

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 minor modification or local developments).

Awarding Body	University of the Arts London (UAL)
Teaching Institution	London College of Communication
Final Award	BA (Hons) Photojournalism and Documentary Photography
Relevant QAA Benchmark Statement	Communication, media, film and cultural studies
Date of production/revision	July 2016

This course allows you to follow an innovative and exciting curriculum rooted in the methodologies of photojournalism and documentary photography as they are professionally practiced today.

As well as the opportunity of gaining a degree It will enable you to acquire the essential skills to become a working photographer equipping you to produce work for a range of outlets including newspapers, magazines [printed and online], galleries, books and picture agencies. The practical elements of the course emphasise learning by doing and therefore you will cover news events, photograph and interview newsworthy people and complete documentary stories based in the real world. Students are encouraged to become involved with media organizations and the lively photographic community in London; a process which is enhanced by visiting speakers from the photographic and related industries. Indeed it is not uncommon for students to be working for picture agencies and national news organizations by the time they reach the third year. Complementing the practical and career focused aspects of this degree course are contextual studies in the history of photojournalism and documentary photography.

Course Aims

This course aims to:

- Offer to students drawn from diverse backgrounds specialised study in the practical, technical, digital, theoretical and historical aspects of photojournalism and documentary photography.
- Introduce and support students in acquiring the practical skills for effective photographic communication including image capture, digital workflow, editing, captioning and metadata, transmission and delivery, presentation, archiving.
- Develop students understanding of what news is and what characterises stories with the potential to engage either a mass media or specialised niche audience.
- Prepare students for the multi-tasking nature of photojournalism in the 21st century by encouraging digital literacy and an understanding of convergence in storytelling methods.
- Develop aptitudes and skills in communication, information technology, enterprise, team working and social function so as to build an understanding of the characteristics essential to employability in photojournalism.
- Develop an understanding of the politics of representation: gender, disability, ethnicity and other forms of diversity in the media
- Contextualise practical skills and photographic work with an appropriate understanding of the history and theories of documentary photography, photojournalism and contemporary media.
- Suitably develop the students' study and research skills for independent intellectual and academic endeavour to dissertation level.
- Prepare students to transfer from University to the workplace or postgraduate study.

Course Outcomes

The outcomes that you will have demonstrated upon completion of the course, are (the applicable university marking criteria are in brackets at the end of each course outcome:

Demonstrate an understanding of photojournalism and documentary photography and critically evaluate news, current affairs, documentary stories and contemporary issues in terms of their visual and commercial potential and relevance to an audience and the contemporary market place.

(Subject Knowledge, Analysis)

Demonstrate knowledge and critical understanding of the theoretical, legal, political, historical and economic contexts within which photojournalists and documentary photographers work incorporating compliance with codes of practice.

(Subject Knowledge)

Display critical understanding of newspapers, magazines, news picture agencies and online outlets as businesses and employ a variety of key communication, interpersonal and enterprise skills required for effective practice in the industry

(Communication and Presentation)

Demonstrate the ability to work independently and co-operatively to produce visual, written and verbal material based on research and argument

(Collaborative and/ or Independent Learning)

Identify and apply research methods to documentary, photojournalistic and academic projects to prepare for entry to media employment or postgraduate study. **(Research)**

Demonstrate competence in digital workflow suitable for photography and an understanding of the importance of IPTC, EXIF and metadata. **(Technical Competence; Experimentation)**

Demonstrate creative, practical and technical abilities to produce a body of work to a professional standard within the fields of photojournalism and documentary photography **(Technical Competence; Experimentation)**

Present a professional portfolio of work and market your ideas and stories in a professional manner **(Communication and Presentation)**

Reflect on your own strengths and weaknesses, set realistic goals, priorities and action plans **(Personal and Professional Development)**

Learning and Teaching Methods:

- Lectures
- Seminars
- Group Project Work
- Individual Projects
- Workshops
- Individual Tutorials
- Group Tutorials
- Study Visits
- Reflective Diaries

Assessment Methods:

- Practical photojournalistic work
- Computer based activities (picture desk editing)
- Projects and project appraisals
- Oral and seminar presentations (for example in Contextual Studies)

- Report and essay writing
- Timed constrained assessments (eg law and ethics unit)

Reference Points

The following reference points were used in designing the course:

- The College Learning and Teaching Strategy
- The College Assessment Strategy
- The College approach to Personal and Professional Development
- The Learning and Teaching policies of the University of the Arts London
- University of the Arts London Level Descriptors
- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications
- QAA Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies Benchmark statement
- Course forums whereby students on similar courses had direct input into course design and structure
- Industry panel feedback

Programme Summary

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

Year 1

Introduction to Photojournalism and Documentary Photography (20 credits)
Contextual Studies 1: Histories and Theories of Photojournalism (20 credits)
Practical Photojournalism (40 credits)
Introduction to Documentary Photography (20 credits)
Media Law, Ethics and Codes of Conduct (20 credits)

Year 2

Documentary Storytelling (40 credits)
Contextual Studies 2: Histories and Theories of Photojournalism (20 credits)
Editorial Project (40 credits)
Collaborative Project (20 credits)

Year 3

Major Photojournalism / Documentary Project (60 credits)
Contextual Studies 3: Dissertation (40 credits)
Contemporary Professional Practice (20 credits)

Details of college policies and initiatives can be accessed at <http://www.arts.ac.uk/study-at-ual/academic-regulations/> including a link to the UAL assessment website which provides fact sheets on marking criteria and the 15-point marking scale. Course Regulations which provide the framework for assessment can be found at <http://www.arts.ac.uk/study-at-ual/academic-regulations/> and include a range of student guides.

