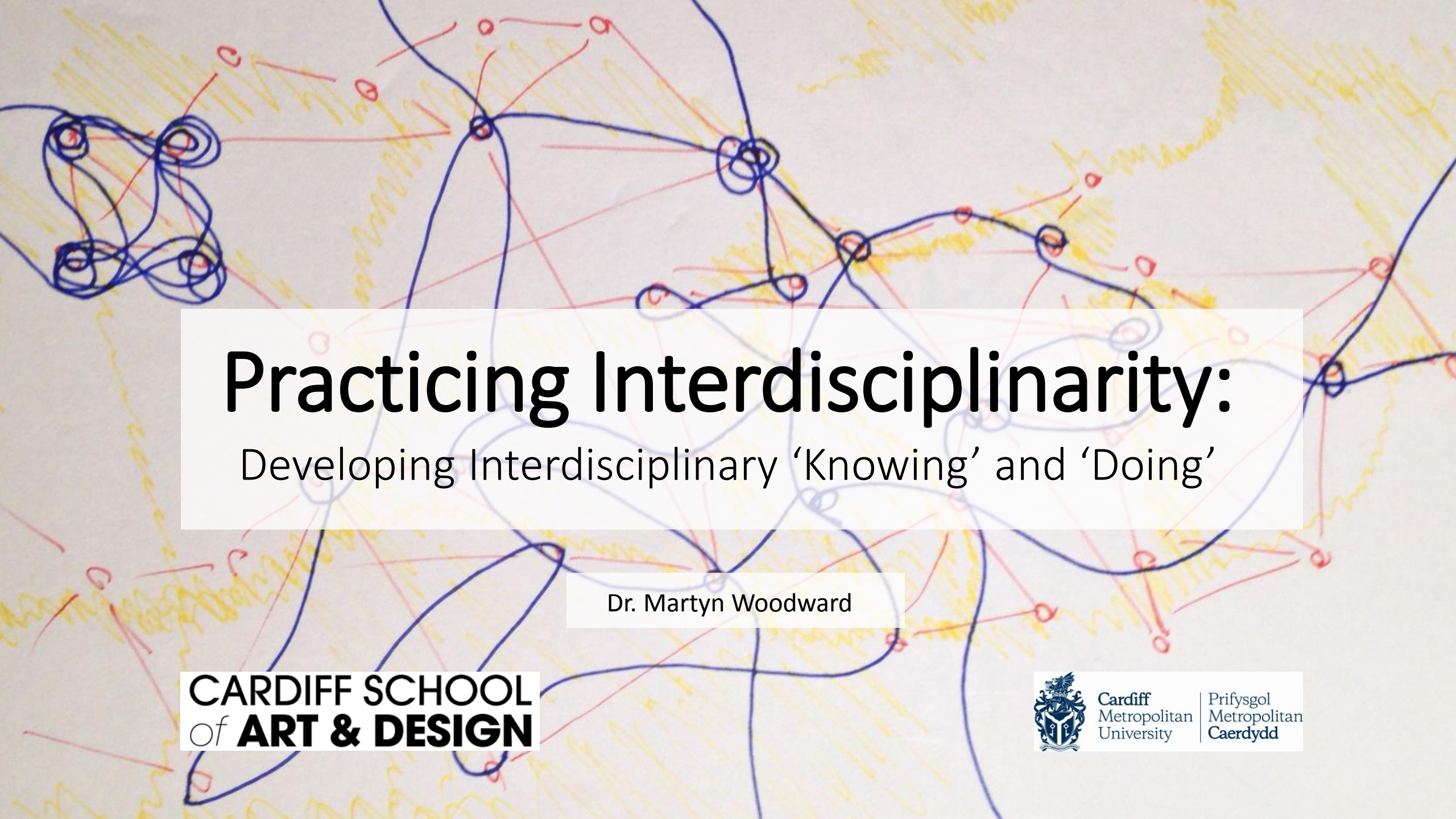


Practicing Interdisciplinarity:

