Kultur Project

Institutional Profile

University College for the Creative Arts

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Introduction

The aim of this institutional profile is to provide an overview of the research environment, infrastructure and culture of University College for the Creative Arts and to highlight any implications these factors may have for the Kultur project. The document draws together information from the institution's Research Strategy, Annual Report 2005/6, RAE 2008 audit and the extensive research section on University College's website. It also incorporates matter arising from initial discussion and communication with University College staff and the project team. Each section of the document looks at research aspects pertinent to the project and incorporates a brief summary in relation to its objectives.

The profile begins by looking at the background to the formation of the institution and its research aims. This is followed by looking at how research is currently managed and how research 'content' and information is represented online through the University College website. The profile goes on to assess research 'outputs' at University College and then provides a broad summation of implications with regard to the areas covered. This is followed by a brief update on developments that have taken place so far with regard to advocacy and engagement with stakeholders at University College.

The final part of the document provides an outline of the specialist research areas of each college, research centres/clusters, exhibition/gallery provision, and a location based list of individual research staff and tabled statistical data.

Background and Research Aims

University College for the Creative Arts was formed by the union of Kent and Surrey Institutes of Art and Design in August 2005. It is a specialist higher education institution offering further education, undergraduate and postgraduate degree courses in architecture, art, craft, design, media and communication. University College is comprised of five colleges based at Epsom, Canterbury, Farnham, Maidstone and Rochester. Although each college has its own areas of specialisation and research there are a range of disciplinary and research relationships across courses and sites.

University College sees research as fundamental to its pursuit of academic excellence and a growing international research culture as being central to arts development. The institution has a rich and vibrant research culture and academic staff maintain a high profile at the forefront of their disciplines through exhibitions, publications, conferences, seminars and work with business and the community.

In the 2001 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) the former institutions secured a 3a rating demonstrating research of national excellence. Strengths were identified in the areas of 'time based and digital media, visual art and the applied arts and textiles'. National excellence was reported in over two thirds of the outputs submitted and the panel commented upon a growing research culture showing evidence of international research.

Consequently the institutions developed a collaborative research agreement within CADISE (Consortium of Arts & Design Institutions in Southern England). This sought to enhance the intellectual and physical research structure and has formed the basis of the existing research strategy. Successful bids to the Research Capability Fund have supported research to reach and maintain levels of international excellence.

Following the merger in 2005, University College has brought together individual researchers and groups with overlapping concerns and approaches. Practice-based research is a shared focus with strengths in the still and moving image, applied and fine arts and in the associated areas of curation, cultural and critical theory.

In 2008, the institution aims to secure evidence of international excellence in category 3* in the new RAE quality profile. In early 2008, University College also aims to secure University Title in a submission to the Quality Assurance Agency and proposes that all new academic appointees are research active.

Summary:

It would seem that University College's recent merger and multi-site nature may have an influence on the project. The colleges within the institution are geographically separate and academic staff are distributed throughout. Historically, each college has its own identity, independence, specialisations and culture. Although the former institutions operated with multiple sites as the Kent and Surrey Institutes of Art and Design, it is early days for the larger institution and a time of development and change.

Research and Operational Infrastructure

Research Infrastructure:

University College has **97** research staff who are located within the institution's Colleges. Staff undertake their work in three discipline based **Research Groups**. This means they are close to their subjects and the current debates that are central to research in these fields.

- **Fine Art**
- **Still and Moving Image**
- **Design, Crafts and Applied Arts**

Each group contributes to Research Centres or Research Clusters.

Research Centres act as externally recognised foci for areas of excellence and have a dedicated research establishment. The University College has clear definitions and guidance for the establishment and monitoring of centres.

Research Clusters recognise more fluid forms of intellectual inquiry and their organisation represents different stages of emerging research and scholarly interest. Some clusters may be long-standing with a defined public profile and recognised support structure, others are more developmental, encouraging the emergence of new researchers within a critical forum and opening new interdisciplinary research opportunities.

Exhibition and Gallery space is also provided on each campus. They facilitate the dissemination of practice based research and enable experimental work to reach new audiences. Professors and Readers are encouraged to show their work within, and across the University College research community.

Research Seminars and Conferences support and demonstrate an active research community and include lectures and presentations from a diverse range of academic staff, external speakers and students. This is supplemented by a programme of events within each of the Research Centres and Clusters.

