

## INTRODUCTORY COURSE INFORMATION

### **Course Title:** MA in Visual Islamic and Traditional Arts

Awarding Body: University of Wales Trinity Saint David (UWTSD)

Accreditation: The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA)

Length of Course: 2 years full-time

Location of Study: 19-22 Charlotte Road, London EC2A 3SG

**Validation:** The School is validated by UWTSD. Students who complete the course successfully will receive a Masters degree from UWTSD. The agreement between our School and UWTSD is reviewed every five years and was last renewed in August 2014.

**Accreditation:** The course is accredited by the QAA with its last full inspection in October 2016. The School is subject to annual monitoring by the QAA and will undergo its next full review in October 2020.

**Tier 4 Sponsorship:** The School is a Tier 4 Sponsor. It had its licence renewed on 10 July 2017 and will have its next review in July 2021.

**Duration:** 2 years full-time

**Academic year:** 24 September – 7 December 2018 (Autumn term)

7 January – 22 March 2019 (Spring term)

23 April – 12 July 2019 (Summer term)

**MA course duration:** MA students starting in September 2018 will complete in July 2020.

MA students starting in September 2019 will complete in July 2021

**Research Project:** Before starting the MA course, incoming students will be asked to complete a research project over the summer prior to their registration. This is usually sent out in June and will be reviewed during the first week of the academic year.

**Timetables:** Timetables are normally available at the end of July and are sent with the induction papers prior to registration. As schedules on timetables may change throughout the year, students should keep an eye on the termly notice board situated on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor where timetable information is updated.



### **Entry requirements and admissions process 2018-19:**

Applicants will be expected to have either an undergraduate degree or, if applying based on relevant experience, two references and a CV.

To apply for the MA, candidates will need to

- complete the MA application online
- pay an application fee of £30
- provide a written, academic reference and
- a portfolio of artwork.

The portfolio should present a study of the traditional art form on which the candidate wishes to be assessed and should include about 20 or more relevant, visual works e.g. drawings, paintings and, if appropriate, 3-D forms.

Since an academic reference is required, applicants should choose someone who is familiar with their work and who understands the demands of this MA course. They should be able to make detailed, informed comments on the applicant's qualifications, ability, motivation and character.

Applicants with a UK undergraduate degree or recognised equivalent will have to provide a copy of their certificate and transcript as evidence. Applicants with no undergraduate degree will need to provide two references each of which should comment specifically on the role that the student has undertaken e.g. job title, dates of employment, nature of the work, specific experience relevant to the course. These applicants should also submit a CV detailing the applicant's suitability for the course study, e.g. specific employment dates, job titles, descriptions of tasks undertaken in employment etc.

The references, portfolios and CV should be sent separately from the application form to the Registrar.

The portfolio can be sent electronically via Dropbox or We Transfer, delivered directly to the School or sent in the post.

The references and CV can be emailed or sent by post.

The Registrar's email address is [ririko.suzuki@psta.org.uk](mailto:ririko.suzuki@psta.org.uk).

The end of February is submission deadline.

During the Part 1 Admissions, the Committee will review all the applications received and decide which candidates to interview. Selected UK-based applicants will be offered face-to-face interviews; international students will be offered interviews by Skype or telephone.

Interviews usually take place in March and final decision letters are sent out by April.

### **International students**

If English is not your first language you need an UKVI recognised secure IELTS score of 6.0, with a minimum score of 5.5 in each component (Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking) unless you have obtained a degree from a UK university or a majority English speaking country.

Candidates with a degree from a majority English-speaking country will need to provide a NARIC evidence that the award they received is equivalent to a degree from the UK.

### **Living costs**

You must have enough money to support yourself while you are studying in the UK. You will need to show £1,265.00 for each month of your course for a maximum of nine months. You would need to show you have the tuition fee of £10,000 plus maintenance for 9 months at £1,265.00 for each month totalling £11,385.00. Therefore tuition fee of £10,000 and maintenance of £11,385 = £21,385 (please check the amounts for maintenance as they change every year).