Developing Interdisciplinary ‘Knowing’ and ‘Doing’

Dr. Martyn Woodward

CARDIFF SCHOOL of ART & DESIGN

Cardiff Metropolitan University | Prifysgol Metropolitan Caerdydd

HUG™ can significantly
improve the wellbeing
of a person living with
advanced dementia
Join our Crowdfunder
journey today...
www.HUG.world
Inclusivity,
Health & Wellbeing,
Human Centered Design,
Sustainability,
Art & Science
CARDIFF SCHOOL
of ART & DESIGN

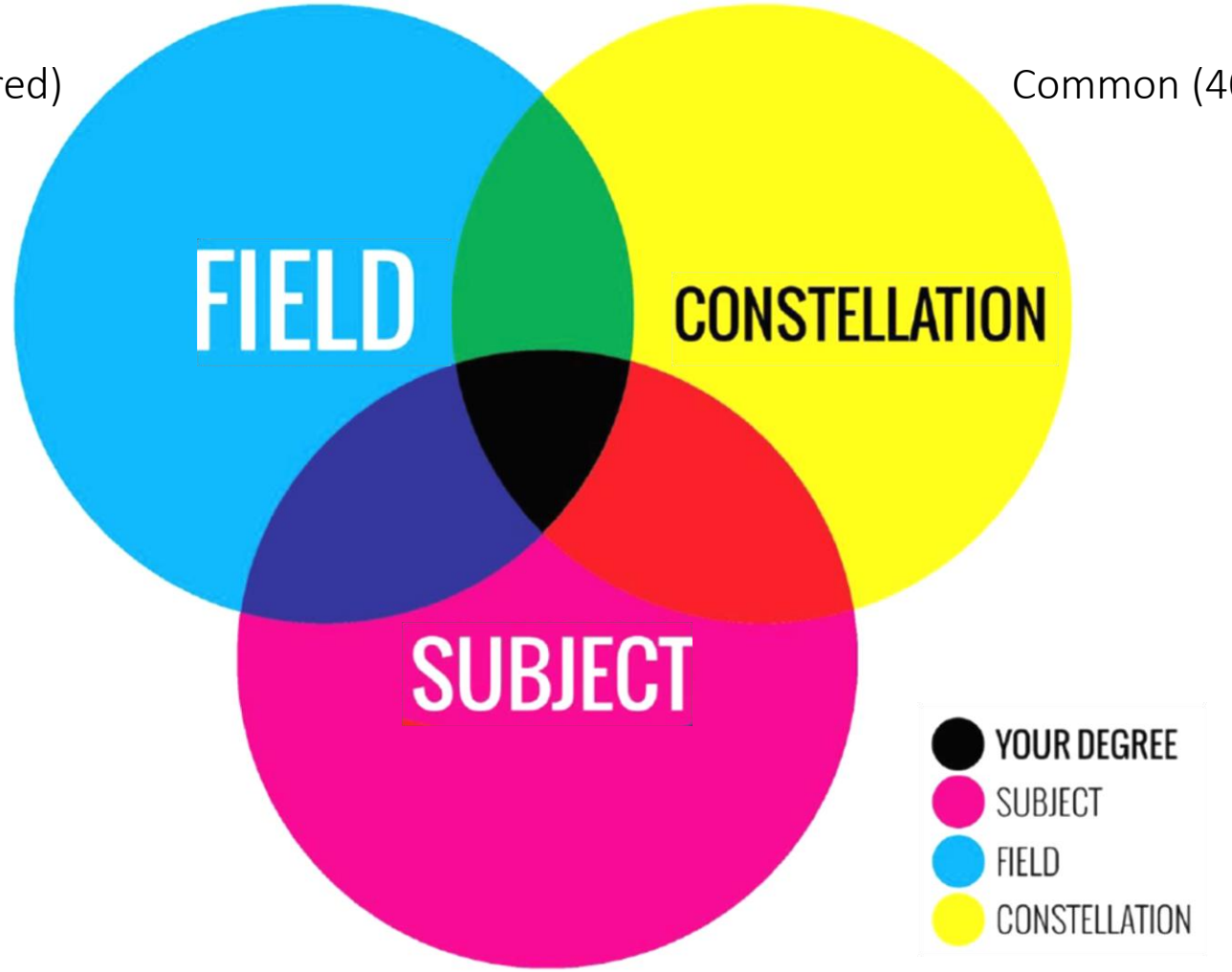
… [t]ime wasting exercise when we can **utilize the time more effectively in subject areas which will actually secure us employment.** [Module X] isn't going to equip me for industry. (Anonymous student feedback, 2017/18).

