

Programme Specification

Every taught course of study leading to a UAL award is required to have a Programme Specification. This summarises the course aims, learning outcomes, teaching, learning and assessment methods, and course structure. Programme Specifications are developed through course validation and are formally approved by UAL Validation Sub Committee (VSC). They are available to prospective students through the course web page, and must be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure currency of information (for example, following any modifications or local developments).

Awarding Body	University of the Arts London (UAL)
Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB)	N/A
Teaching Institution	London College of Communication
Final Award	MA Photojournalism and Documentary Photography
Length of Course	4 Terms / FT
UCAS code	
Date of production/revision	July 2017

Master of Arts Photojournalism and Documentary Photography is a full-time course taught over 45 weeks. The course is intended to equip you with the theoretical, methodological and practical tools to operate at a professional level in the field of photojournalism and documentary photography, working across a range of markets and media, including newspapers, magazines, galleries and books. You will produce an extended body of photojournalistic/documentary work (the MA Major Project) which you will situate within a wider context of documentary practice. MA Photojournalism and Documentary Photography is a professionally orientated course that seeks to develop critically aware practitioners who are capable of working at the highest levels, both individually and collaboratively, in the complex world of digital media. MA Photojournalism and Documentary Photography maintains a high level of currency with contemporary practice, and foregrounds the production of multimedia projects, work presented in the form of books, and work produced for exhibition within galleries and museums as well as more conventional editorial platforms.

Many professional photographers work entirely digitally now, and almost all deliver their images to clients digitally in some form. Photographers and clients often never meet physically, and carry out their professional relationships entirely at a distance. Editing and viewing images onscreen is now commonplace and has almost entirely replaced more traditional ways editing work. In addition, multimedia presentations combining recorded sound and still images are increasingly common, and social media, websites and blogs have become a major vehicle for self-expression by photographers, providing alternative outlets for work beyond mainstream media.

The course seeks to address these changes and places great emphasis on producing digitally literate practitioners fully able to operate in the new landscape of digital technology, using multimedia as one of their main forms of dissemination of work to the audience and marketplace.

MA Photojournalism and Documentary Photography encourages a wide range of practice from editorial photojournalism to fine art conceptual documentary, but maintains a clear focus on the production of extended and long-term bodies of work, which report on, document and respond to the contemporary world around us. The course has a core focus on involved and socially concerned photography, including the documentation of human rights, environmental and other humanitarian issues. We encourage students to challenge and critically examine accepted forms of visual documentation and to seek new ways of documenting the world, new ways of telling stories and to explore routes for addressing new audiences. Whilst MA Photojournalism and Documentary Photography is a practice-based course, the integration of theory and research methodologies is deeply embedded in the course. This provides a clear pathway onto further study at PhD level where appropriate.

The course team and visiting professionals who work on MA Photojournalism and Documentary Photography are a highly experienced team who operate at the highest levels professionally on the international stage. The course delivery relies on innovative pedagogic practice centred around the idea of a 'community of practice' with the faculty, students and visiting professionals all engaged jointly in exploring the changing landscape of the media. This places great emphasis on developing the individual practitioner in the context of a collaborative learning community.

Course Aims

This course aims to:

- Facilitate substantial development of your creative abilities, techniques, self-reflection, evaluation and personal vision within photojournalism and documentary photography;
- Prepare you for the realities of the current marketplace by equipping you with the necessary methodological frameworks and in depth knowledge to operate in the professional arena and the relevant skills needed in the new digital landscape of communications;
- Facilitate you in the organisation and development of a body of photojournalism and documentary photography that reflects a commitment to intelligent, involved, research driven and ethical photography as practiced at the forefront of the industry;
- Establish a dynamic and meaningful framework of critical analysis and awareness of the nature of contemporary and historical photojournalism and

documentary photography and its relation to other forms of practice, and to situate it within the context of wider social, economic and political forces;

- Facilitate the development of critical self-reflection, problem-solving in complex and unpredictable situations, analysis and evaluation through both critical engagement and practical application in a collaborative engagement with fellow students;
- Equip you with the knowledge and frameworks to conduct an independent self-directed major documentary project that reflects academic and journalistic rigour, a developed visual sense and critical self-evaluation.