### **Scholarships**

The School has some scholarships available to help with tuition fees. This assistance may only be partial and is only to assist with tuition fees. Applicants will be asked on their application form how they would fund themselves, so if they wish to be considered for scholarship assistance, they should mention their interest on the application form. Candidates will also be asked how they propose to fund themselves if they are invited to an interview.

Scholarships are only considered once candidates have been offered places on the MA and the School has received notification of all acceptances. Successful candidates who are granted scholarships will still need to maintain themselves for two years: the School offers no scholarships for maintenance.

### **The 28 day rule for overseas students applying for a visa**

Overseas applicants who are funding themselves will need to have the full amount of money for maintenance and fees either in their bank account or in a parent's bank account for a full 28 days before the date of their application. A bank statement (or statements) confirming this covering a 28-day period ending no more than one month before the date of application should be submitted.

Bank or building society statements must contain:

- applicant's name
- applicant's bank or building society account number
- the date of the statement
- the financial institution's name and logo
- the amount of money available

Applicants who have been offered a loan or sponsorship must present an official letter confirming this from their loaner or sponsor.

### **Course Overview**

The Prince's Foundation School of Traditional Arts has pioneered practical postgraduate degrees (at Masters and Doctoral levels) in the traditional arts of the great civilisations of the world. The School emphasises the importance of integrating the theoretical study of the traditional arts with their practical application.

### **Programme Structure**

The MA degree is a two year, full-time course, structured in two parts:

**Part One (Level 7)** comprises a series of five compulsory modules in a variety of traditional arts and crafts.

**Part Two (Level 7)** is a final Traditional Arts and Craft Major Assignment module with self-generated project work developed from the skills and knowledge acquired through the completion of the Part One modules. Geometry is the only course which is taught over the two years.

The course operates on a modular basis. The first year will consist of 120 credits and the second year will consist of 60 credits.

### **Postgraduate Certificate and Diploma in Visual Islamic and Traditional Arts**

Candidates may be awarded the Postgraduate Certificate in Visual Islamic and Traditional Arts on successful completion of 60 credits.

Candidates may also be awarded the Postgraduate Diploma in Visual Islamic and Traditional Arts on successful completion of 120 credits which would be equivalent to Part I, the first year of the MA degree. This diploma is an exit award and not a separate qualification.

## Module Information

### Module Map

This module map provides a list of the modules that make up our MA Degree course.

Each module is worth a specified number of credits adding up to 120 credits in the first year and 60 credits for the second year.

The Traditional Painting, Architectural Crafts, and Ceramic Craft, Letterforms and Islimi modules are each 30 credits; Geometry module is 20 credits and the Contextual Studies module is 10 credits. As well as completing practical work, students are expected to produce reflective journals for each course.

### Year 1

#### **Traditional Painting Techniques module (30 credits)**

Methods and materials, gesso panels, gilding, colour theory  
Icon painting techniques  
Persian and Indian miniature painting

#### **Architectural Crafts module (30 credits)**

Wood parquetry  
Stained glass  
2 x A1 field trip study sheets

#### **Ceramic Crafts, Letterforms and Islimi (30 credits)**

Ceramic tiles and plates  
Western calligraphy  
Islimi

#### **Traditional and Islamic Geometry (20 credits)**

Geometry  
Geometry of structure

#### **Contextual Studies (10 credits)**

A series of seminars and lectures

2,000 – 3,000 word essay to be handed in at the beginning of the Spring term of the first year.

5,000 – 7,000 word essay to be handed in at the end of August at the end of the first year.



### **Year 2**

#### **Arts and Crafts Major Assignment**

There will be geometry classes during the Autumn and Spring terms. Each second-year student will be allocated a supervisor. A series of formal tutorials and MA crits will be organised over the three terms.

