

HISTORY OF ART

PEER REVIEW GROUP

- Professor E. Ó Carragáin, Department of English, UCC (Chair)
- Dr G. Neville, Department of French, UCC
- Professor L. Johannesson, Department of Art History & Visual Studies, University of Gothenburg, Sweden
- Professor L. Konecný, Institute of Art History, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Prague, Czech Republic.

SITE VISIT

The site visit was conducted over 2.5 days from 17-19 May 2005 and included visits to departmental and library facilities in UCC and meetings with

- Head and staff of the unit as a group and individually
- Representatives of undergraduate and postgraduate students
- Representatives of employers, past graduates and other external stakeholders
- Professor Paul Giller, Registrar & Vice-President for Academic Affairs
- Mr Michael O'Sullivan, Vice-President for Planning, Communications & Development
- Professor Peter Kennedy, Vice-President for Research Policy & Support
- Professor David Cox, Dean of Faculty of Arts
- Ms Carmel Cotter, Finance Office

An exit presentation of the principal findings of the Peer Review Group was made to staff of the department in the afternoon of the second day.

DESCRIPTION OF DEPARTMENT

Note: Data given is for the academic year 2004/05. History of Art is located within the Department of History which is responsible for its administration and allocation of financial resources.

Head of Department of History:	Professor Dermot Keogh
Professor of History of Art:	Professor James Elkins
Staff:	5 Academic Staff (1 part-time Professor, 2 full-time Lecturers, 2 part-time Lecturers), 1 part-time Executive Assistant)
Location of Department:	Perrott Avenue
Degrees/Diplomas offered:	BA, BMus, HDip, MPhil

NUMBER OF STUDENTS

History of Art has 56.62 Student FTEs distributed as follows:

Undergraduate Student FTEs

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Total U/G	Economic	Visiting American	Visiting European
27.79	12.58	11.58	0.00	51.96	4.75	4.96	0.83

Postgraduate Student FTEs

H Dip	Master Taught	Master Research	PhD	Total P/G
1.17	0	3.50	0	4.67

AIMS

The Department's ambitions are:

- To be the best postgraduate programme in modern and postmodern art history in Ireland.
- To be known internationally, by 2005-6. We hope to accomplish this by a combination of advertising and publications; the latter will begin appearing in March 2005.
- To be one of the 50 best places to study modern and postmodern art history in the world, by 2010.
- To attract 50 percent of our postgraduate students from outside Ireland, by fall 2007.

And more locally:

- To expand the purview of History of Art to include image-making practices throughout the university.
- To share modules with other departments at UCC, including Computer Science, English, French, German, Sociology, Ancient Classics, Medicine.
- To institute an all-university module on visuality that will allow students from all faculties to sample the full range of practices across all faculties.
- To create a profile for History of Art within Cork and Ireland more generally as a department that is open to the interests of the university and the arts community.

GENERAL COMMENT ON QUALITY REVIEW

The PRG found the SAR to be a very interesting, open and honest document, which presented a true reflection of History of Art. Any additional information requested by the PRG was provided immediately, including detailed information on funding and teaching workloads.

SWOT Analysis: History of Art prepared a SWOT analysis in which all members of History of Art participated. The PRG endorsed the analysis and addressed a number of issues raised by the staff in the findings described in this report.

Strengths: One of the great strengths of the History of Art is that its staff comprises a number of scholars studying art from different perspectives. They are operating in a harmonious environment. There is a consensus that the thrust of History of Art should not only be in any one particular direction. Another very real strength of History of Art lies in the diversity of approaches by the staff to the study of art history, something that is clearly valued by the staff and students. Both students and staff agreed that History of Art does not and

should not alienate students who are not interested in particular periods. The PRG strongly recommended that both strengths in History of Art should be retained.

Weaknesses: The PRG also noted with concern the high number of part-time teachers in History of Art, some of whom teach for very few hours per year. While this is essential for the delivery of the teaching in the immediate term, the PRG would warn against this becoming a permanent feature of the unit operation.

Opportunities: Among potential opportunities, the staff of History of Art were very well aware of the potential in fostering links with the Glucksman Gallery and the Crawford College of Art.

Threat: The most significant threat is a feature of the unusual organisation of the discipline, whereby the Professor of History of Art is present in UCC for only half the year.