Operational Infrastructure:

The merging of Kent and Surrey Institutes of Art and Design provided an opportunity to review and strengthen the structures for research. The following are key operational structures and process by which research is managed at University College.

Research Policy & Development Committee (RDP): Determines research policy, processes and procedures. The Committee's role is to provide a forum to monitor and review research performance whilst allowing discussion and debate around issues of national importance. This includes detailed strategic planning in conjunction with respective sub-groups.

Department of Research & Knowledge Transfer: Overall responsibility to lead the research strategy, cultural strategy and the development of business and community activities through the Research Office, Knowledge Transfer Office and Galleries.

College Research Committees: Lead and manage research at a local level. These committees feed into the University College committee structure.

Research Office: The two research offices comprise six administrators and a Costing and Finance Officer who work closely with academic staff and in particular Research Co-ordinators to provide advice and guidance on research related issues.

Research Co-ordinators: Five members of senior academic staff who are based at each college and set staff objectives, mentor and monitor research.

Annual Research Monitoring: The annual research monitoring process records staff research and scholarly activity within each **College Research Report**. These reports are received by the Research Policy & Development Committee at the first meeting of the following academic year and are accompanied by individual **College Research Action Plans**.

Summary:

The intellectual and operational infrastructure of University College provides a readymade means for the project team to reach a number of its key target groups and stakeholders at both an academic and institutional level.

Through the research groups, centres and clusters, project staff will be able get to know the intellectual culture of the institution, gain an understanding of the research being carried out, identify interest groups and engage directly with academic staff. The project will benefit greatly from the range of knowledge and experience across the academic community and be able to develop its user-led principle.

It would be strategic for the project team to go through the operational infrastructure and formal areas of communication to reach decision making bodies, stakeholders and interest groups at an institutional level. Understanding can be gained of how University College manages its research activity and advice, knowledge and expertise can be shared.

Website and Online Showcase Gallery

Website:

The University College website is a primary public means of showcasing and providing information about the institution and its research.

The link to the research area of the site is clearly located on the home page and leads through to themed sections providing a great deal of detailed information on all aspects of research.

http://www.ucreative.ac.uk/index.cfm?articleid=9601

Each staff member has a page that outlines their area of research expertise and provides a research profile. The majority of staff pages link through to a list of recent research outputs and related links to project, exhibition and publication sites are provided. However, despite the number of research staff and range of research activity there are very few outputs directly and fully accessible through the website.

Research Centres and Clusters also have their own pages outlining activity. In particular, both the Crafts Study Centre and the Centre for Sustainable Design have 'stand-alone' websites that provide detailed information, downloads of articles, papers and related resources that make for a fuller understanding of their activity and a more engaging online experience.

The website also lists current and past research students. Each student page outlines proposed thesis title, summary and supervisory team. Additionally, the website provides current and archive information on research conferences, seminars and events.

Online Showcase Gallery:

http://www.ucreative.ac.uk/webApps/gallery/categories.cfm

The University College Online Showcase predominantly features student work although **16** members of research staff have work displayed. The showcase features and supports the very range of outputs we would like to see in the Kultur repositories (still and moving image, sound and digital work). It is also clearly laid out and functions well through simple searches by category (discipline area), artist and collection. Preview images are provided at each layer of search making it straightforward to browse and navigate. However, the information provided about works tends to be limited and lacks consistency. Beyond designation of staff or student, category, title and perhaps a link through to research pages or website, there is not a great deal of further information or context provided.

Summary:

Although the software being used for the project is specialised for a repository service, the website and showcase demonstrates how University College currently manages visual 'content' and research information though existing online public-access models. Additionally, the project will need the support of University College's IT and Web team in understanding any digital workflows of the institution and also to guide on the 'look and feel' of the repository in relation to the institutional website. As the repository service will eventually sit locally, the team will also need their advice on what this means long term both technically and practically.

Research Outputs

Of the outputs submitted for the forthcoming 2008 RAE, **60.6%** are classified as being in 'Artefact' form and **39.4%** in 'Written' form. This suggests that the majority of research at University College represents the 'non-text' outputs that the project seeks to focus on.