Each student's practical and written work is guided by regularly scheduled tutorials. MA group tutorials are attended by two or three senior tutors, apart from the shorter 'theory' tutorials which are usually one-to-one student:staff ratio. The tutorials are an important and integral part of the programme, ensuring each student progresses smoothly with his or her work in an unhurried and contemplative way – qualities essential to traditional crafts practice. Students can questions about any problems and the tutors will help them as much as they can.

Tutors take notes and keep these in the student's file in order to monitor progress carefully. Tutors will also organise less formal peripatetic studio tutorials if necessary.

Students will work on their Part 2 self-directed study for the Arts and Crafts Major Assignment module and will need to produce a diary and two A1 study sheets recording their progress on the project. The format of this diary is flexible to suit the particular nature of the individual student's work. It should cover the phases of development and the research resources that the student has used in order to reach their final conclusions – including sketch designs and annotated visual research.

## MA in Visual Islamic and Traditional Arts

### Teaching and Learning

In the first year students are taught through a combination of practical classes, seminars and lectures. In addition, three module reviews and termly tutorials are timetabled with tutors. There will also be informal peripatetic studio tutorials.

Students have access to studio and workshop space throughout the year during week days from 7.30 am – 9 pm and on Saturdays during term time 10 am – 5 pm.

A field study trip is organised every year and first years are expected to produce two A1 study sheets based on this trip for the Architectural Crafts module. Students also take part in a collaborative geometry of structure and ceramic plate with students from the Royal College of Art (RCA) in addition to the taught modules.

In the second year geometry classes are the only classes taught. Students are assigned a personal tutor and have timetabled MA crits and termly tutorials. There will also be informal peripatetic studio tutorials.

All MA students are expected to attend classes during term time on week days from 9.30 am – 5.30 pm.

The MA is a full-time course so all students in both years are expected to attend the studio on a full-time basis. When not attending classes, seminars, lectures, reviews and tutorials, first year students are expected to work on completing their practical work and reflective journals.

Second year students, when not attending geometry classes, crits and tutorials, will be expected to continue researching and studying independently for their major assignment project, keep a project diary and produce a study sheet.

The School has a small specialist library and students can also register with other libraries around London with helpful guidance from the librarian. The School also has access to a workshop facilities, with kilns and a full-time equivalent workshop support. Each student has their own studio space for their two years at the School.

**Methods of Teaching:** The teaching methods on the MA Degree Course primarily consist of various methods of practical workshop tuition over the wide variety of short, intensive, practical course elements.

First, the tutor supplies an overview of the stages of the course and hands out a written summary illustrated with examples for students to emulate. This is designed to show the students the all-important ways of contributing to the existing craft tradition. Second, there are illustrated introductory talks. Third, the tutor gives practical demonstrations of the skills involved in the particular craft through sample pieces of work; this demonstration is then followed by the students practising the work themselves, monitored by the tutor. Students are also required to keep a record of the whole process in a diary that can include notes, sketches and photographs.

Discussion sessions between staff and students take place during the courses as necessary to evaluate the body of work produced.

Teaching methods also include individual tutorials and overseeing activities in the workshop. As a School of traditional arts and crafts we inevitably emphasise practical skills but students' theoretical understanding of the philosophy underlying these arts is also important, hence the seminars, discussions, and the two essays.

**The permanent teaching staff are:**

**Simon Trethewey, MA Director of Studies (4 days a week)**

Simon Trethewey is Director of Studies at the School of Traditional Arts and teaches Geometry on the MA degree course. He studied at the Visual Islamic and Traditional Arts department at the Royal College of Arts under Professor Keith Critchlow, graduating with Distinction. He was awarded a fellowship by the Association of Commonwealth Universities to conduct research from the National Institute of Design in India and worked with a number of master craftsmen in miniature painting and mural painting. After a year as artist in residence at the Prince's Institute of Architecture he worked in ceramics and stained glass.

**Amber Khokhar, MA Senior Tutor (2 days a week, Thursdays & Fridays, during term time)**

Amber Khokhar is a Senior Tutor on the Masters Degree at The School of Traditional Arts where she mainly teaches Iznik ceramics.