As an art & design student I believe there's a reason why **I didn't choose to learn a more academic subject**, as I'm very much more hands on and practical with my learning (Anonymous student feedback, 2017/18).

CARDIFF SCHOOL of ART & DESIGN

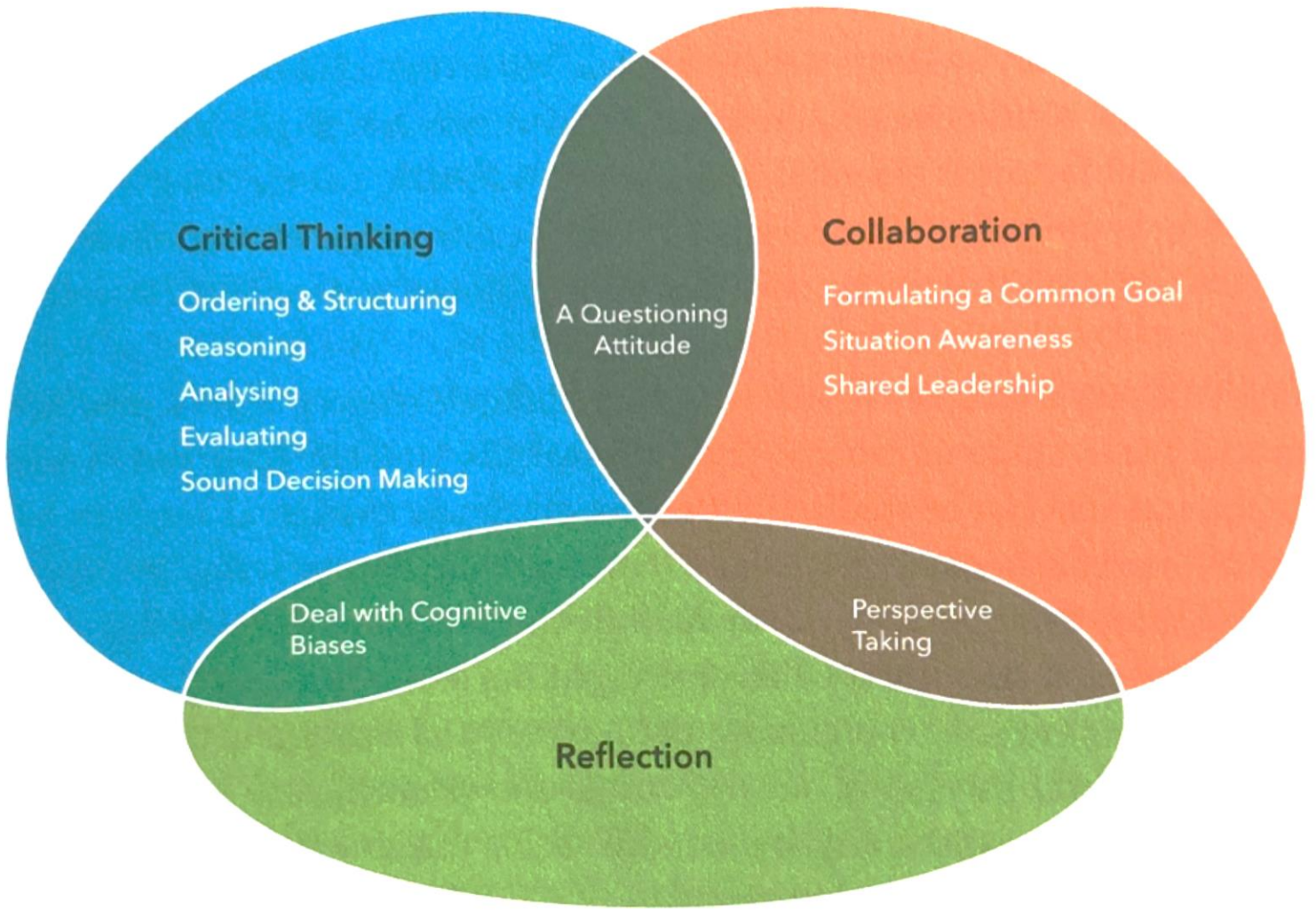
Common (40 cred)