Benchmarking: The PRG noted that the benchmarking exercise carried out by the staff of History of Art. The PRG would have liked to see evidence of further benchmarking and comparisons with some European institutions/non-English language speaking comparable departments elsewhere.

PROGRESS MADE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PRG RECOMMENDATIONS

A meeting to discuss progress made in implementing recommendations for improvement arising from the review of the Department of History of Art was held on 3 November 2006.

Present: Professor David Cox, Head, College, Arts, Celtic Studies and Social Sciences
 Professor Dermot Keogh, Head, Department of History
 Dr. Flavio Boggi, Head, History of Art
 Dr. Norma Ryan, Director, Quality Promotion Unit
 Mr. Gerard Horgan, Executive Assistant, Quality Promotion Unit

Abbreviations

PRG: Peer Review Group

VP: Vice-President

QPC: Quality Promotion Committee

QIP: Quality Improvement Plan

HR: Human Resources

ACSSS: Arts, Celtic Studies & Social Sciences

CIT: Cork Institute of Technology

Recommendation of PRG	Recommendation of QPC	Follow-up Report November 06
That from the end of the current arrangement, a full-time head be appointed in the Department of History of Art and that the necessary arrangements should be put in place well of advance of that date.	Recommendation endorsed. The QPC noted that the decision initially rests with Professor Elkins who has the option to either convert to a full-time post in UCC at the end of the academic year 2005/06 or to resign.	Ongoing The University has agreed to fill the Chair of History of Art for 2007/08 and advertising for the selection of a candidate will commence shortly.

Recommendation of PRG	Recommendation of QPC	Follow-up Report November 06
<p>It is vital that the rich diversity of approaches to the history of art currently fostered among departmental staff be maintained; alternative traditions should be actively integrated.</p>	<p>Recommendation endorsed.</p> <p>The QPC noted the tension between the comments in the Self-Assessment Report and the reality on the ground. QPC recognised the need to keep the breadth of the discipline in the programmes.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ACSSS Postdoctoral Fellow proposes to deliver a new module on Romanesque sculpture and architecture in 2007/08. ▪ A new module on Photography in 2007/08. ▪ History of Art is developing new text based courses for MA. ▪ New MA combining History of Art and Philosophy Department is at the advanced planning stage.
<p>That the possibility of attracting donor funding to fully equip one of the rooms in the Connolly Building for the needs of, <i>inter alia</i>, History of Art students be investigated. This could lead to the imaginative development of a compact hub or Centre for Image Studies, which would also encompass nearby locations such as the UCC Granary Theatre and the Kino Cinema. In the interim, links should be fostered with the Kino Cinema in order to alleviate current pressing needs for suitable venues for showing of films, etc.</p>	<p>Endorsed the finding of the PRG and the principle behind the recommendation. The QPC noted there are possibilities for a number of different options in implementing this recommendation and suggested that these should be considered in discussions between Professor Elkins, Dr. G. Young (Department. of English) and the Director of Buildings & Estates.</p>	<p>Not implemented</p> <p>There is only one room in the Connolly Building with dual projection facilities. The dual projection system in Kane G1 was removed. The light dimmer in this room is not always dark enough.</p> <p>There is still an outstanding requirement for a dedicated History of Art teaching space. The provision of suitable venues with dual-projection needs to be examined by University.</p> <p>In order to improve quality there is an urgent need to improve the facilities for History of Art and a need for a unified building.</p>
<p>That the Department should ensure better preparation for seminars and reading groups, in advance of internationally acclaimed Art History scholars visiting UCC, in order to maximise the use of their time while on campus for the benefit of the whole college community.</p>	<p>Recommendation endorsed.</p> <p>The QPC recommended that the Department of History should consider allocation of some of the Library budget to enable seed funding of resources for the discipline, responsibility for which lies with the Department of History at the present.</p>	<p>Implemented</p> <p>A recent event organised by History of Art was well advertised, over-subscribed and a great success.</p>

