

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	BA (Hons) Photography
Length of Course	3 Years / FT
UCAS code	W640
Date of production/revision	July 2017

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:

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

Scheduled Learning and Teaching

This is the percentage of your time spent in timetabled learning and teaching. In each year you are expected to study for 1200 hours over 30 weeks; below is the amount of time which is timetabled activity. The rest of your learning time will be self-directed, independent study.

Year 1- 26%

Year 2- 18%

Year 3- 7%

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)
Documentary Storytelling (20 credits)
Media Law, Ethics and Codes of Conduct (20 credits)

Year 2

Contemporary Documentary (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 includes:

- 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. Vitally 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

Selection Criteria

Your application will be considered by the admissions tutors and your suitability will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Demonstration of an appreciation of photojournalism and documentary photography as a specialised discipline

- Technical skills and experimentation with visual creativity, demonstrated in your own photographic work
- Evidence of research and development of ideas through practice to achieve specific outcomes
- Quality of ideas and thought processes in the production of your work

Entry Requirements

The standard minimum entry requirements for this course are:

64 new UCAS tariff points from one of the following or a combination of the following full level 3 qualifications (see accepted qualifications link here):-

- A Level: subjects studied may include: English; History; Media; Business; Art and Design, or other subjects within Social Sciences). Ideally your A levels will be achieved at Grade C or above.
- One subject at A Level achieved at grade C or above PLUS Foundation Diploma in Art & Design (Level 3/4).
- BTEC Extended Diploma
- UAL Extended Diploma in Art and Design
- Access to HE Diploma
- International Baccalaureate Diploma
- Equivalent EU or Non-EU qualifications

Additionally you will have achieved passes at grade C or above in at least five GCSE subjects including English.

If English is not your first language you will also need an up to date English qualification. IELTS 6.0 (or equivalent) is required overall with a minimum of 5.5 in each of the four skills.

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

Course Diagram 17/18 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 0	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	
Year 1	Freshers Week	Introduction to Photojournalism and Documentary Photography (20 credits)										Introduction to Photojournalism and Documentary Photography cont'd																				
		Contextual Studies 1: Histories & Theories of Photojournalism (20 Credits)										Contextual Studies 1: Histories & Theories of Photojournalism cont'd																				
		Practical Photojournalism (40 credits)										Practical Photojournalism cont'd										PPJ										
		Media Law, Ethics & Codes of Conduct (20 credits)										Media Law, Ethics & Codes of Conduct cont'd										Documentary Storytelling (20 credits)										
Year 2	Induction Week	Contemporary Documentary (40 credits)										Contemporary Documentary cont'd										Contemporary Documentary cont'd										
		Contextual Studies 2: Histories & Theories of Photojournalism (20 credits)										Contextual Studies 2: Histories & Theories of Photojournalism cont'd										Contextual Studies 2: Histories & Theories of Photojournalism cont'd										
		Editorial Project (40 credits)										Editorial Project cont'd										Editorial Project cont'd										
												Collaborative Project (20 credits)										Collaborative Project (20 credits)										
Year 3	Induction Week	Major Photojournalism/Documentary Project (60 credits)										Major Photojournalism/Documentary Project cont'd										MP										
		Contextual Studies 3: Dissertation (40 credits)										Contextual Studies 3: Dissertation cont'd										Contextual Studies 3: Dissertation cont'd										
		Contemporary Professional Practice (20 credits)										Contemporary Professional Practice cont'd										CPP										
<p>S = Summative Assessment Point (Your Assignment Brief will give you details on the deadline date, time and how to hand in your assignment)</p> <p>Formative assessment points will be indicated by your tutor in your unit handbooks or assignment brief</p>																																