Amber graduated with a BA in Design from Saint Martin's School of Art where she met Keith Critchlow and Paul Marchant. She then studied Indian Miniature Painting and Indian Temple Architecture at Harvard University. She has worked with master painters and practitioners of the Traditional Arts and has taught as a sessional lecturer on the World Art and Artefacts Programme at Birkbeck College, University of London.

Amber exhibits ceramics and paintings nationally and internationally. As well as teaching, she creates artworks in her London studio for commissions.

**Emma Clark, MA Senior Tutor (1 day a week, Wednesdays, during term time)**

Emma Clark is Senior Tutor for Contextual Studies on the Masters Programme at The School of Traditional Arts where she focuses on teaching the universal and timeless principles of sacred and traditional art. She is also responsible for the School's Lecture Programme. Emma is also a garden designer, specialising in Islamic gardens and gardens of other sacred traditions. She lectures nationally and internationally on sacred and traditional art, and on Islamic art and gardens. She is a member of the Academic Board of the Temenos Academy and has published two books on Islamic gardens: *The Art of the Islamic Garden* (latest paperback edition 2010), and a monograph, 'Underneath Which Rivers Flow', *The Symbolism of the Islamic Garden*, (1996) as well as many articles on Islamic art and architecture, gardens and the garden carpet.

### **Jonathan Horning MA RCA, MA Senior Tutor**

Jonathan Harding studied Fine Art at Bristol followed by an MA in architectural ceramics at the Royal College of Art. He has been a part-time Senior Tutor on our MA degree course for the past 25 years. He is primarily a technical tutor, teaching 2- and 3- dimensional geometry and a course in ceramic tile- making. On this ceramic course Jonathan has developed an updated version of the *cuenca y arista* tile method which is now widely taught on the School of Traditional Art's programmes.

He has taught on and co-led several of the School's international study trips - to Damascus, Fez, Jeddah, Chartres and the Alhambra, for example. He has also been privileged to assist and teach with Dr Keith Critchlow on the national and international teaching programmes of Kairos, his educational charity.

Jonathan is particularly interest in the geometry of structure and in how it is applied to indigenous shelter building around the world. His illustrated book, *Simple Shelters*, surveys this fascinating subject.

### **STRUCTURE OF THE MA PROGRAMME: FIRST YEAR**

The following schedule is an example of the Module Courses and Module Reviews that students undertake in the first year of their MA study.

(NB. This is only an example; the schedule can vary according to the student cohort and specialist staff available.)

#### **AUTUMN TERM FIRST YEAR (11 weeks):**

Geometry of Structure	4 sessions
Methods and materials	4 sessions
Geometry	3 sessions
Gesso panels	2 sessions
Techniques of icon painting	5 sessions
Gilding	5 sessions
Persian miniature painting	5 sessions
Indian miniature painting	5 sessions
Seminars/Discussion Groups	8 sessions (approx) on the Principles and Criteria of Sacred and Traditional Art over the Autumn and Spring terms (resulting in written work by each student).

**SPRING TERM FIRST YEAR (11 weeks):**

<i>Islimi</i> (Arabesque)	5 sessions
Woodwork	5 sessions
Geometry	4 sessions
Stained Glass	5 sessions
Ceramic plates	3 sessions
Seminars/Discussion Groups	Sessions as noted above
Module Review	
Traditional Painting	Week 2

**SUMMER TERM FIRST YEAR (12 weeks):**

Field Survey/Study Trip	Week 1 & 2
Ceramic tiles	8 sessions
Lettering	5 sessions
Geometry	5 sessions
Module Reviews	
Architectural Craft	Week 3
Ceramic Crafts, Lettering & Islimi	Week 12
Degree Show	Weeks 11-12 (1 <sup>st</sup> year students help the 2 <sup>nd</sup> year students prepare their final work for presentation at the Degree Show.)

