ual: london college of communication

MA Photography
Programme Specification 2019/20

Full-time | 15 months | September 2019 enrolment

MA Photography

Awarding Body	University of the Arts London
College	London College of Communication
School	University of the Arts London
Programme	Photography (L046)
FHEQ Level	Level 7 Masters
Course Credits	180
Mode	Full Time
Duration of Course	1 year
Valid From	September 1st 2019
QAA Subject Benchmark	Art and Design
UAL Subject Classification	Photography
JACS Code	W640 - Photography
UCAS Code	N/A
PSRB	N/A
Work placement offered	N/A
Course Entry Requirements	The course team welcomes applicants from a broad range of backgrounds, from all over the world. Applicants are expected to demonstrate sufficient prior knowledge of and/or potential in photography to be able to successfully complete the programme of study and/ or have an academic or professional background in a relevant subject. MA Photography does not include technical teaching (although it does include technical advice and support) and if there are specific programmes or techniques that you need to acquire in order to realise your creative ideas on MA Photography then we would advise prior acquisition of these before applying to the course.

The course team also welcomes students with relevant experience or those who may have previously worked in industry.

Educational level may be demonstrated by:

- Honours degree (named above);
- Possession of equivalent qualifications;
- Prior experiential learning, the outcome of which can be demonstrated to be equivalent to formal qualifications otherwise required;
- Or a combination of formal qualifications and experiential learning which, taken together, can be demonstrated to be equivalent to formal qualifications otherwise required.

APEL (Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning)

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:

- Related academic or work experience
- The quality of the personal statement
- A strong academic or other professional reference
- OR a combination of these factors

Each application will be considered on its own merit but we cannot guarantee an offer in each case.

Language requirements

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.

	• IELTS 6.5 (or equivalent) is required, with 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.
Selection Criteria	Offers will be made based on the following selection criteria, which applicants are expected to demonstrate: • Earlier experience of project-based visual inquiry. • A capacity for independent research-led study on PG level. • A strong project proposal ready to be explored on the course. • Knowledge of conceptual approaches to photography in contemporary exhibition context. • An understanding of the need for a critical and analytical approach to own area of practice.

Awards and Percentage of Scheduled Learning

Year 1

Percentage of Scheduled Learning	26
Awards	**Credits**
Postgraduate Certificate (Exit Only)	60
Postgraduate Diploma (Exit Only)	120

Year 2

Percentage of Scheduled Learning	26
Awards	**Credits**
Postgraduate Diploma	N/A

Course Aims and Outcomes

The Aims and Outcomes of this Course are as follows:

Aim/Outcome	Description
Aim	Equip you with the knowledge, abilities and methods - creative, conceptual, theoretical, aesthetic, technical and organisational, that enable you to propose, research and develop an original Body of Work grounded in an independent critical stance;
Aim	Develop a systematic and comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the critical and professional context in which your practice is situated;
Aim	Develop your abilities in critical reflection, equipping you to develop your practice through a process or research, reflection and evaluation and to engage with problems and insights at the forefront of the discipline;
Aim	Enable you to work autonomously and through doing so to resolve, bring to completion and exhibit, publish or otherwise present in the public domain a Body of Work that displays originality, critical reflection and an understanding of the critical and professional contexts of photographic practice (MA).
Aim	Prepare you to further develop a career in the expanded field of photography as a photographer or fine artist, or to use the knowledge you acquire across a range of related areas such as teaching, writing or curating. It will also prepare you for the possibility of further postgraduate research.
Outcome	Propose and develop an original Body of Work through a process of research, experimentation, interaction with your peers and the acquisition and application of a high level of knowledge and skills (Research) (Analysis) (Knowledge) (Enquiry) (Communication)
Outcome	Demonstrate the ability to work experimentally and creatively in a self-directed, sustained and deliberate manner (Enquiry) (Realisation) (Process)
Outcome	Demonstrate a clear and critical understanding of the research models and theoretical frameworks appropriate to your own practice (Research) (Analysis) (Knowledge) (Communication)

