

# **BA (Hons) Photography**

Programme Specification 2020/21

Awarding Body	University of the Arts London
College	London College of Communication
School	University of the Arts London
Programme	Photography (L046)
FHEQ Level	Level 6 Degree
Course Credits	360
Mode	Full Time
Duration of Course	3 years
Valid From	September 1st 2020
Course Entry Requirements	<p><b>Home/EU/International</b></p> <p>The course team welcomes applicants from a broad range of backgrounds from all over the world. The course attracts students who apply direct from A-level (or equivalent) or from Foundation Diploma in Art and Design, or other art or design courses, as well as mature students who may have previously worked in the industry.</p> <p>The standard entry requirements for this course are as follows:</p> <p>80 UCAS tariff points, which can be made up of one or a combination of the following accepted full level 3 qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Levels at grade C or above (preferred subjects include: English; History; Media; Business; Art and Design, or other subjects within Social Sciences).</li> <li>• Pass at Foundation Diploma in Art &amp; Design (Level 3 or 4).</li> <li>• Merit, Merit, Pass at BTEC Extended Diploma (preferred subjects: Art and Design, IT &amp; Computing, Media).</li> <li>• Merit at UAL Extended Diploma.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to Higher Education Diploma (preferred subject: Digital and Creative Media, Film and Production).</li> <li>• OR equivalent EU/International qualifications, such as International Baccalaureate Diploma at 24 points minimum</li> <li>• And 5 GCSE passes at grade 4 or above (grade A*-C).</li> </ul> <p><b>APEL - Accreditation of Prior (Experiential) Learning</b></p> <p>Applicants who do not meet these course entry requirements may still be considered in exceptional cases. The course team will consider each application that demonstrates additional strengths and alternative evidence. This might, for example, be demonstrated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Related academic or work experience;</li> <li>• The quality of the personal statement;</li> <li>• A strong academic or other professional reference;</li> <li>• A combination of these factors.</li> </ul> <p>Each application will be considered on its own merit but we cannot guarantee an offer in each case.</p> <p><b>English Language Requirements (International/EU)</b></p> <p>IELTS level 6.0 or above, with at least 5.5 in reading, writing, listening and speaking. Please check our main <a href="#">English language requirements</a> page for more information.</p> <p>All classes are conducted in English. If English is not your first language you will be asked to provide evidence of your English language ability when you enrol.</p>
Selection Criteria	<p>The portfolio, along with the details on your UCAS application (including the academic reference and your personal statement) will be assessed against the following criteria:</p> <p>Demonstration of an appreciation of photography as a specialised discipline.</p>

	<p>Technical skills and experimentation with visual creativity, demonstrated in your own photographic work.</p> <p>Evidence of research and development of ideas through practice to achieve specific outcomes.</p> <p>Quality of ideas and thought processes in the production of your work.</p>
Scheduled Learning and Teaching	<p>During your course you will engage with learning and teaching that includes both online and face-to-face modes. The advertised scheduled activity for the course will be delivered through a combination of live, synchronous and asynchronous on-line learning. This is often described as blended learning.</p> <p>Definitions of our learning and teaching modes can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p>

# Awards and Percentage of Scheduled Learning

## Year 1

<b>Percentage of Scheduled Learning</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Awards</b>	<b>Credits</b>
Certificate of Higher Education	120

## Year 2

<b>Percentage of Scheduled Learning</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Awards</b>	<b>Credits</b>
Diploma of Higher Education	240

## Year 3

<b>Percentage of Scheduled Learning</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Awards</b>	<b>Credits</b>
Bachelor of Arts	360

# Course Aims and Outcomes

The Aims and Outcomes of this Course are as follows:

<b>Aim/Outcome</b>	<b>Description</b>
Aim	Enable all students to reach their creative and intellectual potential.
Aim	Enable all students to develop an understanding of the interrelated nature of theory and practice.
Aim	Enable all students to gain technical skills relevant to a diverse range of photographic opportunities.
Aim	Enable all students to gain professional and transferable skills relevant to a diverse range of photographic opportunities.
Outcome	Produce significant photographic projects which deal with current and historical debate. (Realisation, Communication; Knowledge)
Outcome	Demonstrate a strong understanding of the variety of approaches used towards contemporary photographic practices. (Process, Enquiry)
Outcome	Use a variety of transferable skills enabling students to continue their photographic practice; to find employment in many areas of contemporary media forms and/or continue to postgraduate study. (Process)
Outcome	Demonstrate an ability to research, organise and evaluate a sophisticated range of source material. (Enquiry)