Course Outcomes

The outcomes that you will have demonstrated upon completion of the course, are:

Demonstrate your creative, visual, intellectual and technical abilities to produce a body of work of professional standard within the fields of photojournalism and documentary photography. **(Research, Analysis, Subject Knowledge, Technical Competence, Communication and Presentation, Collaboration and Independent Professional Working)**

Critically evaluate newsworthy and documentary ideas in terms of their visual and commercial potential for development and presentation in the contemporary marketplace, as well as current research and advanced scholarship in the field. **(Subject Knowledge, Analysis, Collaboration and Independent Professional Working)**

Critically analyse photojournalism and documentary photography within both historical and theoretical frameworks, evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline, as well as in contemporary discourse on technological change, representation, ethics and other issues, and apply your appreciation of these concerns to the location of your practice within a wider context. **(Research, Subject Knowledge, Analysis, Communication and Presentation)**

Demonstrate, within your creative output, a thorough understanding of the ethical, legal, moral and commercial issues that impinge upon current practice. **(Subject Knowledge, Analysis, Communication and Presentation)**

Present a professional portfolio of work and market your ideas and stories, in a professional manner, in the marketplace with a thorough appreciation and application of the opportunities offered by digital technology. **(Collaboration and Independent Professional Working, Personal and Professional Development)**

Engage in critical self-reflection and formative peer review, reflecting your developed skills in evaluation and communication within an interactive online environment. **(Analysis, Collaboration and Independent Professional Working, Personal and Professional Development)**

Conduct a rigorously planned and academically informed self-directed major project, completing the necessary original research and production, to industry standard, for a major documentary or photojournalistic project, supported by a critical evaluative and analytical report, showing originality in the application of

knowledge and critique. **(Research, Subject Knowledge, Collaboration and Independent Professional Working, Personal and Professional Development)**

Learning and Teaching Methods:

The learning and teaching strategies used in the course are intended to focus you upon achieving the learning outcomes; further more they enable you to critically reflect upon your learning. Specifically, the learning and teaching strategies are designed to:

- Fulfil the aims and outcomes of the course;
- develop a range of subject related skills;
- develop key and transferable skills;
- promote your ability to be an independent learner.

A combination of the following will be used:

- Lectures
- Seminars
- Tutorials
- Group Work

Scheduled Learning and Teaching

This is the percentage of your time spent in timetabled learning and teaching. You are expected to study for 1800 (MA)/1200 (PG Dip)/600 (PG Cert) hours over the duration of the course; below is the amount of time which is timetabled activity.

The rest of your learning time will be self-directed, independent study.

18%

Assessment Methods:

- Portfolio
- Essay
- Critical Reports
- Research Papers
- Documentary and Photojournalistic Projects

Reference Points

The following reference points were used in designing the course:

- The Learning and Teaching policies of the University of the Arts London

- The College policies and initiatives
- Level descriptors
- Benchmark statements

Programme Summary

Programme structures, features, units, credit and award requirements:

Each course is divided into units, which are credit-rated. The minimum unit size is 20 credits, with the maximum unit size being 60 credits.

The MA course structure involves 5 units, totalling 180 credits. If you are unable to continue or decide to exit the course, there are two possible exit awards; a **Postgraduate Certificate** will be awarded on successful completion of the first 60 credits and a **Postgraduate Diploma** will be awarded on successful completion of the first 120 credits.

Term One Units:

In Photojournalism Practice, you will examine the theoretical, methodological and practical frameworks necessary for the research and production of successful photo essays. The unit will explore the technical, aesthetic and journalistic aspects of the photo essay, including the generation of ideas, research, shooting, picture editing and caption writing. Particular emphasis will be placed on developing a news sense of what 'makes' a story, and on the application of multimedia techniques in narrative storytelling.

The unit History of Photojournalism and Documentary Photography traces and analyses the development and historical context of photojournalism and documentary photography, identifying the major practitioners and movements, and paying particular attention to their methodologies. The production, distribution and reception of contemporary photojournalism will be contextualised within an historical framework that takes account of social, political, cultural and economic factors.

Term Two and Three Units:

The unit Documentary Practice further develops your knowledge of the methodology of documentary and photojournalistic production, culminating in the production of larger scale photo essays. This is underpinned by an emphasis on research principles, strategies and methods and their application to a

photojournalism/documentary context.

The Collaborative Unit is designed to enable you to identify, form and develop collaborative working relationships with a range of potential partners. The nature of the collaboration will involve working on a project whose objectives are agreed by your tutors and will take the form of group work that can happen within the college or digitally / remotely. The focus of the unit is student-driven collaboration with projects being developed to meet the specific requirements of student groups within and across disciplinary boundaries.

