

Graduate Diploma Photography

Programme Specification 2020/21

Awarding Body	University of the Arts London
College	London College of Communication
School	Media
Programme	Photography (L046)
FHEQ Level	Level 6 Grad Diploma
Course Credits	120
Mode	Full Time
Duration of Course	1 year
Valid From	September 1st 2020
Course Entry Requirements	<p>Applicants should have an honours degree or equivalent experience to be considered for this course. We are looking for applicants who may be progressing from an undergraduate course (or equivalent) and who already have a portfolio that demonstrates a good level of practice.</p> <p>Alternatively, you could be considering a career change and already have a portfolio of good quality photographic images, and now interested in expanding your subject knowledge and understanding, and developing a career in photography.</p> <p>APEL (Accreditation of Prior Learning)</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"> • Related academic or work experience • The quality of the personal statement • A strong academic or other professional reference • OR a combination of these factors <p>Each application will be considered on its own merit but we cannot guarantee an offer in each case.</p>

	<p>Language requirements</p> <p>All classes are conducted in English. If English is not your first language, we strongly recommend you let us know your English language test score in your application. If you have booked a test or are awaiting your results, please indicate this in your application. When asked to upload a CV as part of your application, please include any information about your English test score.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IELTS 6.0 (or equivalent) is required, with a minimum of 5.5 in each of the four skills. • If your first language is not English, you can check you have achieved the correct IELTS level in English on the Language Requirements page. <p>For further details regarding international admissions and advice please visit the International Applications page.</p>
<p>Selection Criteria</p>	<p>Your application and supporting material will be assessed for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The quality of the applicant's practice • The appropriateness of the applicant's skills, experience and practice to the area of interest identified for development in the course • Effective communication of intentions, purposes and issues • The level of contextual awareness and expression of perspective • The potential for realisation of the stated objectives within the timeframe of the course and envisaged resources • Evidence that the applicant has the confidence and ability to benefit
<p>Scheduled Learning and Teaching</p>	<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>

Definitions of our learning and teaching modes can be found [here](#).

Awards and Percentage of Scheduled Learning

Year 1

Percentage of Scheduled Learning	18
Awards	Credits
Graduate Diploma	120

Course Aims and Outcomes

The Aims and Outcomes of this Course are as follows:

Aim/Outcome	Description
Aim	To provide students with a serious interest in photography with an opportunity to gain professional skills and a qualification at graduate level.
Aim	To explore, focus and strengthen individual creative identity by developing and enhancing appropriate imaginative and professional skills in parallel with aesthetic judgment.
Aim	To equip students with a range of technical and production skills suitable to allow them to embark on a career as a contemporary professional photographic practitioner.
Aim	To contextualise each student's practice within a deeper understanding of global commercial photographic practice through research, international student input and generating awareness of cultural differences.
Aim	To assist students in creating a body of work contextualised through appropriate personal and professional development to support application for postgraduate study in the subject area and/or entry into employment or obtaining commissions in the photographic industry in major cities around the world.
Aim	To provide students with the appropriate frameworks and research methodologies to enable them to undertake independent learning and decision making in complex and unpredictable situations
Aim	To give students an understanding of industry, industry relationships, and the business aspect of professional photography and introduce them to key contacts within the photographic industry in key global markets.
Aim	To provide students with the opportunity to collaborate with other specialised programmes at LCC within the Media School.
Aim	To act as bridging course for appropriately qualified students supporting progression to further study in Photography at postgraduate (Masters) level.

Outcome	Apply appropriately a range of professional photographic skills (Knowledge, Realisation);
Outcome	Creatively plan and develop photographic projects and realise creative solutions to commercial photographic challenges (Process);
Outcome	Learn independently and gain the capacity to manage your time effectively and work to a professional standard (Process);
Outcome	Respond creatively to specific market and technical demands in solving photographic problems (Realisation, Enquiry);
Outcome	Present ideas and information effectively using appropriate visual and oral communications skills in relation to specific industrial or cultural contexts (Communication);
Outcome	Gain awareness of the varying demands of the differing markets, which comprise the international photographic industry (Enquiry, Knowledge);
Outcome	Review your personal and professional strengths and evaluate appropriate educational and employment contexts in which your creative practice could be developed (Enquiry);
Outcome	Originate and bring to completion practical projects that synthesize your knowledge and understanding of research principles and methodologies and appropriate use of materials, technologies, and market awareness in the context of the discipline of photography practice (Enquiry, Realisation);
Outcome	Consolidate your work into a high quality portfolio suitable for presentation to potential clients in order to gain commissions or employment (Realisation);
Outcome	Critically evaluate potential opportunities for future academic study or creative training in photography (Enquiry, Knowledge).