Distinctive features of the course:

Distinctive features help us to ensure that we are offering a unique, exclusive and exciting experience for you.

Special features of this course include:

- Our strong links with industry and a curriculum rooted in the practice of real world photojournalism and contemporary modes of documentary photography provide a strongly practice-based course underpinned by a theoretical framework;
- The wide-range of practice based learning activities are supported by a grounding in key areas of the history and theory of photojournalism, documentary photography and related media to develop the student's critical engagement not only as a photographer but as a viewer and participant in visual culture generally.
- Industry experts and speakers from the world of professional photography, design and associated fields [including potential clients] will introduce you to a variety of perspectives on contemporary photojournalism and documentary photography including the possibilities arising from recent technological developments. Vital for an industry in which most people are self-employed the course includes a series of practical business studies seminars looking at strategies for setting-up and running a small business including accountancy, taxation and investment for photographers. These lectures and workshops form a bridge between University and beginning a career.
- The course is in an excellent location for the study of photojournalism and documentary photography. London is an unrivalled source of stories waiting to be told because of the dynamics of the Capital. Whether political or economic issues, happenings, news events, cultural or social concern the diversity of daily life in London will enhance learning and broaden your world view.
- The course is part of the highly regarded School of Media which has a strong tradition in photographic education and a proven track record of delivery of photojournalism course content at both FE and HE levels. The School also has a well-established and internationally successful photojournalism and documentary photography specialism at MA level so that on occasions students may benefit from shared tutors and joint guest speaker programmes.
- There is a growing research specialism into photojournalism and documentary photography within the school which is home to the Photography and Archive Research Centre (PARC)
- You benefit from contact with students from other courses within the School of Media and the wider University including collaborative work with

journalism students on the trainee Editorial Project, Artefact Magazine <https://www.artefactmagazine.com/> and in addition during the second year collaborative project.

Recruitment and Admissions

Admission Policy/Selection Criteria

The BA (Hons) Photojournalism and Documentary Photography course team recognise that applicants come from a broad spectrum of backgrounds from across the world. The course in the main attracts students who apply direct from A level or other equivalent qualifications but it also welcomes students from Foundation Diploma in Art and Design and other art courses as well as mature students who may have worked in industry.

Entry Requirements

For admission to BA (Hons) Photojournalism and Documentary Photography applicants normally need:

- 64 UCAS tariff points (gained at GCE Advanced level) will be considered, supported by passes in five other subjects at GCSE Grade C or above.
- Alternatively, you will be considered if you have achieved 1 subject at GCE Advanced level and Foundation Diploma in Art and Design, supported by passes in three other subjects at GCSE Grade C or above. In addition, the University of the Arts London Awarding Body Level 3 Foundation Diploma in Art and Design will be considered.
- We also accept people with the equivalent qualifications obtained through a National Diploma, Access, NVQ and a variety of other pre-University level qualifications including International and European Baccalaureate. Other qualifications, including overseas, may be considered.
- We also accept those with relevant professional and vocational qualifications.
- The subjects the Course Team will be looking for in your application are wide ranging: your A levels (or equivalents) would ideally be achieved at grade C or above, must include photography and may include English, History, Media, Business, Art and Design or other Social Science subjects.

Other entry routes

We also welcome applicants such as mature students who do not have formal qualifications but may have relevant experience. Students applying to this course will be expected to demonstrate a specific interest in this area of study and should have a commitment to engaging with Photojournalism and Documentary Photography Theory and practice. In such cases students applying on the basis of their previous experience or who wish to enter the course with through Accreditation of Experiential Learning (AEL) or Accreditation of Certificated Learning (ACL) processes should apply via UCAS and will be guided by the admissions staff on the AP(E)L processes.