Term Three and Four units

This final term of the MA aims to consolidate your learning experience of the previous units through the completion of a Major Project. This will involve both the production of a major body of documentary/photojournalistic work and a 5000 word related self-reflective, critical and evaluative report. Your major project will be accompanied by a detailed proposal that will explain the rationale behind the project and its intended audience. Full captions and supporting text will also be necessary. The final form of the work is flexible, although many students will present a portfolio of images as prints, some may use a multimedia presentation, and others may present the work in the form of a book dummy or exhibition. Your related report must reflect academic rigour and a critical and scholarly approach.

During terms three and four you will also be expected to engage in a process of self-evaluation and peer review in order to deepen your understanding of the role of documentary photography in relation to a wider social context. You will be expected to participate in peer-review sessions to facilitate your learning process and the learning process of others. Although these sessions are not assessed, it is anticipated that they will play a developmental role in the learning process towards your final submission.

Note that the majority of students produce the work for the Major Project during the summer period, this means that they work independently of the tutors during much of this time, so they must be self-reliant and well prepared in advance for this part of the project. The final term serves mainly to edit and produce the final body of work for submission.

During this term there will also be an ongoing series of lectures and workshops that will prepare you for entry into the marketplace. These will be given by visiting speakers from the industry, and will cover aspects of business planning and costing, media law, self-promotion, book publishing and exhibitions, digital photography, editorial design and layout and other related topics.

The intention of the Major Project is that it should reflect your own interests and support your career development. For the duration of the project, you will be assigned a supervisor/mentor who will support you in the planning, organising, implementation, editing, presentation and writing up of this substantial and focused work.

Exhibition – At the end of the course you will have the opportunity to exhibit your work as part of a course degree show.

A Course Diagram provides further information, attached to the end of the Programme Specification.

Distinctive features of the course:

- The course is intended for mature self-motivated students who are already established in their practice, or who can prove a dedicated commitment to a career in the industry. The intense, tightly structured and highly specialised nature of the course encourages you to develop your practice to a recognisably professional level, whilst at the same time encouraging you to develop a critical perspective on photojournalism and documentary photography, to analyse and reflect upon your own work and to develop a personal vision and strategy within the medium.
- The course team has an excellent track record of teaching the practice of photojournalism and documentary photography to the highest levels as well as undertaking their own practice-based research projects leading to exhibition and publication internationally. The team's approach to teaching is marked by a close, informal, but very professional working relationship with an energised group of students.
- The full time course brings together people from around the world to London in order to discuss, explore and participate in contemporary photojournalistic and documentary practice. Placing great emphasis on learning as a social process that occurs through interpersonal interaction

within a cooperative context, we employ numerous devices to establish a strong sense of group identity.

- From the very outset, the cohort is encouraged to take the learning process beyond the classroom into an extended, continuous social-learning domain. The strong sense of group identity that is essential to a successful year is developed through a range of practical activities, including technical workshops, student lead 'knowledge sharing' sessions, field trips and collaborative projects.
- Throughout this process the role of the 'tutor' alternates between the traditional lecture based model and one of facilitating an effective group dynamic in which course members feel comfortable.
- Students progress in a structured way from small, set assignments towards the final self-directed major project, thus building a repertoire of skills and methodologies. The course is practice based and highly vocational, and founded on a problem based experiential approach to learning.
- The integration of theory and practice is foundational to the course. Students are introduced to critical concepts and ideas from the history and theory of photojournalism and documentary photography, and they are encouraged to wrestle with and respond to these in a way that actively informs their development as photographers. This is achieved through dialogue and discussion, reading, research and reflective writing. At each stage, students are equipped to develop a combination of journalistic, academic and practice-based research skills, the culmination of which is a critical and evaluative report that underpins their final major project.
- The course also offers a programme of visiting speakers (including ex-students), consisting of leading and influential figures from the world of photojournalism and documentary photography. These speakers may also contribute to seminars and potentially to the mentoring scheme for major projects (see below). The course maintains close connections with the industry, including agencies, photography magazines, editorial publications, galleries and book publishers.
- An essential feature is the group dynamic of the enrolled community of students which has become a flourishing element of the course, providing mutual support, criticism and networking, as well as skill and information sharing. This process continues years after the end of the course through group emails, informal meetings and group exhibitions. You will have the opportunity to work with fellow students in the planning and curating of your final project work in an end of course degree show, which is an important springboard to help develop your career profile.
- Professional and Personal Development (PPD) is embedded in every term of the course through regular discussions of professional practice and the visiting lecturer program. Additionally, students are expected to maintain a personal blog as a learning journal in which to critically reflect on their development and progress.