**LECTURES**

Evening lectures by practitioners and scholars specialists take place throughout the year, although mainly in the Spring term. The specialist lecturers are carefully chosen talk on a wide range of subjects which relate, to a greater or lesser degree, to the principal aims and concerns of the School of Traditional Arts. Our permanent teaching staff also give illustrated talks as and when required.

**STRUCTURE OF THE MA PROGRAMME: SECOND YEAR****Summary**

Students progressing to Part Two of the MA Degree Course initiate and organize their own schedules of study and practice that will lead to them completing their Traditional Arts and Crafts Major Assignment Module for examination and exhibition in the final, Summer term.

They agree project outlines with their tutors but will be continuously monitored by tutors as the year progresses in formative and summative tutorials. Students will receive both technical and specialist tutorials as well as continuous guidance from their tutors to support their individual practical project requirements.

**Technical Tutorials and Demonstrations**

Demonstrations and discussions between technicians and students feature regularly on the MA course. Students work closely, one-to-one, with the technicians on their particular work: for example, using the kiln for ceramics; building a carved wood Qur'an stand; constructing a Japanese wooden screen; or simply making a certain type of frame. The technicians are trained in many craft skills – from ceramics, woodwork, painting, stained glass, mosaics —and the School will call upon external specialists if required. Regular tutorials also continue, as scheduled.

**AUTUMN TERM SECOND YEAR (11 WEEKS):**

Second year MA students continue working, as described above.

## Module Reviews

Contextual Studies	Week 1
Traditional and Islamic Geometry	Week 1
MA Part One Module Review	Week 1
Examination for MA Part One	Week 3 or 4

**SUMMER TERM SECOND YEAR (12 WEEKS):****Summary:**

The Summer Term is the culmination of all individual second year project work for the Traditional Arts and Crafts Major Assignment Module which is submitted for final examination and then presented at the Degree Show exhibition held in the final weeks of the term.

By the end of Part Two of the MA Programme, each student, having negotiated their own specialist facilities and support, and agreed their programme with the tutors, will have produced a major piece of work, or series of major pieces. These should be supported by minor works, as well as preliminary sketches, outlines and/or constructions. Specialist guidance is arranged to supplement support from the course tutors when necessary. Students work closely with the technicians to mounting their

pieces for display and must do all they can to bring their work up to professional exhibition standard. This exhibition is, in effect, their launch into the professional world.

Field Survey/Study Trip	Week 1
Examination for MA Part Two	Week 10

### Assessment

During the first year students have three module reviews of their practical work and reflective journals. They are given feedback on what still needs to be completed or improved.

First year students must submit a short essay of between 2,000 – 3,000 words at the beginning of the Spring term in January and then an extended essay of between 5,000 – 7,000 words at the end of August in their first year. They receive marks for these essays only when they have completed their Part 1 exams in October of the second year of their MA.

During the first week of their second year, students have a tutorial where they are required to show all their first year work. In week 3 or 4 of the second year, they take their Part 1 exam, in the School gallery. In this exam, students are expected to produce a study sheet on the project work they intend to undertake for Part 2 work. The students receive a transcript of their Part 1 exam marks once the marks are ratified.

After the Part 1 exam, 2<sup>nd</sup> year students are expected to submit a statement about their Part 2 Major Assignment for discussion at their next tutorial.

The Part 2 exam takes place in June of the second year. Students are expected to show their Part 2 project in the gallery, alongside a project diary and a study sheet. Once their Part 2 exam marks are ratified, students will receive an MA certificate and transcript. Students can either pass, pass with merit, pass with distinction, or fail. Students will need to pass both Part 1 and Part 2 exams to achieve their MA.

### Marking schemes

70% and over: Distinction  
60-69% Merit  
50-59%: Pass  
0-49%: Fail

### Exit points and awards

- 1) Students are eligible to exit with one of the following University of Wales Trinity Saint David awards:
  - a) MA with Distinction (overall weighted average of not less than 70%, having achieved a final mark of not less than 60% in Part I and not less than 70% in Part II)
  - b) MA with Merit (overall weighted average of not less than 60%, having achieved a final mark of not less than 50% in Part I and not less than 60% in Part II)
  - c) MA with pass (50% and over)

- 2) The Prince's Foundation School of Traditional Arts also offers the following exit awards:
- Postgraduate diploma (120 credits)
  - Postgraduate certificate (60 credits).