Outcome	Demonstrate through your work and written reflection a critical awareness of practice that engages with problems and insights at the forefront of the discipline and be able to situate your own practice in this context (Enquiry) (Knowledge) (Process) (Realisation) (Communication)
Outcome	Make effective written and verbal presentations of your practice and associated research process as appropriate to a range of contexts and audiences (Enquiry) (Knowledge) (Communication) (Process)
Outcome	Work both autonomously and as part of a team, for instance, in the collaborative project and the planning of the final exhibition (Process) (Realisation)
Outcome	Bring to completion and present to a professional standard a Body of Work which is fully researched and supported by clearly articulated written submissions. (Enquiry) (Knowledge) (Realisation) (Communication) (Process)

	Distinctive Features
1	MA Photography is a highly successful programme with an established reputation and significant outside acclaim. It offers a broad-based and flexible approach to teaching and learning which embraces a wide range of practices and philosophies and which situates the photographic image in the expanded field of visual culture
2	With an emphasis on the photograph as a cultural phenomenon rather than on any particular technology, the course encourages students to work experimentally and flexibly across genres and technologies, and in particular to occupy the fertile territory which on the one hand crosses the boundaries between fine art, documentary and commercial practice, and on the other is able to incorporate analogue and digital technologies, moving image and sound.
3	An intensive, focused and specialised programme with a fine art and conceptual orientation and a high level of theory/practice integration, the main aim of which is to enable you to develop a personal and distinctive approach to photography through the production of a major body of work grounded in critical reflection and the development of an independent critical stance
4	Situated in the Media School with a thriving photographic research culture emphasising the development of practice-led models of research, the course espouses a holistic yet flexible approach to the relationship between embedded theory and practice supporting students from different backgrounds to find their own voice.
5	The course also benefits from its position in a developing framework of postgraduate courses at LCC, the Media School includes the MA Photojournalism and Documentary Photography and the BA Photography. There is opportunity for enrichment and interaction between these programmes through professional and research seminars and visiting speaker programmes.
6	The course is led by a highly qualified, experienced and research-active team of course and visiting tutors from a variety of photographic backgrounds. You will also benefit from the extensive contacts we have with artists, photographers, writers, curators, editors, galleries, museums, and other representatives of photography in the arts and media industries. There is a varied programme of visiting speakers and research events.
7	You will continue to benefit from this wide field of course contacts after you have left, through the longstanding establishment of a social network site through which, among other things, alumni achievements are circulated as well as employment opportunities and news of events

Course Detail

MA Photography is an intensive, focused and specialised project-based programme with a fine art and conceptual orientation and a high level of theory/practice integration, the main aim of which is to enable you to develop a personal and distinctive approach to photography practice through the production of a major Body of Work grounded in critical reflection and the development of an independent critical stance. The course is intended for mature self-motivated students with a strong and established photographic practice, and will prepare you to further develop a career as a photographer or fine artist, or to use the knowledge you acquire across a range of related areas such as teaching or curating. It will also prepare you for the possibility of further postgraduate research.

Consisting of a four term full time mode, the course is demanding of time and commitment. Being based around the production of a self-initiated body of work, the course requires a high level of independent study, and you will need considerable capacity for self-direction to fulfil the aims of the programme. Delivery is focused on seminars and tutorials, with an emphasis on presenting your work and ideas in a group situation, whether of MA Photography students or including other postgraduate and research students. Peer support is a crucial element of this programme, drawing on the prior experience of the student group.

Students on MA Photography come from a variety of backgrounds. Many will have already studied photography at undergraduate level here or overseas. The course also welcomes students from other undergraduate backgrounds in art and design such as fine art and moving image, and part of its flexibility and openness comes from this mix. Some students may have no formal qualifications but will have significant experience of working with photography.

Most students come onto the course wishing to develop a practice as an independent photographer or fine artist, to show their work in galleries, publish it in books or engage with other means of dissemination. Some come from successful careers in commercial photography or photojournalism and wish to develop a more conceptual approach to their practice through producing work that succeeds in a demandingly conceptual fine art context. Others may require a postgraduate qualification to enter into teaching or to pursue further research. The common characteristic of all successful applicants is that they will already have achieved a distinctive and enquiring approach to and understanding of photography that they wish to develop further on the course.