Common (40 cred)



Bespoke (40 cred)

CARDIFF SCHOOL of ART & DESIGN



Skills and subskills that foster interdisciplinary understanding

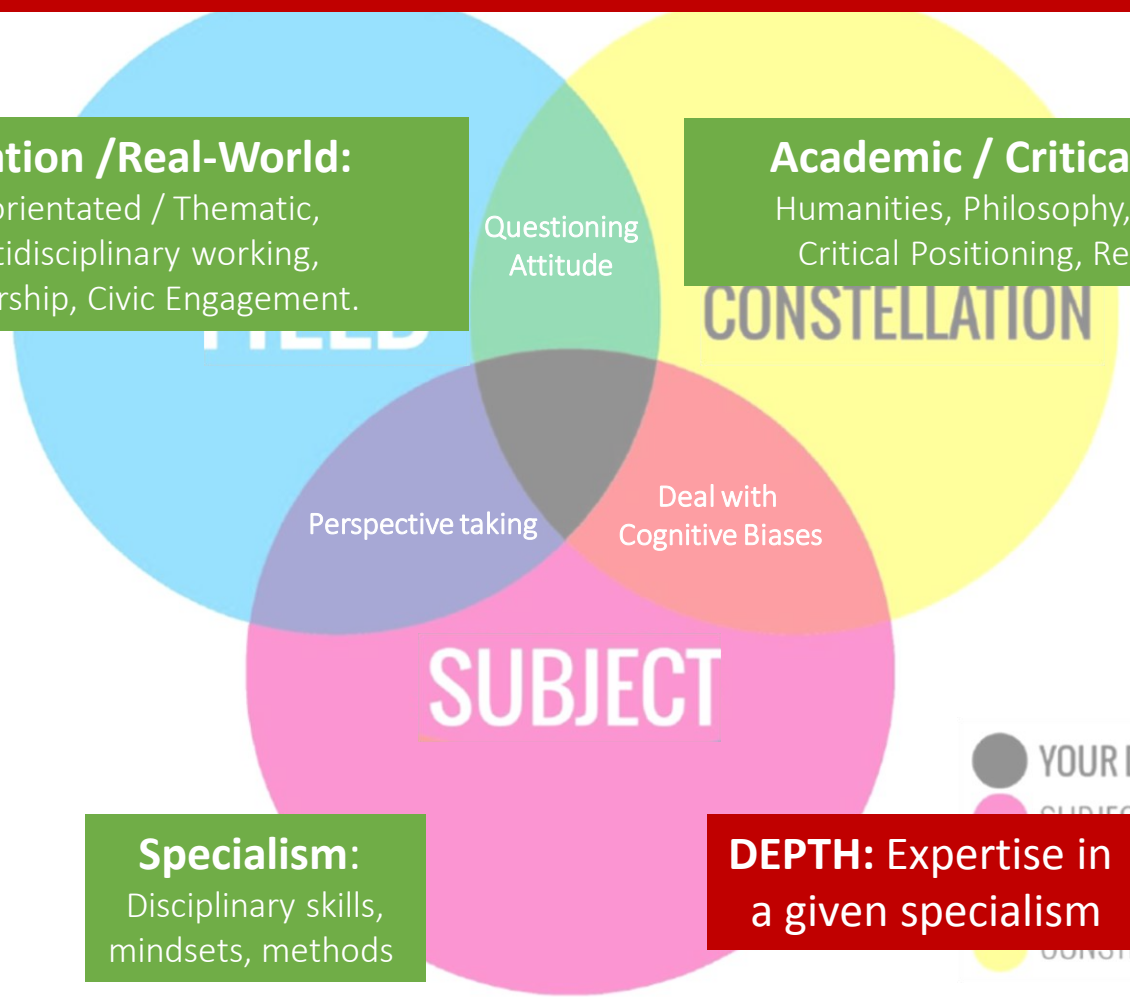
de Greef, L., *et al*. (2017), *Designing Interdisciplinary Education: A Practical Handbook for University Teachers.* Amsterdam University Press