Within these classifications one would expect to see to the broad range of work that exemplifies contemporary creative and applied arts research and practice throughout the institution:

Painting, Public Art, Sculpture, Performance, Installation, Time-Based Art, Printmaking, Photography, Screen Productions, Virtual Reality, Multimedia, Digital and Interactive Art and Design, Software Design for Digital Artefacts, Animation, Illustration, Graphic and Communication Design, Art and Design in the Landscape, Environmental and Interior Design, Theatre Design, Exhibition and Events Design, Fashion , Textiles, Jewellery and Metalwork, Ceramics, Glass, Automotive Design, Product and Furniture Design, Art and Design Management, Pedagogy in Art and Design, Cultural, Theoretical and Historical Studies.

Design of exhibition or events, editorship and curation, public commissions, media presentations including performance, installations and catwalk presentations, mass production, patents and registered designs, new processes and materials, new devices including software, reports, authored books, authored chapters in books, authored articles in journals, conference papers and posters presented, internet publications, composition design.

It is not established at this point what percentage of material submitted for the RAE 2008 was in digital form or to what extent research across the institution is created in digital format. It will be very interesting for the project team to learn more about this pending the results of the research survey.

Summation

In summation, it would appear that the recent merging and multi-site, multi-disciplinary nature of University College will play a part in the project. Also, the diversity of staff and research areas may present a number of implications for the project team and/or institution to consider. The project will need to engage, advocate and secure 'buy-in' from the academic community. It will be important to establish an understanding of the culture of each college so that local differences or requirements can be taken into account. We will need to create a network of contact with key individuals and interest groups across the institution with which to communicate and gain direction on the project. Following on from this it will be imperative to be able to understand, interpret and communicate the range of differing concerns with the project team so that development is accurately representative.

Below I have identified potential issues that may require further engagement from the Kultur team in order to successfully deliver the outcomes of the project:

- There will be different levels of interest in the project and understanding of what its benefits are.

- Staff will have differing levels of involvement with the digital environment and IT. For some the repository model may be new and complex, for others it may be familiar and they may have an advanced understanding.

- An amount of research work being carried out will be in 'material' form and there may be issues about how works (particularly three-dimensional) are adequately represented in digital format. A digitisation support model may need to be developed by the institution to address this.

- Does the focus of the project to develop a transferable model for a multimedia repository operate at the expense of non-multimedia work and by extension bias the development of the service in favour of certain media and research areas rather than others?

- To what extent does the institution distinguish between 'research' output and 'other' academic output? (e.g. teaching and learning)

- As a specialist institution for the creative and applied arts, issues surrounding the 'look and feel' of the repository, how works are represented and design/functionality may be important.

- Research areas or disciplines may have different requirements for the information or metadata allied to their work. The language schema used within the repository will need to be flexible to make it useful and meaningful for a range of users.

- Users may have differing concerns regarding copyright, IPR, how their work is protected and how their work may be used once it is publicly accessible online. A flexible copyright policy will need to be employed to accommodate this.

- Issues involved in dealing with complex multimedia objects. Material or 'digital objects' presented to the repository may consist of many related parts and may require a form of hierarchical or relational structuring. The repository also needs to be able to support any form of digital material presented to it and incorporate new and emerging technologies as they develop.

- Concerns surrounding preservation of digital material and sustainability/scalability of the repository model.

University College Stakeholders:

Valuable contact has already been made with a number of stakeholders and interest groups:

Research Centres: Early contact was made with the Crafts Study Centre. This provided a valuable insight into the collection, research and exhibition based centre and an opportunity for initial project advocacy. The collection consists of 20th century and contemporary ceramics, printed and woven textiles, calligraphy and lettering, furniture and wood, metalwork, needlework and archival material. A great deal of collection material has already been digitised and is hosted by VADS. CSC has an established digitisation model that could benefit any need for an institutional digitisation model. CSC also raises the question of how the repository represents 'collection' or 'centre' type research.

Research Office at Farnham: Contact with the Research Office was made during the RAE submission. The establishment of a repository for UCCA would benefit the Research Office by assisting with the Annual Research Monitoring Process and RAE. Ideally, staff research activity and information would be centrally located, updated, preserved and available electronically. Liaison with the Research Office and a greater understanding of their workflows would be mutually beneficial and aid the embedding of the repository at an administrative level. A **Data Collection Group** has been established in which research office, academic and repository concerns can be discussed. There is also the possibility that the RAE 2008 return will be assessed for material that is suitable to populate the repository.

Research Co-ordinators: An initial introductory meeting took place with two of the five UCCA Research Co-ordinators. Research Co-ordinators will be key points of contact for the

development of the project and their advice, expertise and understanding of the institutional and wider research culture will be invaluable. They will also be a primary means through which to reach, communicate and establish relationships with the research community, clusters and centres.

