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Postgraduate
Research
Degrees in
MIRIAD

Think then think again



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Make it yours

MIRIAD

Manchester Institute for Research and Innovation in Art and Design supports research degrees in the Faculty of Art and Design on a full and part-time basis at MA, MPhil and PhD Level in the practices, professions, histories and theories of Art, Architecture, Craft, Design, Film and Media Arts.

Art and Design at MMU has a distinctive 170 year history and in the 1960's it pioneered the practice-led Master of Philosophy (MPhil) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD). Today MIRIAD provides a nationally recognised and unique environment for postgraduate education and has strong relationships with galleries, museums, and the creative industries in the region and beyond.

Focus of study

The degrees offered by MIRIAD provide students with the opportunity to undertake research projects with over 50 nationally and internationally recognised researchers, historians, theorists, practitioners and professionals. MIRIAD alone employs three research professors, six research fellows and houses the Arts for Health Unit.

Research themes available to students are inline with the Research Council UK strategic themes of sustainability, ecology, health, identity, memory and place, conflict, heritage, art and science, the digital economy and creative industries. Students have associate membership of the MIRIAD Research Centres for Architecture, Craft, Design, Art, Media and Visual Culture, and where appropriate the Arts for Health Unit.

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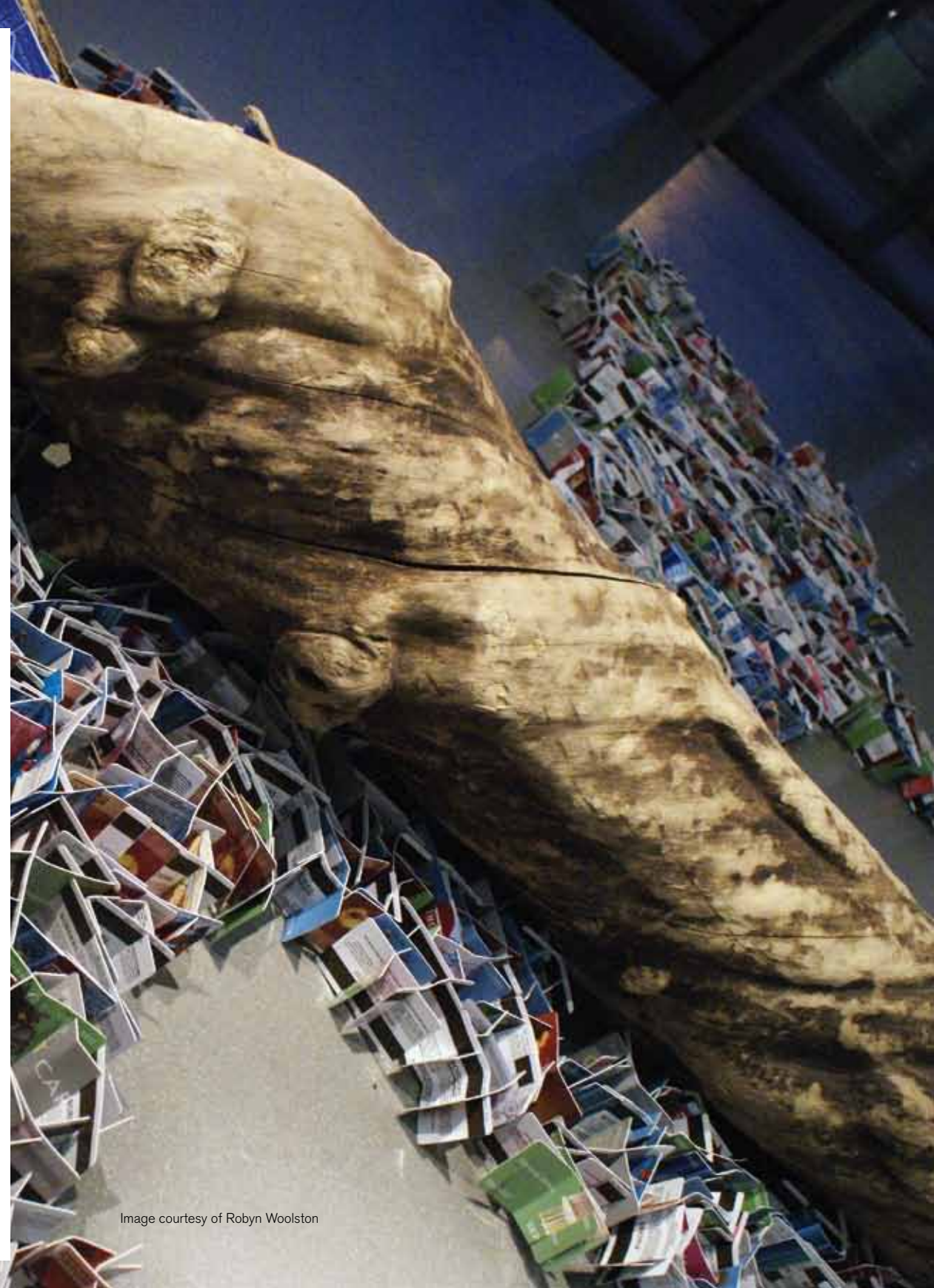
Environment

