

A very enjoyable and successful first meeting of twelve OCA students the first OCA-North study group in the <https://theoldredbusstation.com> in Leeds, with Andrew Conroy's attendance as a tutor made possible by OCASA funding. Here's a short note on what happened and the direction agreed for future meetings.



We talked.



We listened.



We explained.

The outline of the meeting was introductions, an overview of the survey results (on student expectations for the study group), a discussion about the direction of the study group, with input helpfully provided by other regional groups, and a critique session (perhaps to be called 'show and tell' next time) with Andrew C fronting it with advice on the process and nature of critique.

Outline agreed for future direction of group:

- Aim to meet every two months
- Purpose is purely for 'show and tell' (S&T) of work and general discussion / sharing of OCA experiences. Any visits to exhibitions that happen to be near the location are periphery to the study group.
- Support for separate exhibition visits should be requested through OCASA as usual, not through the OCA-North group.
- Agreed that a suggestion box will be used to allow everyone to feel comfortable raising questions, particularly when they are new to the OCA.
- S&T sessions will be tutor facilitated, rather than led, with an informal approach, rather than portfolio review-styled approach. Potential to request tutors to talk about their own practice as part of this.
- Potential next meeting around the location of the [Great Exhibition of the North](#)<sup>2</sup> in Newcastle.

Side points:

- Inclusive communication in regional areas is cumbersome but will improve once the regional-study group specific OCA Discuss categories are introduced. OCA-North mailing list won't capture new joiners / people missing initial communications. However, if anyone wants to join please contact OCA support by email and ask to be added to oca-north mailing list.

- Old Red Bus Station in Leeds has potential for future exhibition of OCA-North student work; student friendly and they already host exhibitions by Leeds Uni Arts College.

Finally, thanks to all that attended and I look forward to the next one!