Academic Staff: Staff with work already on the website were asked if they would be happy for their material to go into the demonstrator. On the whole, responses were positive and a good range of material has greatly enhanced our ability to demonstrate the service. Interesting initial considerations were raised by staff concerning how images are used and accredited. Also, the project questionnaire was sent out to all research staff and has had a response rate in the region of 50%. This indicates a high level of interest in the project and provides a solid amount of information regarding research activity to be analysed and carried through to the interview stage.

IT and Web Team: Project staff met with representatives from IT and Web Team to introduce the project and discuss any initial thoughts. We previewed the demonstrator and received structured feedback on design, functionality and usability. IT will be advising the team on server specification and will also be able to help with design alignment to the UCCA website later in the project.

Research Policy & Development Committee (RDP): Project staff presented to the RDP 01/08 and previewed the demonstrator. This was the first working introduction to the project for senior research staff and resulted in substantial feedback covering the areas of presentation, digitisation, copyright and quality control.

Library and Learning Resources: Kultur at University College is managed by Library and Learning Resources and has also been invited to sit on the **Research Sub-Group** which looks at how LLR supports research activity.

UCCA College Profiles and Research Areas:

Canterbury College

The educational and research expertise at Canterbury spans a subject juxtaposition of Architecture, Interiors and Fine Art.

Fine Art: Contemporary theory and criticism, Public Art, Art and the Environment, Contemporary Landscape, Digital Art, Painting and Technology, Sculptural Practices and Installation

Architecture: Urban regeneration and the politics of the environment, Architecture and modernism, Interior architecture, Issues in the pedagogy of architecture

Epsom College

Epsom College offers a range of undergraduate, postgraduate and research studies clustered around the disciplines of Fashion Design and Graphic Design.

Fashion and Textiles: Conceptual and experimental fashion, Discourses related to textile materiality, textile narratives and textile cultures, Intersections between fashion, body, art and/or performance, Anglo-Japanese textiles, Textile within the fields of cultural identity and gender, Textile traditions as related to innovative textile practices and materials

Visual Identity and New Media: New Media narratives and articulations of culture, identity, gender, the self; New Media practices within fashion and textile; Digital/virtual media environments; Visual identity and new media representation

Farnham College

Farnham is a specialist college of art and design offering a range of art, design, media and communication courses.

The College has three research centres: the Animation Research Centre, The Centre for Sustainable Design, and the Crafts Study Centre.

Design: Design Management, Graphic & digital media, Sustainable Product Design

Contemporary Crafts: Ceramics and textiles

Arts and Media: Animation, Fine art, Time based and digital media, Photography

Maidstone College

Maidstone offers a range of closely linked disciplines including Animation, Graphic Design, Illustration, Photography, Printmaking and Video.

Media Arts & Communication Design: Colour theory, Experimental film, Contemporary video theory and contemporary photographic theory and practice, Technology and visual culture, Concepts of temporality

Rochester College

Rochester offers teaching and research in Fashion, Photography, general Art & Design and various specialist Design areas.

Research projects are a major feature of the Rochester campus and are linked to the development of learning resources.

Design: Design branding and modes of consumption, applied arts, Leisure software design and electronic arts

Fashion: Fashion and industry, Fashion design and trend, Fashion promotion, Fashion product innovation, Fashion marketing

Photography: Contemporary photographic theory and practice

Research Groups and their Centres/Clusters

Fine Art:

Critical Interventions and Curatorial Practices Research Cluster, Canterbury

Lead academic: Dr Judith Rugg

Critical Spatial Practices Research Cluster, Canterbury, Maidstone and Farnham

Lead academic: Dr Judith Rugg

Surface to Signature Research Cluster, Canterbury

Lead academic: Edward Chell

The Space of Forgetting, Farnham

Lead Academic: Professor Paul Butler

The Still and Moving Image:

Animation Research Centre, Farnham College (ARC)

Contact: Dr Suzanne Buchan, Aaron Wood, Katie Steed

Hasselblad Centre for High Resolution Digital Imaging, Rochester

Lead Academic: Professor Ori Gersht

Manipulated Moving Image Cluster, Farnham

Lead Academic: Professor Suzanne Buchan

Photo-Video Research Cluster, Maidstone

Lead Academic: Joanna Lowry

The Book Room Research Cluster, Farnham

Lead Academic: Anna Fox

Photography Research Cluster, Farnham

Lead Academic: Anna Fox

Design, Crafts and Applied Arts:

[Body and Ornament Research Cluster, Rochester](#)

Lead Academic: Professor Ulrich Lehmann

[Crafts Study Centre, Farnham College](#) (CSC)

Contact: Simon Olding, Jean Vacher

[MAKE: The Model as an Articulation of Knowledge and Experimentation](#)

Lead academic: Dr Terry Perk

[The Anglo-Japanese Textile Centre, Epsom College](#)

Contact: Lesley Millar.