MIRIAD has a thriving community of approximately 40 students and is situated close to the centre of Manchester in the Righton Building, on the All Saints Campus. This refurbished former Edwardian department store offers IT drop-in, secure office space, flexible project areas, work spaces and a central event atrium for researchers, research students and staff.

The nurturing environment of MIRIAD provides flexible learning opportunities and promotes the progression from masters to doctoral level.

Leaders of a Regional Training Network

Since 2003 MIRIAD has led a regional research training network, **PARCNorthWest** (Practice as Research Consortium), which is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and provides additional research training in the creative arts and industries. The consortium consists of 13 participating departments from 12 Higher Education Institutes encompassing the range of creative arts, from theories and histories to the practices and professions of art, architecture, craft, design, creative writing, media, music and performance.



Levels of Study

MIRIAD supports research degrees on a full and part-time basis at MA, MPhil and PhD Level.



MA by Research

Research projects are proposal driven and while the project may be self-contained, the emphasis is on research training. Projects are generally designed to test appropriate methods and theories in the chosen area of study and may be work-based.

Masters degrees are normally taken by candidates with good Honours degrees (or equivalent).

Full-time students must submit within 12 months and part-time students within 24 months. Conferment will take place within 24 and 36 months respectively.

The text of the thesis should normally not exceed (excluding ancillary data such as footnotes, bibliographies, diagrams and references) 30,000 words.

Where the submission is accompanied by material in other than written form the written component should normally be within the range of 10,000-15,000 words.

Successful completion of MA by Research with suitable research training driven projects allows students to progress directly onto the Doctoral Programme immediately prior to Transfer stage and enables the candidate to complete a doctoral project with two years further full-time study.



Master of Philosophy (MPhil)

Longer research-based programmes lead to the degree of Master of Philosophy. They are taken by candidates with good Honours degrees and studied over at least eighteen months of full-time study.

Full-time students must submit within 18 months and part-time students within 36 months. Conferment will take place within 36 and 48 months respectively.

The text of the thesis should normally not exceed (excluding ancillary data such as footnotes, bibliographies, diagrams and references) 40,000 words.

Where the submission is accompanied by material in other than written form the written component should normally be within the range of 15,000-20,000 words.

Doctoral Level (PhD)

Doctorates are awarded for the creation and interpretation of knowledge, which extends the forefront of a discipline, usually through original research and critical thinking. Holders of doctorates will be able to conceptualise, design and implement projects for the generation of new knowledge and/or understanding.

Holders of doctorates will have the qualities needed for enterprise and employment requiring the ability to make informed judgements on complex issues in specialist fields, and innovation in tackling and solving problems.

