



Sir John Cass Department of Art, Media and Design

Design Research for Disability

MA

Aims of the course

The philosophy and rationale of the course is based on the view that disabled people experience physical, environmental and social barriers that restrict their ability to participate fully in society. This course offers a unique opportunity for designers and health professionals to work together in developing desirable products, environment and equipment for the widest possible consumer base, regardless of age and ability.

It is our intention to produce practitioners who are knowledgeable about the design process, production and marketing of products and environments for diverse society. We also aim to advance the learning, knowledge and professional competence of those already working, or wishing to work, in the area of inclusive design and bespoke equipment for disabled people. The course therefore attracts designers who wish to specialise in this field and also health professionals who want to specify or supervise the manufacture of products for disabled people.

Location: London City campus, Commercial Road

Starts September	Yes
Starts February	No
Full-time	Yes
Part-time day	Yes
Part-time evening	No
Part-time day and evening	No

Duration and attendance

Full-time: Two semesters and a summer studies period (45 weeks in one calendar year)

Part-time: Two semesters in year one and two semesters and a summer studies period in year two

Dates/timetable

Autumn semester:	September – January
Spring semester:	February – May
Summer studies period:	June – September

Year programme

The curriculum is made up of eight modules of study:

- Assimilation
- Research Method
- Design for Production
- Disability and Society
- Life Science or Visual Communication
- Case Study & MA concept development
- The Major Project or Dissertation (which is a double module)

Part-time students will undertake four modules in the first year, two modules in the second year and The Major project or Dissertation, a double module, in the summer studies period.

Teaching and learning

Your learning is organised around set design project work or written assignments with lectures, tutorials and studio supervision. Each design project will have either a client or will be based upon an established need defined by members of staff.

You will be required to research and read material suggested in the module outline to complement lectures, tutorial and studio supervision.

Additional links with external sources are made for the Case Study work and the Major Project/ Dissertation.

Assessment

Coursework in the form of written reports, assignments, project work and research method will be continually assessed. On completion of each unit a percentage mark will be given. The major MA project report or dissertation will be assessed at the end of a double unit of study.

Career opportunities

Career opportunities in this field are expanding rapidly due to an increasing business interest in inclusive design, resulting from global changes in anti-discrimination legislations and the growing ageing populations. Health professionals and designers generally return to their respective profession with enhanced knowledge and skills and relevant professional links, and some progress to an MPhil or PhD. The course maintains a good employment record for graduate jobs in this sector, including consultancy opportunities for therapists who wish to work in the design sector, and also for designers working in the disability sector.

Collaborative and international links

The course has strong collaborative links with manufacturers and professional bodies associated with Inclusive design and disability studies.

Fees

See our website, www.londonmet.ac.uk/tuition-fees, or call Course Enquiries (see Further Information below).

Entry requirements

Applicants are normally required to possess an Honours degree in three-dimensional design with expertise in areas such as product, interior or architectural design or hold a professional qualification in the life sciences, normally occupational therapy, physiotherapy or speech therapy. Consideration will be given to those with a relevant BTEC HND and subsequent work experience.

Accommodation

The University provides guaranteed hall accommodation if you live more than 25 miles away and accept a place by the August deadline for courses starting in September. The University Accommodation Service also provides help finding privately rented accommodation.

See www.londonmet.ac.uk/accommodation

How to apply

For September and part-time entry: you should apply directly to the University, through our website www.londonmet.ac.uk, or by contacting the Admissions Office at:

Admissions Office
London Metropolitan University
166-220 Holloway Road
London N7 8DB

Tel: 020 7133 4202
Email: admissions@londonmet.ac.uk

For academic enquiries please contact:

Course Leader
Smadar Samson
Email: s.samson@londonmet.ac.uk

Open Days/Evenings

You can also come to one of our open days and evenings, held throughout the year. See our website www.londonmet.ac.uk/open-days, or call the Admissions Office, for up to date details.

Student Profile, Simon Parish:

"Like many students I found myself on the wrong degree course halfway through. Having started out on a Fine Art BA, I was keen to apply my creative abilities in a different arena. Instead of quitting my current studies, I sought advice from careers services and decided to undertake extra modules more relevant to my new career path.

I looked at a variety of design-based postgraduate courses and the current employment sector to see if further education was necessary. There are many design courses throughout the UK – however the idea of spending years reshaping and styling another piece of furniture or kitchen sculpture did not really appeal.

London Metropolitan University was running this MA, providing the opportunity to design products that would potentially have a significant beneficial effect on a person's life. The course is a vehicle for some fantastic collaboration between the creative industries and the medical professions to provide both of the necessary backgrounds for exciting and innovating design.

The course covered research modules, social issues and gave scope for theoretical and practical projects. Some of the time we worked on solo projects, other times I worked within a team and in collaboration with a manufacturer in the industry. During the course I built up the necessary project management skills to take a concept through to the production of a working prototype, involving working with both in-house technicians and out-sourced companies. I also learnt new workshop skills, from machining metal to forming plastic parts and gained insight into the manufacturing issues required to make products viable.

Time on the course was split approximately into smaller projects/units in the first two thirds, with the remaining third focusing on one large body of work. For my major project, I worked as one of a pair in the production of a portable seating insert for pushchairs for children with cerebral palsy that require further postural support not catered for in mass market products. It was this work that led to my successful employment with the company following graduation."

Simon is Head of Design at one of the largest manufacturers of high quality furniture and equipment for disabled children in UK.