CARDIFF SCHOOL of ART & DESIGN

RANGE: (Interdisciplinary Understanding) Perspective Taking, Critical Thinking, Empathy, Collaboration

Collaboration /Real-World:
Problem-orientated / Thematic,
Inter, Multidisciplinary working,
Entrepreneurship, Civic Engagement.

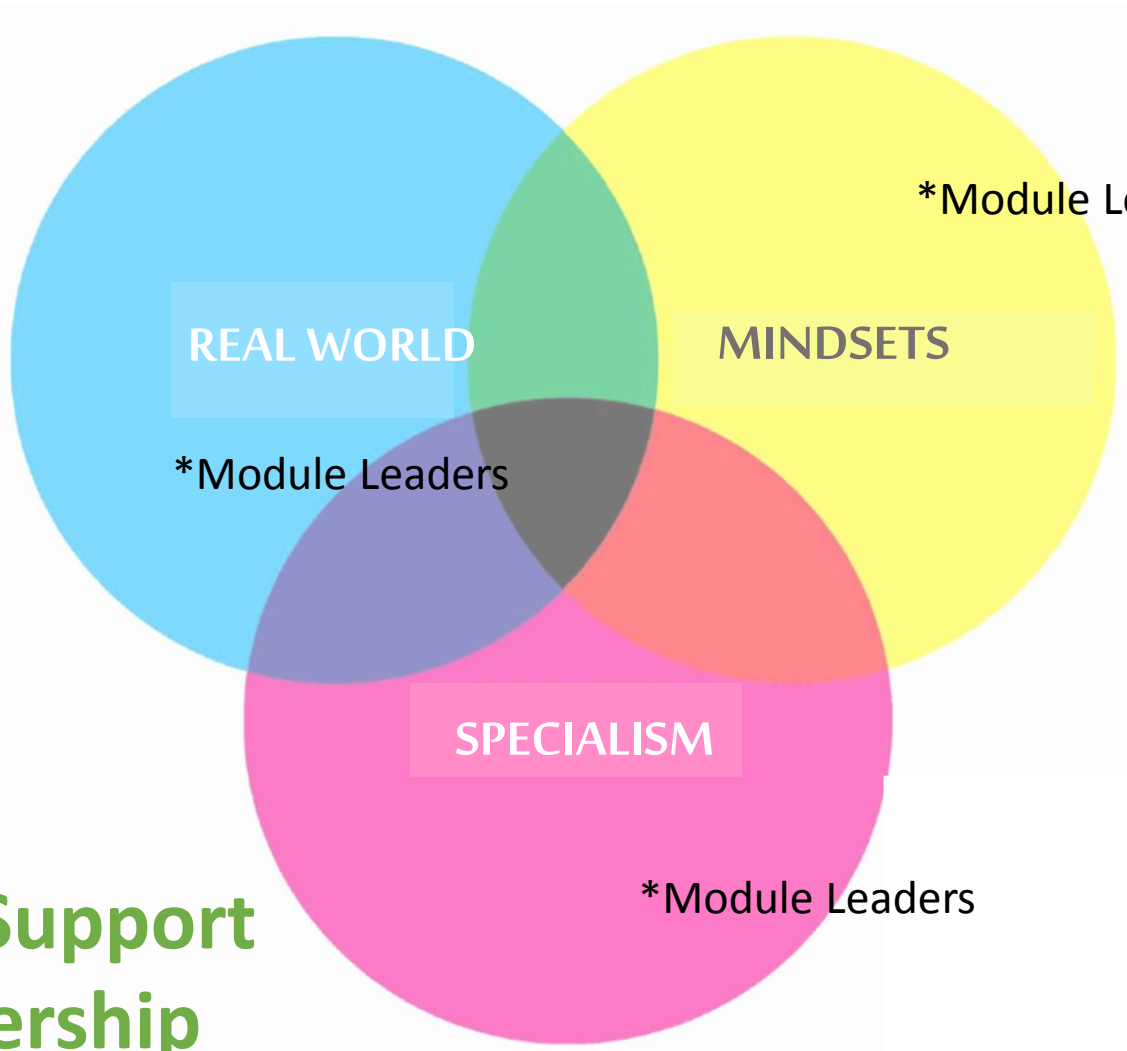
Academic / Criticality (mindset):
Humanities, Philosophy, Systems Thinking,
Critical Positioning, Research Methods.



