The B.A. (Fine Art) program [BP201] is currently undertaking a project to changes to the way it is structured. The current 9 studio areas are being consolidated into 4 new studio areas for 2012. This FAQ is designed to assist you in understanding what will change, and how it will affect your study.

I am available for group or individual discussions on any aspect of this FAQ or the Program Renewal project.

Shane Hulbert  
B.A. (Fine Art) Program Director  
School of Art, RMIT University  
shane.hulbert@rmit.edu.au  
0423 747 822

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Why are we changing the program structure?**

We are doing this for 2 reasons;

1. To offer a program that is more flexible with specialisations and cross studio courses
2. To ensure the program is financially productive and is aligned with the future strategic direction of the School of Art and the university.

**Will it be a new program?**

No. You will still graduate with a Bachelor of Arts (Fine Art). The graduate capabilities and learning outcomes will remain the same.

**Will the program be more flexible?**

Yes. You will be able to enrol in specialised courses from other studio areas, as well as your 'home' area of specialisation. The timetable will be completely modularised and flexible, with courses starting at either 9.30am or 2.30pm, with a program 1 hour lunch break at 1.30. This will ensure increased flexibility for all students. It will also allow for studio and program meetings, as well as visiting artists and other events to happen at a time when all students can access them.

**How does our accommodation plan align with the revised structure?**

The school’s accommodation plan is being developed concurrently with the restructure. The intention is to create new studio areas that are pedagogically, creatively and physically aligned. In
some areas this is already the case (Ceramics and G&S, Drawing and Painting). For other areas this alignment should happen as more of the Undergraduate areas move into the ‘arts precinct’ of buildings 2, 4 and 6.

Is there an implementation plan?

Yes. Documentation is due to be submitted in late April 2011. We have put together a timeline that will help staff plan for the changes. In the first instance we are bringing teams of staff together to develop courses. Student representatives will be invited to these planning and development meetings.

Is there a timeline that includes all aspects of the restructure?

Yes. BP201 Futures Project Timeline.pdf outlines the full project timeline and meeting schedules. This timeline is also available as an iCal shared calendar – In iCal choose Calendar > Subscribe… Copy and Paste the following url into the Subscribe dialogue box.
webcal://www.me.com/ca/sharesubscribe/1.1038422070/M2CD-6-1-FF00B75D-26EE-4184-A09E-4D9ED9FF5583.ics

What is the transition plan for current students?

The renewed structure will take effect in 2012. Students in 1st year in 2010 will complete the 3rd year of their degree in the renewed structure. This means that Alternative Studio will not be offered, however a full range of replacement courses will be on offer for you to enrol in.

STUDIO SPACE INFORMATION

I currently have a studio space in my studio area, will I still have one in 2012?

Yes. Due to differences in teaching, technology, OH&S and practice, not all areas of the program currently have a studio space. Those areas whose teaching and learning rely on studio spaces for each student will maintain this in 2012 and beyond.

How will studio spaces be allocated?

Studio spaces will be allocated differently for each new studio. One of the exciting possibilities of the new structure is the potential for mixed studio areas, students working with different mediums and technologies will form new studio communities.

Will the Studio teaching hours be reduced?

No. All Studio Courses will remain at the current 4 hours of face to face teaching. Extra hours can be spent in the studio in self directed study.

QUESTIONS ABOUT SPECIALISATION

I want to be able to specialise, will I be able to do this?

Yes. The training of highly specialised artists is central to our revised program.
How will I be able to specialise?

Each new studio area will have 24 studio courses offered over 3 years. You need to complete a total of 12 studio courses. At the moment staff are meeting to discuss the content of these courses and how they will be delivered.

Do I have to specialise?

Yes. All students have to nominate an area of specialisation from the 4 studio areas.

Can I move around between the 4 studio areas?

Yes. In the new structure you will be able to enrol in specialised studio workshops from other studio areas, offering more flexibility with cross studio practice.

What will happen to Alternative studio?

Alternative Studio will be replaced with 3 new options;

1. Flexible studio offerings from each of the 4 studio areas
2. A new course called *Perception and Practice* (working title)
3. A new course called *Fine Art Concept Development* (working title)

Some Studio Courses may be taken from outside your ‘home’ studio area. In addition to this, you must complete 3 *Perception and Practice* courses (out of a possible 4), with only 1 of those courses being from your ‘home’ studio area. You must also complete 3 *Fine Art Concept Development* courses, and each studio area will offer 3 *Fine Art Concept Development* courses.

You can choose to enrol in these courses from any studio area or complete all 3 within your ‘home’ studio area. You get to choose how much cross studio practice you do.

How many student electives can I do?

*Student Electives* (previously titled *University Electives / Context Curriculum*) enable you to study courses from outside your program discipline, as a way of providing a broad educational experience. The university requirement is that each program offers the capacity for you to enrol in 2 *Student Electives*. These can be from anywhere across the university, or from courses offered within the School of Art. The School of Art will continue to offer *Student Electives*.

**PROGRAM RECOGNITION AND POST GRADUATE STUDY**

Will the new program be internationally recognised?

The new program will have the same international recognition as the current program. Some Post Graduate programs require 4 years of Undergraduate study. Students considering Post Graduate study should apply for the Honours program after completing the Undergraduate degree. This is a competitive process, last year 61 students applied and 34 were offered a place. It is expected that the number of places available will be increased for 2011.

Will the restructure have any impact on the Honours program?

Yes. The Honours program has traditionally been an extension of the BA (Fine Art) program, and is currently under review. There is a separate Honours program restructure taking place, to better align this with research based Post Graduate studies in the school and sector.
COURSE ADDITIONS AND CHANGES

What is the proposed new course called Perception and Practice?

Perception and Practice is a new cross studio practice based course. There will be 4 of these courses, 1 per studio area, and you must complete 3 over 3 years. These courses will be partly delivered in large class format and partly in smaller tutorial groups. You will use practical activities to explore, experiment and test multi-sensory ways of knowing, thinking and doing by making a range of works that respond to a project brief. At this stage each studio area will develop a course within a broad contemporary art framework.

How many art history courses will I be doing?

Over the three years of the program you will complete 4 Art History and Theory (AHT) courses. This means that in year 1 you will enrol in 2 semesters of AHT. In year 2 you enrol in 1 AHT course, and in year 3 you enrol in 1 AHT course. In years 2 and 3 you choose your courses from a set of offerings.

What is the proposed new course called Fine Art Concept Development?

Each studio area will develop 3 Fine Art Concept Development courses. These courses will be partly delivered in large class format and partly in tutorial groups. You may enrol in all three Concept Development courses from your ‘home’ studio or from any of the other 3 studio areas.

The intention of these courses is to provide opportunities for you to develop conceptual skills through practice based research. Using a range of practical activities, you will explore, experiment and test ideas and methods that relate to concepts of interest. The intention is to broaden your exposure to concepts and ideas to inform your practice.

What is the difference between Fine Art Concept Development and Art History & Theory?

Art History and Theory courses expose you to a range of critical, historical and theoretical contexts of art and cultural studies. This provides you with a wider context in which to frame your studio practice. These courses encourage you to develop well-informed, yet independent judgment, and to explore the connections between contemporary art and broader historical and theoretical fields. Assessment takes the form of a range of written and oral presentations.

Fine Art Concept Development is about enabling you to develop ideas in relation to your practice. Similar to Art History & Theory, you will be exposed to the work of other artists and to a range of theoretical and philosophical ideas. However, assessment is in the form of practical responses to ideas and theories.