<b>Distinctive Features</b>	
1	The course has an ideas driven ethos in which theory, practice and professional practice are constantly interrogated and tested.
2	The Course is part of the highly regarded Media School which has a strong tradition in photographic education and proven record of delivery of photography course content at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. London College of Communication is in the heart of London and plays host to one of the largest photography hubs in the world.
3	The course's curriculum has been mapped to the University of the Arts London Creative Attributes and Digital Creative Attributes Frameworks in order to ensure that students are supported to develop practices, skills, behaviours and abilities that aim to future-proof their careers. Accredited creative suite qualifications are embedded in the course to further support and expand career opportunities.
4	Photography students graduate from the University of the Arts London with a range of transferable skills and career options. This is supported by the course's strong relationship with contemporary photographic cultures and industries in London and the UK.
5	We are a diverse community of students and scholars aligned to the values which embody equality, diversity and inclusivity.

## Course Detail

BA (Hons) Photography at London College of Communication is an ideas-driven, multi-genre photography course which combines practice, theory, professionalism and technical expertise. You'll graduate as a critically engaged creative who is conceptually driven and professionally focused.

Each year of study is divided into two 15-week blocks with individual units focused on Practice, Contextual Studies and Professional Practice to support and develop your knowledge and understanding.

Professional practice and business skills are provided both within the course and by the award-winning UAL Student Enterprise and Employability service. Together these enable you to develop a distinctive and original voice as a photographer, and provide you with the conceptual, technical and professional skills to underpin the highest level of practice and prepare you for your future career. Technical workshops covering a huge variety of techniques are delivered throughout the course, enabling you to become expert in many areas. Exposure to professional environments through visits, lectures and our weekly artist and theorist programmes broadens your vision on the possible career outcomes of a photography degree.

We also encourage exploration of the wider resources at LCC such as the library's special collections, Photography and the Archive Research Centre and the Stanley Kubrick archive where possible. Students are given first-hand introductions to these areas and beyond the bounds of the University, you are also encouraged to utilise the central London location that allows ready access to international museums and galleries. The achievements of the staff team and the contacts they have with the larger world of photography help create a stimulating environment in which to work and learn.

## Course Units

In common with all courses at the University of the Arts London, this course is credit rated. The course is three years, levels 4-6. Each year requires you to achieve 120 credits. To be awarded the BA (Hons) Photography qualification, you need to accumulate a total of 360 credits.

## Year 1

During the first year, through a series of specially designed theory and practice workshops, you will learn about historical and contemporary photography practices, and the key theoretical frameworks used to situate them. You'll be introduced to specialist

photographic skills and creative methodologies in a supportive environment, to develop your curiosity and creativity.

Each week there will be a lecture from a visiting professional photographer where you will learn about the many career opportunities open to those with a photographic education and meet fellow photography students from BA to MA levels of study.

In your first year you will attend an Adobe accredited Photoshop course.

You'll be supported through tutorials to develop and research your own photographic ideas in relation to project briefs and experiment with the technical skills to develop your personal position as a photographer.

Unit summary:

#### Introduction to Photography (20 Credits)

This unit acts as an introduction to the course and to your subject specialism. Topics covered include effective learning and studentship at undergraduate level as well as introducing basic technical skills.

#### What is Photography? (20 Credits)

This unit is designed to familiarise you with making practice-based work that is informed by experimentation, the development of critical, practical skills and peer-to-peer learning. Designed to assist in your exploration of the medium, the unit asks you to consider what photography is in its contemporary condition through making work.

#### Histories in Context (20 Credits)

This unit addresses some of the key debates concerning photographic representation today. Using appropriate cultural and critical methods, the unit encourages you to develop an awareness of how these debates have emerged.

#### Photographic Fictions (40 Credits)

Photographic Fictions is an opportunity for you to identify and develop photographic work with a particular focus on book form. The unit specifically considers how work

might address the potential of photographic mediations, formulating an expanded understanding of narrative which explores contemporary (as well as historic) concerns.