Recommendation of PRG	Recommendation of QPC	Follow-up Report November 06
<p>That the Department should ensure that scholarly activity is more evenly spread throughout the staff of the entire department.</p>	<p>Recommendation endorsed. QPC suggested that History of Art should consider the possibility of collaborating with relevant staff/units in other institutions, for example, CIT, so as to reduce the burden of the teaching workload on staff and should lead to an encouragement to staff to work on research projects.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>That the Department should ensure that all teaching staff across the Department have doctorates.</p>	<p>Recommendation endorsed. The QPC supported the recommendation for all permanent staff and felt that part-time staff should be encouraged and assisted to work towards acquiring a PhD qualification and engaging with research.</p>	<p>Implemented and ongoing. 3 full-time staff members have PhDs, a fourth is in the process of completing one; two part-time staff members are working towards an MPhil and a further two are engaged on the PhD programme.</p>
<p>That the Department should ensure that, as far as possible, teaching is delivered by full-time staff.</p>	<p>Recommendation endorsed. The QPC suggested that drawing practitioners from other areas to support the teaching on programmes would enhance the programmes and would ease the burden on the small cohort of full-time staff.</p>	<p>Implemented New member of staff lecturers 1st, 2nd & 3rd Arts & MA students. History of Art now employs tutors (part-time staff) to deliver the 2nd Arts tutorial programme in 2006/07. Full-time staff members who had given these tutorials in the past are now freed up to deliver more lecture modules.</p>
<p>That the Department should plan well in advance for sabbatical leave and other types of staff development.</p>	<p>Recommendation endorsed. The QPC recognised that the staff of History of Art need sabbaticals to facilitate access to materials in the discipline not housed in UCC. However the QPC would encourage all staff to engage in scholarly activity.</p>	<p>Ongoing for all members of staff</p>

Recommendation of PRG	Recommendation of QPC	Follow-up Report November 06
<p>That the Department should continue to foster fruitful links with local stakeholders such as the Glucksman Gallery, the Crawford College of Art and Design and the CIT.</p>	<p>Recommendation strongly endorsed.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>The Head of History of Art is in discussion with fellow staff on potential ventures while Mr. Simon Knowles is in dialogue with other institutions.</p> <p>Links with the Glucksman Gallery are ongoing and Dr. Kriebel is currently organising an exhibition with René Zechlin.</p>
<p>That the Department should focus further in its work on other comparable European institutions/non-English language speaking departments elsewhere.</p>	<p>Recommendation endorsed.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>That the Department should establish clearer links between international movements in the art world and the Irish response to such international movements.</p>	<p>Recommendation endorsed.</p>	<p>Implemented</p> <p>Introduction of classes focusing on Irish issues such as Irish sculpture and 18th, 19th & 20th Century Irish Art.</p>
<p>That the Department should ensure greater ‘follow through’ from First Year to subsequent years by introducing some elements of the current Final Year programme into First Year.</p>	<p>The QPC noted the difference of opinion between the reviewers and the staff of History of Art. The QPC considered that it would be preferable to have a consensus on this and recommended that further consideration be given to resolving this issue.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

Recommendation of PRG	Recommendation of QPC	Follow-up Report November 06
<p>That the Department should continue to foster collaborative research projects with other departments throughout the University.</p>	<p>Recommendation strongly endorsed.</p> <p>History of Art is referred to the Acting Head of ACSSS for elaboration of what the situation will be regarding support when the funding from The Atlantic Philanthropies ceases.</p>	<p>Implemented</p> <p>The following collaborative projects are in train:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project with Prof. Eamonn O’Carragain (Department. of English), digital archive of images. ▪ Mr. James Cronin working with the chaplaincy and Honan Chapel ▪ Ongoing links with the Glucksman gallery ▪ A project to digitalise university collection <p>Also, Dr. Halsall and Dr. Kriebel co-applied for an IRCHSS & IRCSET grant for a Visual and Performing Arts study register as team members along with Dr. L. Rascaroli and other members of the Arts Faculty.</p>
<p>That the Department should explore the possibility of introducing postgraduate programmes in art theory and also in the art of curatorial and art management and administration.</p>	<p>Recommendation endorsed.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Launched MA in Modern Contemporary Art (11-12 students) & MA collaborate with Department of Philosophy.</p>
<p>Consideration should be given to providing a full-time administrative assistant for the Department. In the meantime, the current arrangement whereby the Departmental executive assistant has a photocopier in her office should be discontinued for health and safety reasons.</p>	<p>Recommendation endorsed.</p> <p>The QPC referred this recommendation for consideration to the Acting Head of the College of ACSSS, along with the issue of how continuing support and resources to support the activities of History of Art will be provided.</p>	<p>Not implemented.</p> <p>This is a matter for the Head of College. The Head of College has not yet acted upon this recommendation.</p>