The degree of Doctor of Philosophy is normally taken by candidates with at least a Masters degree or equivalent.

There are a number of alternative routes. There is the traditional PhD by thesis, PhD by Published Work (Routes 1 & 2) for researchers with an established track record and PhD by Practice (Route 3) designed for creative practitioners.

Levels of Study

(continued)

PhD by Thesis

Full-time students must submit within 36 months and part-time students within 60 months. Conferment will take place within 48 and 72 months respectively.

The text of the thesis should normally not exceed (excluding ancillary data such as footnotes, bibliographies, diagrams and references) 80,000 words.

Where the submission is accompanied by material in other than written form the written component should normally be within the range of 30,000-40,000 words.

PhD by Published Work (Route 1)

Full-time students must submit within 24 months and part-time students within 48 months. Conferment will take place within 36 and 60 months respectively. The analytical commentary (thesis) which accompanies the submission should be within the range of 10,000-15,000 words.

PhD by Published Work (Route 2)

Full-time students must submit within 6 months and part-time students within 12 months. Conferment will take place within 18 and 24 months respectively. The analytical commentary (thesis) which accompanies the submission should be within the range of 10,000-15,000 words.

PhD by Practice (Route 3)

Designed for candidates who are practicing in a working research environment with the objective of producing outputs in a professional and/or studio context.

This route is suitable for established practitioners and recent postgraduates engaged in professional practice.

The submission is in two parts:

1) the portfolio of work;

The portfolio should contain work of a professional standard. The body of work would be what can be reasonably achieved within three years of full-time study or part-time equivalent.

2) an analytical commentary (thesis);

The analytical commentary provides the evidence for the contribution of the practice to the field (i.e. the level of intellectual engagement, context and originality) and it might be constituted in a number of different discursive forms. It will provide a critical reflection on the approaches, methods and theories deployed, an explanation of the technical procedures employed, and may discuss the works' aesthetic premises in its relevant historical, theoretical or critical contexts. It should normally be between 10,000-30,000 words in length.

Full-time students must submit within 36 months and part-time students within 48 months. Conferment will take place within 60 and 72 months respectively.

Studying at MIRIAD

Doctoral study can be directed towards a research or professional career. With the assistance of your supervisory team in the first months after enrolling at the University you are expected to refine and complete your research proposal. Once approved you are registered as an MPhil student.



After a maximum of 15 months full-time study you complete a transfer report for registration as a PhD student. These and other mechanisms such as regular tutorials and annual monitoring and evaluation are designed to support your progress during your research. You keep a personal development portfolio as a record of your practice to assist you in researching, contextualising and reflecting upon your programme of study.

Research Students Benefit From

- Specialist individual support from a dedicated team of supervisors
- An individual assessment of skills support
- Specialist and generalist programmes in research methodology
- Research workshops, surgeries and one-to-one tuition
- An IT drop-in centre
- Excellent library provision
- A programme of student-led seminars
- A rigorous system for monitoring and encouragement of your progress
- The opportunities of the wider research culture and events provided by MIRIAD through its Research Centres
- Membership of a dynamic research community
- Workshops and resources recognised as outstanding by the national Quality Assurance Agency
- Secure office space

Images courtesy of Dr Annie Shaw



Your Practice

Practice defines everything that you do, whether that is making, writing, or both. Practice can result in any agreed form capable of producing evidence of an appropriate level of achievement – visual, written, aural or digital. Studio-based submissions are accompanied by a written critical report.

Study is based upon the importance of researching, testing and reflecting upon practice.

Practice is supported, developed and challenged through workshops, lectures, critiques, discussions, studio and learning cultures, visiting practitioners, specialist tutorials and personal tutorials.

Postgraduate Research Support

Every student is supervised by at least two experienced researchers. Further academic support is provided through lectures on research methods provided by the Institute and the University, one to one surgery sessions, an annual progress review, work in progress seminars involving staff and students, including a student-led seminar programme. Taught elements from the MA programme, such as Theory courses are also available (Thursdays).

