience of the professional, conceptual and practical skills required to practise as a contemporary artist working in the three-dimensional realm. The course structure reflects the diversity of contemporary art practice and critical engagement with the art world. Students undertake a number of projects and professional development activities that prepare them for an independent and robust practice beyond the institution.

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 2012:

Semester one:
- 755201 Studio Studies 3
- 755268 Critical and Theoretical Studies 3
- 754202 The World in the Artist 2A

Note: there is no elective option available for semester one.

Semester two:
- 755202 Studio Studies 4
- 755270 Critical and Theoretical Studies 4
- 754203 The World in the Artist 2B
- One elective is chosen from drawing, painting, photography, printmaking or sculpture.
Further information is available from the University of Melbourne undergraduate handbook at 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 major study 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
16 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 2011 the levies for a full year are as follows: Drawing AU$300.00, Painting AU$400, Photography AU$400, Printmaking AU$ 400 and Sculpture & Spatial Practice AU$400. These amounts are halved for single semester exchange programs.

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

Course Enquiries
Email: vcam-international@unimelb.edu.au
Telephone: 61 3 9685 9469 (Monday-Friday 9.00am – 4.00pm EST)
Fax: 61 3 9685 9358
Web: http://www.vcam.unimelb.edu.au/international

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
A minimum folio of twenty selected works demonstrating an engagement in drawing and related processes. The folio should include: life drawings, sketchbooks; and/or any other relevant work, such as 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.

Printmaking
A comprehensive folio of selected work. The folio may include: prints, drawings (figure and general) and paintings as well as sketchbooks. Other visual material, such as photographs, may be included.

Sculpture and Spatial Practice
Evidence of a developing 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
Level 1, Old Geology Building
Masson Road
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: http://cms.unimelb.edu.au/studentservices/international/saex/longterm#housingpackages

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.