### Ideas in Practice (20 Credits)

The unit builds on your previous study in addressing some of the key contemporary questions concerning photographic representation. The unit interrogates contemporary areas of research and practice, particularly concerning the politics of visual representation.

## **Year 2**

As you move into Year 2 you will expand on your skills and start to develop your voice within your practice. Year 2 builds on the foundations established in Year 1, introducing themes of practice, contextual studies, and professional development.

Students work through considerations of the medium, usage, and institutional setting, to focus on two key themes of contemporary photography: society and culture.

Towards the end of the year, the emphasis in contextual studies is shifted towards preparation for your selection of a dissertation topic and approach and the initiation of research.

Unit summary:

### Visualising Ideologies (20 Credits)

This unit encourages you to consider the ideological basis of both photographic and art practice. It will examine the production of overtly political work with a clearly identified political target, but also consider the ideological basis of any visual artefact.

### Image, Society, Resistance (20 Credits)

This unit places emphasis on contemporary photographic issues and practices and builds on your developing understanding of historical and theoretical photographic knowledge. This unit develops essential skills in independent research and critical thinking and provides critical insight into photographic practice.

### Professional Collaborations (Elective) (20 Credits)

The Professional Collaborations (Elective) Unit provides you with the opportunity to choose from a number of available collaborative options. Through this process you will share skills and expertise with others and gain insight from working on projects that may fall outside of the usual opportunities provided within the course.

### Situated Practice (40 Credits)

Situated Practice considers practice in relation to theories of site and location (i.e., political/economic), but also specificity of place and space and how such specificity can transform meanings in practice. The central theme of situated practice allows an interrogation of the photographer or photographic artist as fieldworker and considers what it is as photographic image makers to practice within the public sphere.

### Culture Machines (20 Credits)

This unit explores models of production and their consequence for meaning, identity and value. Culture Machines will contribute to your developing skills in independent research and critical thinking.

## **Year 3**

Year 3, the final stage, consolidates and develops your ability to direct and plan your own work by producing three substantial self-selected pieces of work – your Major Photographic Practice Project, Professional Practice Outputs and Dissertation.

All three units are designed to enable you to sustain your practice and find exciting career opportunities.

Unit summary:

### Dissertation (40 Credits)

The dissertation is an extended research paper written on a self-selected topic relevant to your sense of photographic/artistic practice and research concerns. The research topic is generally chosen to complement your Major Project and provides you with the opportunity to develop a larger set of questions and ideas using skills, knowledge, and understanding acquired over the course.

#### Major Project (60 Credits)

Major Project builds on your interest and knowledge acquired from previous units to produce a significant body of work. You will be supported in conducting in-depth research and technical / methodological experimentation which will on completion demonstrate sophisticated understanding and articulation of your own practice.

#### Professional Practice Outputs (20 Credits)

Professional Practice Outputs explores the future possibilities of photographic practice and scholarship open to graduates. The unit considers the ways that your practice can be situated in contemporary culture and focuses on personal professional planning, considering your career development outside of the undergraduate environment.

#### **Learning and Teaching Methods**

The course is taught through a mixture of learning and teaching methods including (but are not limited to):

- Group Briefings
- Academic tutorials
- Group tutorials
- Lectures
- Workshops

- Critiques (Crits)
- Seminars

### **Assessment Methods**

Throughout the Course there are a variety of assessment methods used, these include:

- practical projects
- formative assessment
- essays
- blogs
- dissertation
- case studies
- interviews
- exhibitions
- presentations
- book launch
- symposiums
- crits (critiques)

### **Reference Points**

The following reference points were considered when 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 Art and Design Benchmark Statement

- Course forums where students had direct input into course design and structure
- Technical developments in the medium



*The University will use all reasonable endeavours to provide the Course and the services described in this Output. There may be occasions whereby the University needs to add, remove or alter content in relation to your Course as may be appropriate for example the latest requirements of a commissioning or accrediting body, or in response to student feedback, or to comply with applicable law or due to circumstances beyond its control. The University aim to inform you of any changes as soon as is reasonably practicable*

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