Language requirements (International/EU)

- International and EU Students: In the case of Applicants whose first language is not English, then IELTS 6.0 (or equivalent) is required overall with a minimum of 5.5 in each of the four skills
- If your first language is not English you should check you have achieved the correct IELTS level in English. Further information is available on the Language Requirements page: <http://www.arts.ac.uk/study-at-ual/language-centre/english-language-support/language-requirements/>
- International Applicants – visit the Support for International Students page: <http://www.arts.ac.uk/lcc/courses/support-for-international-students/> for contact details for International Admissions

Study Abroad Applicants

- International undergraduate students can apply to join this BA course for a period of up to three terms as a Study Abroad student. Please visit the [Study Abroad website](#) details on how to apply or contact the Study Abroad office:

T: +44 (0) 207 514 2249

E: studyabroad@arts.ac.uk

Or for further information on Study Abroad and Erasmus schemes, please follow the links below:

- UAL Erasmus and Exchanges: <http://www.arts.ac.uk/study-at-ual/erasmus--non-erasmus-exchanges/>
- Study Abroad: <http://www.arts.ac.uk/study-at-ual/study-abroad/>

Deferred entry

For Home/EU applicants, the Course Leader will determine whether deferred places are available for the course. If you wish to defer your place, it is advisable to indicate this on your application form and/or discuss this with the admissions team and course leader before/after applying at the earliest opportunity. In all cases, deferred places will only be held for one year.

International applicants are normally permitted to defer entry to any programme of study for one year only, after which they will be asked to re-apply.

Minimum UAL Entry Requirements

To see the University's Regulations on Admissions, please go to the following link: <http://www.arts.ac.uk/study-at-ual/academic-regulations/course-regulations/1-admissions>

Admission Procedures

The selection procedures for the course adhere to the Equal Opportunities policy of the University of the Arts London.

Applications are normally made through UCAS.

Applicants will be invited to submit examples of their work. Shortlisted applicants are interviewed by a member of the course team, and will demonstrate (through discussion and close inspection of practical work presented in portfolio or alternative format), their suitability for the course.

Applicants from overseas, unable to attend an interview may be considered for admission on receipt of relevant equivalent qualifications and a submission of work.

Recommendations for acceptance are submitted by to the course director. The outcome of interviews is handled by the normal UCAS reporting system.

If more information is required, a member of the course team may contact the applicant.

Student Selection Criteria / what do we look for?

All applications will be considered by the course team and offers will be made based upon the following selection criteria.

The team will consider three key elements when making a decision on your suitability to join the course:

- 1) Firstly they will look at your qualifications (or projected results).
- 2) Secondly, they will review your academic or personal reference.
- 3) Then they will scrutinise your personal statement, portfolio and examples of written work.

The personal statement is a very important part of your application and should demonstrate to the team that you are interested in photojournalism and that you have thought very carefully about why you want to study on this course.

You should take great care when writing your personal statement to ensure that it is well written, clear and free of any spelling mistakes. It is your biggest chance to impress the team by demonstrating your appreciation of what the course can offer you and how you feel it might help you in the future. It is also an opportunity for you to state what you feel you would bring to the course. Through their personal statement, applicants should show their motivation and commitment to photojournalism. This can be demonstrated through work experience, studying and personal experience and their ambitions for personal development as a student at the LCC.

Portfolio Advice

Applications must be supported by a portfolio of photography work. The course team may ask to see samples of your work prior to interview.

Your portfolio should contain examples of your photography and writing work.

Interview Advice

If you are invited for interview you can prepare yourself in advance by thinking of questions that you may have for the course director and also re-familiarising yourself with your UCAS personal statement- from which the course director's questions will probably arise. The interview will be relatively informal and will take place, normally, at the LCC.

Students are admitted to the course having fulfilled the necessary entry requirements and on the basis of their potential to benefit from the programme.

Course Diagram | **BA (Hons) Photojournalism and Documentary Photography**

		Autumn Term (Term 1 11 Weeks)											Spring Term (Term 2 10 weeks)											Summer Term (Term 3 10 weeks)												
		week 1	week 2	week 3	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				
Year 1	Freshers Week	Introduction to Photojournalism and Documentary Photography (20 credits)										S	Introduction to Photojournalism and Documentary Photography cont'd										S													
		Contextual Studies 1: Histories & Theories of Photojournalism									S	Contextual Studies 1: Histories & Theories of Photojournalism cont'd										S														
		Practical Photojournalism (40 credits)										S	Practical Photojournalism cont'd										S	PPJ	PPJ cont'd										S	
		Media Law, Ethics & Codes of Conduct (20 credits)											Introduction to Documentary Photography (20 credits)												Intro to Doc Photography cont'd										S	
Year 2	Induction Week	Documentary Storytelling (40 credits)											Documentary Storytelling cont'd										S		S	Documentary Storytelling cont'd										S
		Contextual Studies 2: Histories & Theories of Photojournalism (20 credits)									S													Contextual Studies 2: Histories & Theories of Photojournalism cont'd										S		
		Editorial Project (40 credits)										S	Editorial Project cont'd										S		Editorial Project cont'd										S	
													Collaborative Project (20 credits)										S													
Year 3	Induction Week	Major Photojournalism/Documentary Project (60 credits)											Major Photojournalism/Documentary Project cont'd												MP	S										
		Contextual Studies 3: Dissertation (40 credits)											Contextual Studies 3: Dissertation cont'd										S													
		Contemporary Professional Practice (20 credits)											Contemporary Professional Practice cont'd										S	CPP	S											

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