### Modules, credits and assessment

Module code	Credits	Module title	Assessment
<b>Part I</b>			
PSTA7001	30	Traditional painting techniques	Course work 100% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Methods and Materials – course record review – 25%</li> <li>• Techniques of Icon Painting – technical theory, practice and course record review – 25%</li> <li>• Persian Miniature Painting – technical theory, practice and course record review – 25%</li> <li>• Indian Miniature Painting - technical theory, practice and course record review – 25%</li> </ul>
PSTA7002	10	Contextual Studies	Course work 100% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assignment type: Essay 1 – Theory and contribution to seminars – 40%</li> <li>• Assignment type: Essay 2 – Theory – 60%</li> </ul>
PSTA7003	30	Ceramic Craft, Letter-forms and Islimi	Course work 100% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Western Calligraphy &amp; Letter Forms – theory, practice and course record review – 25%</li> <li>• Ceramic Craft, Tiles – theory, practice and course record review – 25%</li> <li>• Ceramic Craft, Plate – theory, practice and course record review – 25%</li> <li>• Islimi: Grammar &amp; Design - theory, practice and course record review – 25%</li> </ul>
PSTA7004	30	Architectural crafts	Course work 100% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Architectural Drawing &amp; Sanctuary A1 sheets – 33.34%</li> <li>• Stained Glass – theory, practice and course record – 33.33%</li> <li>• Wood Parquetry - theory, practice and course record – 33.33%</li> </ul>



PSTA7005	20	Traditional and Islamic Geometry	Course work 100% <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Traditional Islamic Geometry - theory, practice and course record review – 75%</li><li>• Geometry of Structure &amp; Space - theory, practice and course record review – 25%</li></ul>
<b>Part II</b>			
PSTA7006	60	Traditional Arts and Crafts	MA Traditional Arts and Crafts Major Assignment (by course – project diary and practical – 100%) or (by project – dissertation and practical – 100%)



### **Course Costs**

#### **MA in Visual Islamic and Traditional Arts**

Duration: 2 years (full-time)

Tuition fees

For the academic years 2018-19 and 2019-2020 the tuition fees for this course are:

	UK/EU	Overseas
Full-time	£6,500 per annum	£10,000 per annum

Fees are confirmed annually, so cannot be declared beyond 2019-2020.

Fees include the following course-related costs:

- Most materials costs for the Part 1 courses.
- Second year students are given £100 materials allowance.  
Use of two computers in the studio
- Free black and white printing from the computer printer.

Students are expected to provide their own basic materials, such as the following which the fees do not include.

### **PERSONAL EQUIPMENT LIST**

#### Geometry Module

- a good quality pair of compasses. The Jakar compass which includes an extension bar (cost-approximately £20-00) is a recommended set
- a 30-centimetre ruler in steel or plastic
- A 50-centimetre in steel or plastic.

#### Other Modules.

- A set of brushes for personal use. This list is only a starting guide. It will extend over the course of the year as particular courses require.  
Sable round No. 3/0.  
Sable round No. 1.  
Sable round No. 3.  
Sable round No. 5.  
Rigger Sable No. 2.  
Rigger Sable No. 4.
- Sketch books required for note taking and sketching



- Files to document courses
- A camera/mobile phone to document module course work
- Photocopying/colour printing costs
- Art materials for the Part 2 project, costing more than £100
- Books students might wish to purchase.
- The cost of at least one or perhaps two field study trips. Estimated cost for one field study trip is about £500, but final cost depends on where the trip will be.

Accommodation and living costs are not included in the fee.

Once they have been offered a place on the MA, candidates may be considered for scholarship assistance to help with tuition fees. Once on the course, there is a small hardship fund which students may apply for.