Researchers are encouraged to contribute to seminars and conferences and there are opportunities to exhibit work. Financial support for research expenses and conference attendance can be made available.

Attendance

All Programmes commence towards the end of September/beginning of October. Research methods and other taught elements for PhD level students normally take place on Wednesday of each week.

Funding

Studentship Awards

There are a limited amount of full and fees only studentships for MA by Research and MPhil/PhD provided by MIRIAD and supplemented by the AHRC Block Grant Partnership. These are across the range of subjects embraced by MIRIAD and are advertised nationally, usually in Spring.

Arts and Humanities Research Council Block Grant Partnerships – Masters and Doctoral Awards

One of the programme's major achievements has been the award of postgraduate studentships from the Arts & Humanities Research Council under their new Block Grant Partnership (BGP).

MMU is one of only four 'new' universities to gain the funding for postgraduate studies in Arts and Humanities: "Only research organisations which have shown strong evidence of excellent strategic planning for, and delivery of, high-quality postgraduate research and training have received BGPs," said the AHRC. The Council added: "We are particularly pleased to make these awards at a time when there is uncertainty for graduates in the employment market."

The BGP grants cover the following subjects:

- Cultural Studies
- Fine Art
- History of Art, Architecture and Design
- Design (including Architecture)

The University will receive a number of Professional Preparation Masters Awards, Research Preparation Masters Awards and Doctoral Awards spread over the period 2009-2013.

When to apply

Applications for research degrees are invited at any time during the academic year. If you wish to apply for a studentship deadlines are advertised nationally and on the website. There are three entry points in October, January and July. Forms can be downloaded from the website.

Qualities we look for

We will only offer you a place if you are qualified and able to demonstrate intellectual curiosity, organisational ability, aptitude and expertise for major in-depth investigation. You must also possess the practical skills required for the executive aspects of your particular area of work.

Students are often practising artists, designers, writers, theorists, historians and educators.

Applications to Research Degrees Programme are encouraged from people with humanities as well as art and design backgrounds.

International Applicants

You must provide evidence of practical work in a suitable format i.e. CD, DVD or PowerPoint. Written work in English must be submitted along with evidence of qualifications and an Individual Study Plan. If English is not your first language, you must be able to communicate to a high level in English (ELTS level 7.0 as a minimum standard).

If you are interested in these research opportunities, feel free to get in touch or make a time to call in. We will offer you guidance in clarifying what you want to do and advise on the best ways in which you can develop towards your goals.

Research Proposal

The most important part of your application is the research proposal. You must seriously consider and identify your research question, your method and any additional skills or resources you might need to complete the project. Research at PhD level should make an original contribution to knowledge and this can be identified by careful attention to the wider critical and cultural contexts of your proposal.

When you make an application be sure to address the points raised in the Guidelines (these can be found on the application form). They are designed to assist you in providing the information we need to make an assessment of your research project. Ensure the proposal is achievable and think how your programme of research might develop over the period of registration.

Studio-based, practice-led and practice as research proposals will be considered in combination with visual evidence in the form of PowerPoints and/or CD/DVD in the application submission.

Make it yours

If you are interested in other courses within the Faculty of Art and Design, please visit www.artdes.mmu.ac.uk

Special thanks to all the students, staff and photographers whose work is featured in this publication.

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The University will use all reasonable endeavours to deliver programmes in accordance with the descriptions set out in this prospectus and other promotional material. However, the University reserves the right to make variations to the contents or methods of delivery of programmes, to discontinue programmes, if such action is reasonably considered necessary by the University. If the University discontinues any programme, it will use its reasonable endeavours to provide a suitable alternative programme.

Please note that by entering into a student contract with MMU you will be consenting to MMU using any intellectual property rights created by you during your studentship at MMU for any purposes including, but not limited to, marketing.



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