Specialism:
Disciplinary skills,
mindsets, methods

DEPTH: Expertise in
a given specialism

CARDIFF SCHOOL
of ART & DESIGN



Peer Review + Support

Collective Ownership

Communities of Practice

CARDIFF SCHOOL of ART & DESIGN

Elective

Research-Based / led

Flexibility and Choice

CARDIFF SCHOOL of ART & DESIGN

GET

Flexibility and Choice: Assessment

CONSTELLATION

- Assignment with variable outcomes to evidence **development of cognitive sub skills required of interdisciplinary understanding**:

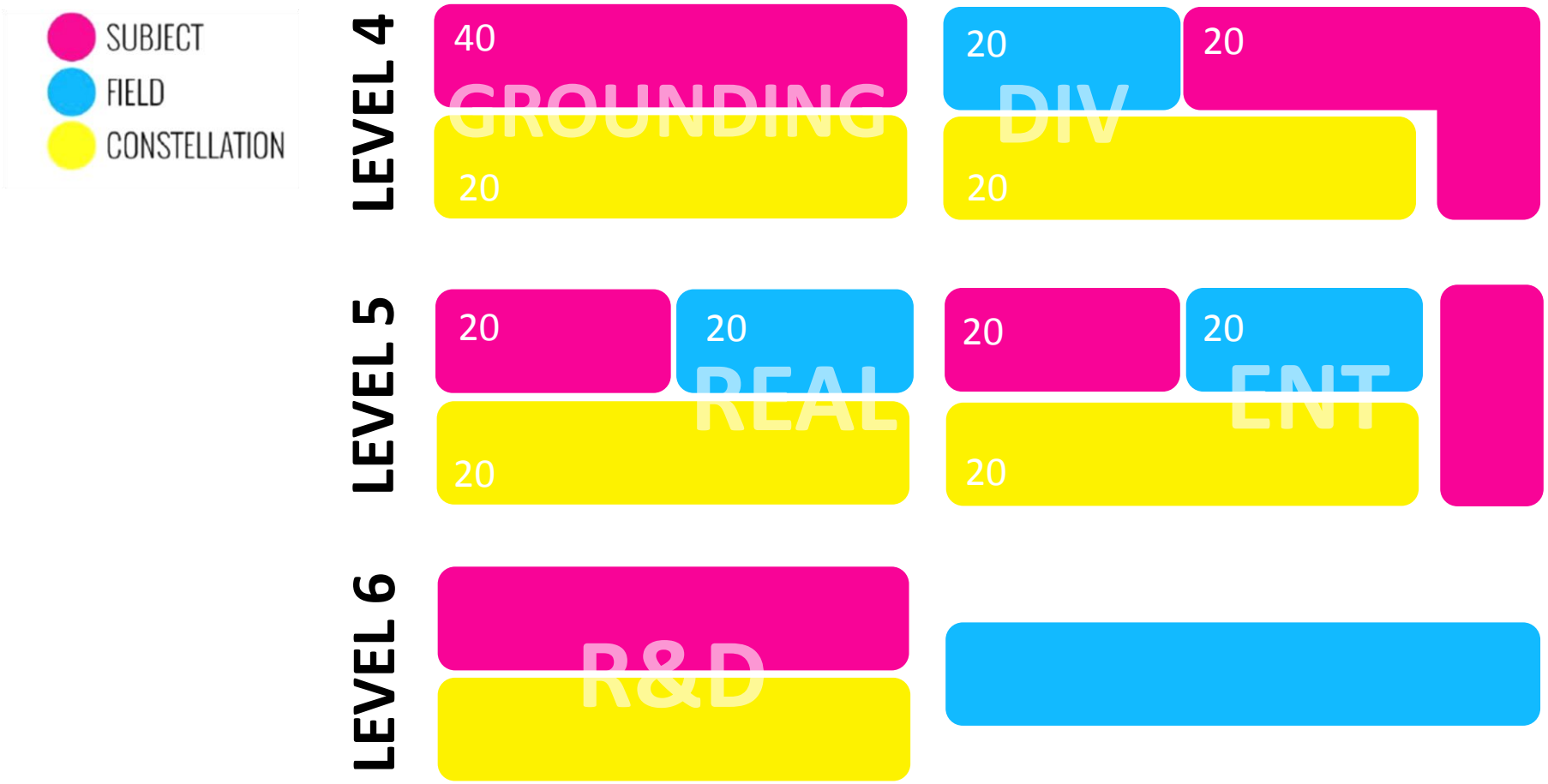
  Written Paper;
  Visual Essay;
  Practice + Academic Text;
  Research Poster;
  Podcast;
  Entrepreneurship Research Proposal;
  Technical Report;
  (amongst others)

- **Reflective Learning Journal (PDP) (connections between modules).**

FIELD

- Outcomes chosen by students to **evidence development of practical subskills of interdisciplinary understanding**.
- Group Research Presentation (viva)
- Teamworking audit.
- **Reflective Learning Journal (PDP) (connections between modules).**

CARDIFF SCHOOL of ART & DESIGN



Flexibility in Design of the Year

CARDIFF SCHOOL of ART & DESIGN

"Constellation, Field and Subject are a great mix and have definitely **prepared me for the world of work in my own research and in the commercial design industry**, whereby working in a multi-disciplinary team is now the norm and is something I feel comfortable and even get excited about as a result. I take this transferable skill into anything I do."

BA (Hons) Product Design (Third Year)

"I recommend working with other students from other subjects as **it's an eye opener** to the way we think about our own work."

BA (Hons) Textiles, Year Two

"I've been introduced to **new ways of thinking and tackling problems** and I've built life long friendships. It has helped me develop skills such as communicating effectively, negotiating with others, sorting misunderstandings and public speaking, all of **which will help me immensely in industry.**

Don't settle for boring, there is always a way for you to **think outside of the box** and still be able to apply your specialism."

BA Graphic Communication, Year Two

CARDIFF SCHOOL of **ART & DESIGN**

Developing Interdisciplinary ‘Knowing’ and ‘Doing’

Communities of Practice

Flexibility and Choice

Flexibility in Assessment

Flexibility in Design of the Year

CARDIFF SCHOOL of ART & DESIGN