Dr Justin Magee: Research Director (Senior Lecturer in Product design)
Janet Coulter: Senior Lecturer in Design
Louise O’Boyle: Associate HoS (Lecturer in Foundation Studies)
Dr Caryl Sibbett: Senior Lecturer in Art Therapy
Dr Pamela Whitaker: Lecturer in Art Therapy
Dr Chris McHugh: Lecturer in Craft & Ceramics
Dr Ian Miller: Lecturer in History
Catherine Hitch: PhD candidate: Health Phycology
Niamh McConaghy: PhD candidate: Art & Design
Unit Co-ordinator:
Professor Karen Fleming

Ulster’s research in Art and Design, including architecture, is ranked 3rd in the UK for its world-leading 4* research. We are proud to have developed an environment for staff and research students that is 100% internationally excellent and world leading. Our focus on practice and applied research is recognised with over 70% of our impact being rated as world leading.

Visit the Art & Design Research Institute website

- 3rd for World leading 4* Research
- 70% of world leading Impact
- 7th for GPA (3.24) from 25 FTE’s
Dr Justin Magee
Research Director for Art & Design

Magee, Justin (2010) *Skeletal Joe*
Magee, JDM, McClelland, B., Winder, RJ., (2012)

Current issues with standards in the measurement and documentation of human skeletal anatomy, 
PUPI
Pressure Ulcer Prevention Innovation
Dr Justin Magee, Dr Mark Porter (Ulster University)
Roisin McSwiggan (NHSCT)
Co-creative workshops: Leg Ulcer Forum x3 (2016/2017/2018)
Service improvement testing
Current KTP developing realistic **3D visuals and interfaces as WebApp application for Surgeons**, planning operations using **3D printed anatomy**.
Janet Coulter

Senior Lecturer in Design (PT PhD)

Interested in exploring alternative approaches to visualising pain caused by mental stress, which is often invisible.

Current PhD work of using e-textiles and e-fashion to raise awareness, monitor, measure and manage stress in female students.

Seeking new collaborative partnerships within the health and wellbeing field related to design.


The pom-pom is a capacitive sensor – with an audible output when squeezed. Frequency changes and the sound becomes louder, as stress increases.
Louise O’Boyle
(Treasurer & Board Member: New Life Counselling, Belfast) 
Associate Head of School (Belfast School of Art) PT PhD

Visual exploration of lived experiences, especially those receiving palliative care and those living with mental ill-health.

Articulating these through ‘traditional’ and digital visual making processes and materials as a means of audience engagement.


- O’Boyle, L. Mental Health Art Installation, University of Southampton, 6th-13th May 2014
Dr Caryl Sibbett  Senior Lecturer in Art Therapy (HPCP registered: BACP Registered)
Dr Pamela Whitaker  Lecturer in Art Therapy (BAAT, SIG member: HPCP registered)

• Art, Psychotherapy, Counselling and Ecotherapy
• Art Therapy Practicums connecting Artists with Public Engagement Staff and Mental Health Services
• Working with Galleries and Museums towards achieving art therapy goals: social and cultural
• Arts and health and social prescription aims and objectives.
Dr Pamela Whitaker (Ecotherapy)

Groundswell: Art, Participation, Environment

Artist Statement

Groundswell activates public spaces to generate hospitality, artistry, conversations and agency.

Events are generated within studios found within nature, public thoroughfares, health and cultural environments.

The wellness factor of the arts is restorative and an elixir to compensate for disillusionment. Groundswell facilitates art creation from the materials of life with relevance to experiences in the making.

Canadian Art Therapy Association / l'Association canadienne d'art-thérapie Conference

Concordia University, Montreal, October 12-14, 2018

Keynote: Making a Scene in Public

"Composing art from the materials of life and within environments of encounter. Art therapy should be relevant to life where it happens, becoming a beacon of possibility and an antidote to indifference."

The Nature of Art Therapy

The Art of Walking

Canadian Art Therapy Association Conference and An Tain Arts Centre, Dundalk

Autumn, 2018

Walking and the Impromptu Studio

Milestones of Moments

A series of workshops where the making is on a pathway to somewhere. Each workshop features foraging, notes to self, performing a landmark, and speaking out loud. The walks involved familiar or brutal terrain.
Dr Chris McHugh Lecturer in Ceramics

How clay-based methodologies could be applied further within therapeutic settings.

Community-based ceramics projects with a range of participants

- 2016: AHRC Cultural Engagement Fellow, Glass and Ceramics, University of Sunderland (working with Forward Assist, a Newcastle-based veterans’ charity)
- 2016: Artist Associate, HenPower Project, Equal Arts, Gateshead, UK (working with those affected by dementia)
- 2012-13: A Present from Sunderland commission, Helix Arts and Sunderland Youth Offending Service (young offenders)

McHugh, Chris (2018) *Swift & Bold*
Dr Ian Miller
Lecturer in History

Interested in pain-related research from a medical history/humanities perspective

Catherine Hitch (PhD candidate)

MSc of Health Psychology
• exploring the relationship between coping and chronic pain in veterans
• One of the themes which emerged related to being engaged in things of interest or passion.
• Previous research found that passion level is linked to pain level.

Niamh McConaghy (PhD candidate)

MFA Contemporary Art Practice, BA Fine Art
• Title: “Co-Production Methods and Practice for the Visualisation of Pain”
• Collaboration between Ulster University and NI Pain Forum
Creative Industries Institute
Creative Clusters: Future Screens NI

World-leading Research and Impact in the Creative Industries Institute

Ulster University’s Creative Industries Institute is an exciting new initiative that brings together our advanced research and teaching expertise in creative disciplines to collaborate with industry, government and communities, focusing on skills acquisition, job creation, policy development and future-led research.
ACNI’s primary engagement in the area of mental health and wellbeing
Year 1 complete
to give a voice to young people at risk
custom-made creative activities
uses the arts to challenge any stigma, prejudice and discrimination associated with mental health and wellbeing
supports help-seeking behaviour by participants

LOTTERY FUNDED

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