



SHIV NADAR UNIVERSITY

Graduate Prospectus

Masters in Fine Arts

2014-2015

Department of Art Design and Performing Arts

School of Humanities and Social Sciences

Shiv Nadar University

Post office Shiv Nadar University

Gautam Buddha Nagar

UP-201314

Masters Programme in Fine Arts

Overview

In keeping with the University's emphasis on interdisciplinary research and situated experiential learning, the Department of Art, Design and Performing Arts nurtures rigorous and thoughtful praxis in these disciplines and their interface with society, culture and politics.

The Department is also committed to providing its students and members with several options for financial aid as well as research grants.

Admission to the programme is highly selective. The department conducts a review of the application forms which is followed by a personal interview for the shortlisted candidates.

Eligibility Conditions

The focus of the programme will be on research, experimentation and cultivating innovative art practices with expert artistic, theoretical and technical support. Individuals with a disposition towards deepening and broadening the scope of their practice along these lines will make for suitable candidates.

The minimum entry qualifications for the MFA program are BFA degree or an equivalent qualification.

Applicants must also have a portfolio of work demonstrating the necessary skills and aptitude. Applications from international students with relevant qualifications are welcome.

Candidates from related fields such as Communication/ Design/ Applied Art, etc. will be considered on the basis of their portfolio, aptitude, approach and performance during the interview.

Course structure

A student must complete a minimum of 28 credit hours in residence at the Department. In the case of students participating in exchange programmes with accredited institutions in the country or abroad, a transfer of up to 15 credits is permissible.

Total minimum credits for completing MFA is 48.

Core Courses – 40 credits	Elective Courses- 8 credits Two courses to be taken from other disciplines such as Economics/Sociology/Literature/History/ Mechanical, Electrical, Electronic Engineering/ Natural Sciences/ Mathematics etc.
Studio 24 credits.	Course-1 4 credits
Theory 16 credits	Course-2 4 credits
Total 40 credits	Total 8 credits

The students must complete 8 core studio, 4 core theory courses and 2 elective courses in 4 semesters. A minimum of one core theory and one core studio course has to be taken per semester. (each course is 4 credits)

Studio Courses

Guidance in the practical aspects of art-making will be offered in the individual studios and the workshops. The central strategy is studio-based teaching and learning with emphasis on personal contact with faculty and peers. Studio spaces are meant primarily for experimentation, execution and finishing of artworks and informal peer-assisted learning.

Studio courses offered are

- Painting & Drawing/Cross Media Projects,
- Sculpture, Installation,
- The Photographic Image,
- Video,
- New Media,
- The Moving Image-Form and Function,
- The Artist's Body,
- Art in the Public Domain,
- Aesthetics and Politics.
- Independent study*

** Independent study prioritizes individual research; students are expected to concentrate on their individual specialization, deepen their interrogations and consolidate the learning and experimentation of the first year under the supervision of the mentor.*

Theory Courses

These involve student or faculty led presentations followed by discussions. They provide opportunities for formal and informal dialogue, direct communication skills and critical thinking towards developing a discursive approach to art making. Students are required to present their work within the context of the seminar to a group of peers, faculty as well as invited faculty of relevant departments.

A tentative list of theory courses to be offered are

- Visual Anthropology,
- Art History /Visual Studies,
- Critical Theory, etc.

Induction Courses

Courses to acquaint students with various media (hardware and software) will be conducted by the respective technicians of the wood, metal and digital media workshops and occasionally by the faculty. Students who wish to acquire or explore specific skills will be given the necessary guidance. Induction courses have no credits

Theory is taught mostly in English; applicants lacking an adequate knowledge of the language will have to take a course in Reading, Writing and Comprehension, offered by the English Department.

Project Spaces

Two spaces within the university and two in the city of Delhi, with distinctly different dimensions and character, will function as project spaces. Working in project spaces allows the student to negotiate unconventional spaces for conceptualizing and displaying site-specific works. In the second and third semester it will be mandatory for students to present the project undertaken during their chosen courses at one of the *project spaces*². These projects will be executed during the last month of each of the semesters. Each project will be on display for one week.

The allocation of spaces would be decided following group critique by faculty and peers from proposals submitted individually/collaboratively.

Fine Art Graduate Thesis Exhibition

In the fourth semester, the students complete their Master's project with a solo presentation of their work in the *Fine Art Graduate Thesis Exhibition*.

Mentorship

Each student will be assigned a primary mentor and two other mentors in accordance with the thrust and nuances of their individual practice, to help chart a course of study in keeping with their individual methods, media, and work preferences. In exceptional cases, a request for a change of mentor/s would be considered in consultation with the core faculty. However, the mentors who facilitate the research and work of the student till the final Exhibition/Thesis would be designated as the Mentor Team no later than the end of second semester.