- One of the differences you will experience between working a postgraduate level and working at undergraduate level is that you will be expected to timetable and manage your own learning to a much greater extent at postgraduate level. Your success on the course will depend to a great extent on how rigorously and responsibly you take this self-direction and how well you respond to tutorial advice. The level of self-management required of you will increase throughout the course. This reflects the degree of initiative and commitment that you will need to operate in the professional arena.
- The course's teaching philosophy is centred on the creation of a collaborative learning space where individuals can enhance their practice through interaction with their peers. This forms a 'community of practice' that mirrors the larger professional community of photojournalism and documentary photography. Mapping and modelling this larger community prepares students for entry into the profession, providing a 'sandbox' in which they can develop their professional practice in a controlled environment. Our intention is that students learn through growing into a practice based collaborative learning community, which then enables them to be part of the wider community of practice of photojournalists. The combination of practice based, experiential learning is underpinned by theoretical and contextual studies that locate the practitioner within a community of practice, and locate that community within a broader socio-cultural milieu of the media.

Recruitment and Admissions

Selection Criteria

Applicants are assessed against the following selection criteria.

- Evidence of prior knowledge and/or experience of Photography that would indicate potential to successfully complete the programme of study
- Social awareness, inquisitiveness and passion about a career in photojournalism or documentary photography
- An ability to work on one or more projects over a sustained period of time and in an intimate and involved way (Portfolio)
- A journalistic and documentary awareness and an understanding of research and practice methodologies and a realistic idea of what makes a strong project (Project ideas)

Entry Requirements

An Honours degree in a relevant subject, or a professional or academic qualification recognised as equivalent to an Honours degree. If you do not have the required qualifications, but do have professional experience, you may be eligible to gain credit for previous learning and experience through the Accreditation of Prior and Experiential Learning (APEL) i.e. professional experience or a combination of courses and work experience.

Graduates of all disciplines may apply, although most students have a background in Arts and Humanities. You must be socially aware, inquisitive, self-motivated and passionate about a career in photojournalism or documentary photography.

Relevant professional experience or work experience in the industry is increasingly important.

Candidates without a first degree can be accepted onto the course if they can demonstrate past experience equivalent to a first degree, such as professional experience. This is assessed as a learning process and tutors will evaluate that experience for currency, validity, quality and sufficiency.

English Language requirements

Please provide a CV detailing your education and qualifications and any relevant work or voluntary experience. If English is not your first language it is important that you also include in your CV details of your most recent English language test score.

- IELTS 6.5 (or equivalent) with a minimum of 5.5 in each skills is required on this course

You can check you have achieved the correct IELTS level in English on the Language Requirements page.

Deferring an offer:

Applicants holding an offer for the coming academic year are permitted to defer their place to the following academic year, e.g. 2018/19 place deferred to 2019/20. International applicants should first meet any offer conditions and pay the deposit in order to defer. In all cases, deferred places will be held for one year.

Making a deferred application:

Home/EU applicants are permitted to make a deferred application, for example to the following academic year instead of the next, e.g. to 2019/20 instead of to 2018/19. Immigration regulations prevent International applicants from making a deferred application

Course Diagram 17/18 | MA Photojournalism and Documentary Photography (Full-time)

Autumn Term (Term 1 11 Weeks)												Spring Term (Term 2 10 weeks)										Summer Term (Term 3 10 weeks)										Undergraduate Summer Period (14 weeks)														Autumn Term (Term 4 11 weeks)														
week 0	week 1	week 4	week 5	week 6	week 7	week 8	week 9	week 10	week 11	week 12	week 13	week 14	week 15	week 16	week 17	week 18	week 19	week 20	week 21	week 22	week 23	week 24	week 25	week 26	week 27	week 28	week 29	week 30	week 31	week 32	week 33	week 34	week 35	week 36	week 37															week 38	week 39	week 40	week 41	week 42	week 43	week 44	week 45	week 46	week 47	week 48
Freshers Week	Unit 1: Photojournalism Practice (40 credits)											Christmas Break											Easter Break											Induction Week																										
	Unit 2: History of Photojournalism and Documentary Photography (20 credits)																																																											
												Unit 3: Collaborative Unit (20 credits)																																																
												Unit 4: Documentary Practice with Research Methods (40 credits)										Unit 4 cont'd										PG Summer Break Independent Study / Writing Up Period														PG Overlap Period with new year intake Sept 2016														
																						Unit 5: Major Project (60 credits)																								Unit 5: Major Project cont'd														

S = Summative Assessment Point (Your Assignment Brief will give you details on the deadline date, time and how to hand in your assignment)

Formative assessment points will be indicated by your tutor in your unit handbooks or assignment brief