Applications should be typed and should be no more than 500 words in length. They should include:

\* Aims: details of proposed destination, and duration of visit. Please include an itinerary of the place/s you intend to visit.

\* Objectives: an outline of how the travel will be of benefit to studio work/research interests.

\* Projected budget: a breakdown of estimated costs for transport and accommodation. Please be as accurate as possible, justifying your estimate by providing quotes.

\* Presentation plan: a proposal of how you will present your experiences to your peers. This could be either an illustrated talk or an exhibition of work resulting from your trip.

MAXIMUM 500 WORDS Please state the purpose of the trip. Indicate the relevance to your research and its contribution to the successful completion of your dissertation or thesis.

My MA thesis is about the perception of visual art. It is an interdisciplinary investigation into the scientific principles behind the artwork and the development of a specific visual language which has informed the standard for modern design. To explore this topic I am looking at the Op Art movement of the 1960s. Victor Vasarely is considered the pioneer and master of optical illusions. The visual language that he developed is still very much in use today. It anticipated the aesthetic of computer games, advertising and it has played a part in shaping our consciousness. His intensive studies into how we see what we see enabled him to play with visual perception.

The relevance to my research is that when our spatial perception is altered, we can better understand how the eyes and the brain work together to make sense of the world. ‘Perception means resolving ambiguity’ (Macknik and Martinez-Conde, 2012) and this can be true for the way an artist works to resolve a visual component and for the way the neural system handles the separation of optical elements. The sections of the brain that process motion (occipital motion cells) are activated by looking at Op Art, usually never activated by static imagery.

Artists like Vasarely were ahead of the scientific understanding at the time, in their own way experimenting and problem solving in their studios. I am really interested in the overlap between art and science and I have been speaking to neuroscientists within the university. Visiting the Victor Vasarely Foundation and the Vasarely Museum will help me to balance the scientific research with investigation of the artwork. I want to experience Vasarely’s works first hand and speak with the curatorial teams, to get a better insight into how he worked to produce his groundbreaking artworks.

At The Victor Vasarely Foundation in Marseille I intend to study the application of Vasarely’s style on the architecture of the building, which he designed in 1973. At the Vasarely Museum in Budapest I will explore the extensive collection of paintings and in particular I want to speak to Chief Curator, Györgyi Imre about her research into “radical paintings” the beginnings of modernism. This research trip would hugely enhance my dissertation.

MAXIMUM 500 WORDS Please describe how your research relates to the study of European culture and its development within a global context, covering (though not exclusively) politics, culture, literature, the evolving influence of technology, and global challenges facing the world.

Victor Vasarely was a French, Hungarian born artist who is considered to be the father of Op Art. Op art is culturally significant because of the context the movement was developing within, the start of abstract art. Inspired by the likes of Mondrian, Malevich and Kandinsky and Matisse, the artists at the time started to explore the potential of non-representative geometric works. Vasarely is one of the key artists of the twentieth century, whose pictorial language is still in use today. Victor Vasarely exhibited his work with seminal artists like Marcel Duchamp and Alexander Calder. He studied at the Bauhaus school of art and design, which brought together many brilliant European minds to teach (like Klee, Kandinsky, Moholy-Nagy, Itten and Marcks)  
  
It was painters rather than scientists who first worked out the rules of visual perspective and cognitive science. Artists have long preceded the visual sciences in the discovery of fundamental vision principles through their application in art. A new field of study, neuroaesthetics, connects art and vision science. Eric Kandel won a Nobel prize in 2000 for his work around the visual nervous system and the psychology of visual art. Other important researchers in this field include Zeki, Chatterjee and Ramachandran. I think this area is really exciting and it would be amazing to make some contribution to and to do further study on a topic I am really interested in and passionate about.

All costs, including travel and accommodation, must be fully itemised and as accurate an estimate as possible. The total cost should not exceed £1,000 unless you have an alternative source of funds to cover additional costs.

Hotels:  
ROOMbach Hotel Budapest Center (£XX/night = £XX  
Appart'hôtel ESTELLE Marseille (£XX/night = £XX)  
(Total for hotels £XXX)  
  
Travel passes:  
72 hour travel pass Budapest (£XX)  
City Travel Pass Marseille (£XX)  
  
Flights:  
Newcastle > Marseille – February 1st  
Marseille > Budapest – February 3rd  
Budapest > Newcastle – February 6th  
(Total for flights with Air France and KLM - £XXX)  
  
Total: £XXX