The mentor team will comprise:

- a. Primary Mentor (Studio Practice)
- b. Mentor (Studio Practice)
- c. Mentor (Art Theoretician) (mandatory)

Assessment

Performance will be assessed on the basis of separate projects that will be submitted as a body of work at the end of the course, when it will be given a summative grade.

Work done during the courses will also be reviewed through individual as well as collective critiques.

Critiques help develop an individual vocabulary while exploring the processes, materials and ideas that a student wishes to address. Students will present their work, or some part of their work, in a pre-designated room/space for a collective critique.

In cases where transportation of the work is difficult due to fragility/size/weight etc., the mentor may conduct the collective/individual critique at the student's studio.

1. At least one individual critique a month is mandatory per course per semester.
2. There will be a minimum of 4 collective critiques per semester.

Assessment of seminar courses is on the basis of presentations and assignments submitted. They are appraised on the basis of the understanding and distillation of theoretical concepts and contemporary discourse. The requirements for the award of the MFA degree include a portfolio of work done during the four semesters and a Fine Art Graduate Thesis Exhibition. The latter involves presenting a substantial body of original work in an exhibition space or at an

appropriate site. Students are also required to appear for a *viva voce* to defend their work to faculty other than their mentor team.

Theoretical assessments are based on assignments submitted and the level of participation in seminars. Attendance through the four semesters will also be considered, as personal contact and peer learning are fundamental to the teaching and learning methodology. In addition, students will be required to maintain a log (in the form preferred by the student and acceptable to the mentor) as evidence of the research carried out for the Masters project/ the Fine Art Graduate Thesis Exhibition.

Tuitions and financial aid

All Masters students are eligible for teaching/ research assistantships/fellowships of **Rs. 12,000 per month** along with tuition fee waivers.

Scholarships and Fellowships may be terminated if a student's academic performance does not meet the standard set by the university/department. On losing his/her scholarship, a student is required to pay full fees as applicable at the time.

Hostel Facilities

All academic programs at SNU are fully residential.

Faculty

Core Team- The faculty impacts the arts regionally, nationally and internationally. Their work is widely exhibited in India and abroad. They maintain and will facilitate a worldwide network of partnerships and collaborations to benefit the students.

The core faculty includes

- Sumantra Sengupta (Head of Department)
- Atul Bhalla
- Sharmila Samant
- Tushar Joag
- Vasudha Thozhur

Visiting Faculty/Advisors - Distinguished art practitioners and cultural theorists will be invited from India and abroad to interact with the students and enhance their knowledge of contemporary art practices.

The Visiting Faculty/Advisors from India may include any of the following: Amar Kanwar , Anandjit Ray, Anand Patwardhan, Anita Dube, Annapurna Garimella, Anju Dodiya, Anshuman Dasgupta, Archana Hande, Ashish Rajadhyaksha, Asim Waqif , Atul Dodiya, Ayesha Abraham, B.V. Suresh, Camp (Ashok Sukumar, Shaina Anand), Desire Machine Collective (Sonal Jain, Mriganka Madhukaillya), Gayatri Sinha, Geeta Kapur, Ghulam Sheikh, Gigi Scaria, Indra Prमित Roy, Jitish Kallat, Justin Ponmany, Kausik Mukhopadhyay, Manisha Parekh, Mithu Sen, Nalini Malani, Nikhil Chopra, Nilima Sheikh, N.S Harsha, N.Pushpamala, Prajakta Potnis, Ram Rehman, Ranbir Kaleka, Raqs Media Collective, Ravi Agarwal, Sanchayan Ghosh, Shakuntala Kulkarni, Shilpa Gupta, Shukla Sawant, Sonia Khurana, Surabhi Sharma, Valsan Kollerli, Vasudevan Akkitham, Vidya Shivadas, Vivan Sundaram, among others.

Facilities

Individual studios - Each student will be allotted an individual studio which is naturally and artificially lit with easy access to workshops and faculty studios.

Workshops - Each course may be linked to the various workshops that the Department of Art will offer.

1. Photography
2. Video
3. Sound
4. Ceramics
5. Wood
6. Metal

Library - Apart from the University library, the Department of Art, Design and Performing Arts will have a separate, regularly updated library with videos, journals and books for easy reference.

Interdisciplinary collaborations

Interdisciplinary collaborations in affiliation with students/ faculty of other departments or schools within or outside the University will be encouraged.