[The Centre for Sustainable Design, Farnham College](#) (CfSD)

Contact: Prof Martin Charter.

[The Home Interaction Research Cluster, Farnham](#)

Lead Academic: Phil Ely

Exhibition and Gallery Provision:

[The Crafts Study Centre](#), [The Foyer, The James Hockey Galleries](#), Farnham

[The Gallery and Foyer Gallery](#), Epsom

[The George Rodger Gallery](#), Maidstone

[The Herbert Read Gallery](#), Canterbury

[The Zandra Rhodes Gallery](#), Rochester

RESEARCH STAFF & LOCATION (97 total listed)

CANTERBURY (17)

Ian Bottle	Neil Bottle	Dr Hocine Bougdah
Edward Chell	Juliet Davis	Richard Davies
Moyra Derby	Lucy Harrison	Hugh Harwood
Anthony Heywood	Ian Hunt	Bob Matthews
Tony Mott	Dr Judith Rugg	Mary Stockton Smith
Jessica Voorsanger	Laurence Wood	

EPSOM (8)

Prof George Barber	Jessica Bugg	Liz Mason
Prof Lesley Millar	Mike Nicholson	Christopher Ratcliffe
Aidan Rowe	Amanda Windle	

FARNHAM (38)

Dr Philippa Ashton	Tine Bech	Kathryn Best
David Blamey	Linda Brassington	Dr Roni Brown
Prof Suzanne Buchan	Sharon Burden-Ting	Prof Paul Butler
Martin Charter	Dr Andy Darley	Noski Deville
Frances Edmonds	Jason Evans	Philip Ely
Gwen Fereday	Dr Alicia Foster	Anna Fox
Hilaire Graham	Andrea Gregson	Rosie Gunn
Diana Harrison	John Henshaw	Stuart Hodges
Ashley Howard	Karen Knorr	Stephen Gary Littman
Craig Martin	Prof Simon Olding	Prof Magdalene Odundo
Miles Park	Martin Pover	Kathleen Rogers
Dr Seymour Roworth-Stokes	Michael Ryan	Richard Shed
Jean Vacher	Emmanuelle Waeckerle	

MAIDSTONE (16)

Mike Addison	Prof David Buss	Robin Chevalier

Randal Cooke   Silke Dettmers   Prof Nicky Hamlyn

Christy Johnson   Conor Kelly   Joanna Lowry

Jo Nelson   Anna Orchard   Sophia Phoca

Richard Sawdon Smith   Tansy Spinks   James Walker

Alan Young

ROCHESTER (12)

Susan Dray   Prof Ori Gersht   Andrew Jackson

Dr Victoria Kelley   Steffi Klenz   Prof Andrew Kotting

Prof Ulrich Lehmann   Tim Meacham   Zadoc Nava

Terry Perk   Michael Poraj-Wilczynski   Jean Wainwright

NO LISTED LOCATION (6)

Laura Carlin   Chris Coekin   Jennifer Thatcher

Rebecca Waterworth   Gillian Wilson   Dr Sophie Woodward

MPHIL/PHD RESEARCH STUDENTS (7)

M Alice Vasconcelos Rocha   Rykiel Ti-Shing Huang   Li Ping Liu

Evanthia Kalpadaki   Nigel J Green   Thomas Makryniotis

Jonathan Gilhooly

<u>DISTRIBUTION OF RESEARCH STAFF, CENTRES AND CLUSTERS:</u>

UCCA College	No. of Research Staff	No. of Research Centres/Clusters
Canterbury	17	3
Epsom	8	1
Farnham	38	8
Maidstone	16	2
Rochester	12	2

UCCA WEBSITE AND ONLINE SHOWCASE GALLERY:

	Research Profile Page	Research Output Page	Link to Personal Website	Work on UCCA Website
No. of Research Staff	97	74	17	16