	Distinctive Features
1	An opportunity to study professional photography in the rich international cultural and professional context of LCC Photography with its long established courses, guest speaker programmes, research culture and industry networks.
2	An opportunity to gain awareness of the varying demands of the differing markets, which comprise the international photographic industry.
3	To develop a first class photographic portfolio within the context of a major international city renowned for its contribution at the fulcrum of the photographic industry.
4	An opportunity for students new to photography education or those changing careers to gain a professional qualification at graduate level while working with a very diverse group of fellow students from major international markets.
5	An introduction to key industry contacts including camera and lighting manufacturers, bespoke printers, post-production companies, photographic organisations, photographic professionals, gallery owners and seasoned art buyers.
6	An active and challenging curriculum that will enable students to develop a foundation of technical and professional skills at a high standard for professional photographic practice.
7	A structured timetable that focuses on the technical and professional skills needed in contemporary photography practice including optional choices, combining taught and independent study.
8	A grounding in research methodologies and their use in the context of self-initiated research in the development of a portfolio and personal project to enhance your portfolio with a strong personal identity.
9	An opportunity to collaborate with students in other key specialised areas within the Media School such as: photojournalism, graphic design, film and marketing.
10	This course may also serve as a preparatory course for students wishing to study at the Postgraduate level.

Course Detail

Graduate Diploma Photography will give you the practical skills you'll need to define yourself as a leading photographer. You will be encouraged to develop a strong conceptual approach to your personal practice to achieve a more defined identity within your work.

Building on the rich heritage of photography teaching at London College of Communication, Graduate Diploma Photography will open a variety of career opportunities in professional photography.

You'll gain an invaluable understanding of the photography industry and the business aspect of professional photography. The course will introduce you to key contacts and help you to build relationships.

During your studies, you'll work towards developing a high-quality portfolio suitable for presentation when approaching clients for future commissions or industry roles. In addition, you'll work on set and self-initiated projects which promote learning through discovery, interaction and response to change.

For those wishing to continue their study, the theory and research elements of the course will also prepare you for continued learning at Masters level.

The Graduate Diploma in Photography is taught within the [Media School](#) at London College of Communication.

Mode of Study

Graduate Diploma in Photography runs for 30 weeks in full time mode.

Course Units

During the first two weeks there will be an induction programme in which you will:

- Get an overview of the structure of the course and discover the ethos of the course.
- Get to know the facilities on offer to you at course, College and University level, including those provided by the Learning Resources department, Student Services and Students' Union.
- Get to know your tutors and colleagues.
- Learn about the difference between working at postgraduate and undergraduate levels.

Term 1

Professional Photography in Practice (Photographic Technology and Applied Production Skills) (40 credits)

Through a series of workshops and project briefs, this unit will enable you to develop and utilise specialist photographic skills and knowledge to solve photographic problems.

Through planning, implementation and review, and engagement with industry, you'll be able to apply your photographic skills in a realistic professional context and identify areas in which you may wish to develop your practice.

Critical Approaches (Photographic Culture, History and Theory) (20 credits)

This unit will give you the opportunity to study major developments and critical approaches in photography. This will enable you to gain an understanding of the contemporary significance of photography and to place your own work in a historical-cultural context.

This unit is particularly useful to those students wishing to bridge to Master level study.

Personal Project (Research and development) (20 credits)

Through the research and development of a comprehensive project, you will be able to recognise creative influences in your own work and develop an understanding of your own creative ambitions.

Term 2

Professional Photography in Practice (continued)

Critical Approaches (continued)

Personal Project (continued)

Professional Identity and Portfolio Development (Professional Context and Progression) (40 credits)

The Professional Identity and Portfolio Development unit is a culmination of the previous units, offering you the hands-on opportunity to develop a professional body of work that showcases your personal identity.

This is the most significant unit in that you are expected to produce a professional portfolio of work in which you'll be required to demonstrate a rigorous and critical analysis of your interests in professional photography, strongly influenced by your area of specialism.

Term 3

Personal Project (continued)

Professional Identity and Portfolio Development (continued)

You will explore and gain a working knowledge of contemporary business practice, with an emphasis on operating as a freelance practitioner.

The process for all units will involve you in original applications of knowledge, together with a practical ability to use and critically assess existing photographic techniques and formats.

You will also, in the process of the critical evaluation of your own and others work, develop innovative solutions to creative challenges.

Learning and Teaching Methods

- ONLINE LECTURE/TUTORIALS
- WORKSHOPS - these form the core of the teaching programme and involve a critical peer review of your work in progress.
- LECTURES - these concentrate on the craft elements of Photography, and are delivered by the course team together with visiting speakers from industry.
- INDEPENDENT STUDY - this provides an opportunity for you to engage with research, writing and other activities related to your academic and creative progress, outside formal teaching hours.
- REFLECTIVE REPORTS – reports in which you, the student, reflect upon your practice with respect to projects
- TUTORIALS - these one-to-one sessions with a tutor provide a platform for assessing your development and addressing issues relevant to the course.

Assessment Methods

- Practical project work and computer based activities
- Prepared writing
- Responses to case studies
- Oral presentation
- Personal presentations of prepared work

- Simulations and role plays
- Workshop based activities
- Written research
- A portfolio of work

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

Course Diagram

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																		
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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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