Graduates of MA Photography go on to be successful fine artists as well as documentary and commercial photographers, gallerists, curators and writers, academics and teachers, and arts facilitators and organisers of various kinds. Many prefer to find a way of supporting their art practice through combining it with teaching, commercial

photography or other related activities, and the course provides advice on how to enter into these different areas. Students who may wish to progress to practice-led PhD are encouraged to develop their practice as research.

We are committed to teaching, learning and assessment designed to enhance, nurture and recognise your employability, individuality and entrepreneurship.

Enterprise and employability within a creative education in arts, design and media is about   the integration of practice, behaviours and qualities that enable you to develop and sustain a rewarding professional life.

The curriculum is designed to communicate and open up the possibilities of your own creativity by developing your career aspirations and professional awareness for enterprise and employability, whether for the creative and cultural sector or beyond.

Enterprise and employability is about more than getting a job, it is about enabling you to find, make and take opportunities and to meet your aspirations in a changing world, whether as a successful creative professional, innovator, practitioner, employee and/or entrepreneur in the UK and globally.

Course Units

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 4 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.

In order to be awarded a Master Degree you must successfully complete 180 credits. The final award classification is comprised of the marks from the final major project unit only.

Each unit descriptor indicates the number of learning hours associated with that unit. The proportion of hours devoted to types of learning will vary according to the purpose and nature of the unit.

For more detailed information regarding your course's contact hours please check Moodle and **'My Contact Hours'**, which can be accessed through

https://mycontacthours.arts.ac.uk/

In addition, your own personal timetable will be available each year from the beginning of term via your Moodle page
https://mytimetable.arts.ac.uk/timetable_navigate/

Learning and Teaching Methods

This is developed through lectures and seminars, student-led seminars and tutorials, visiting speakers and study visits;

Critical context seminars explore and build your knowledge and understanding of contemporary practice and theoretical models;

The development of a critical framework for the body of work is supported through the critical context seminars;

During Unit Two there is a shift towards group tutorials with visiting tutors such as curators, critics, writers and editors as well as photographers and artists;

Professional support is also provided through visiting speakers and services provided by SEE (Student Enterprise and Employability), including portfolio and business start-up advice;

You are encouraged to develop the research/practice or theory/practice model most appropriate to your own body of work;

The inter-relationship of theory and practice is central to the programme. The development of a critical framework and research base for the body of work is supported through the critical context seminars and tutorials;

Whatever the chosen research/practice model, a continuing process of critical reflection is central to the development of the work, and is embodied in the submission of a written self-evaluation at the end of each Unit;

Technical support is provided through tutorials and inductions;

The emphasis in all of the course learning and teaching methods is on your active participation in the learning process, and you are expected to contribute to individual or group sessions and to share insights from your studies and, where relevant, your own professional experience. In some cases, you will be asked to present an aspect of your work to other course members in either a formal or informal context.

Interaction with peers and group learning are central to the programme of study.

Assessment Methods

In the critical context paper you establish the research basis and conceptual foundations for the body of work. After an initial proposal; it is developed throughout the course and submitted in two stages for the unit one and unit two assessments.

Your project proposal is written in three stages – initial project proposal, intermediate project proposal, and final project proposal – and submitted at the beginning of the course as well as for every assessment in order to propose the development for the next unit.

The critical rationale is a contextualising statement presented with the final exhibition. It may take a variety of forms from the descriptive to the elliptical, but must provide the final version of the critical framework for the body of work;

The processes of research and the production of the body of work, provide the opportunity for you to engage in periods of significant independent, self-directed study

based on systematic creative and contextual research into an area of personal interest. You are required to keep a research dossier to map your research process;

Unit Three, the Collaborative Unit, will give you the chance to work with others on the production of an interim show;

You are expected to present the required work in a way which satisfies the relevant assessment criteria and demonstrates and develops your own professional interests;

Assessment of the body of work is holistic. The separate elements within that unit – research, practice, and critical writing – are all used to come to a view as to the standard of work overall in relation to the unit learning outcomes, and in particular the degree of resolution in the relationship between practice, research and critical stance;

In the last Unit Four you undertake the resolution and finalisation of your body of work and its appropriate presentation in the public domain through an exhibition or other outcomes you decide on, individually or as a group. You will be expected to contribute fully to the process of organisation, production and promotion of the overall presentation.
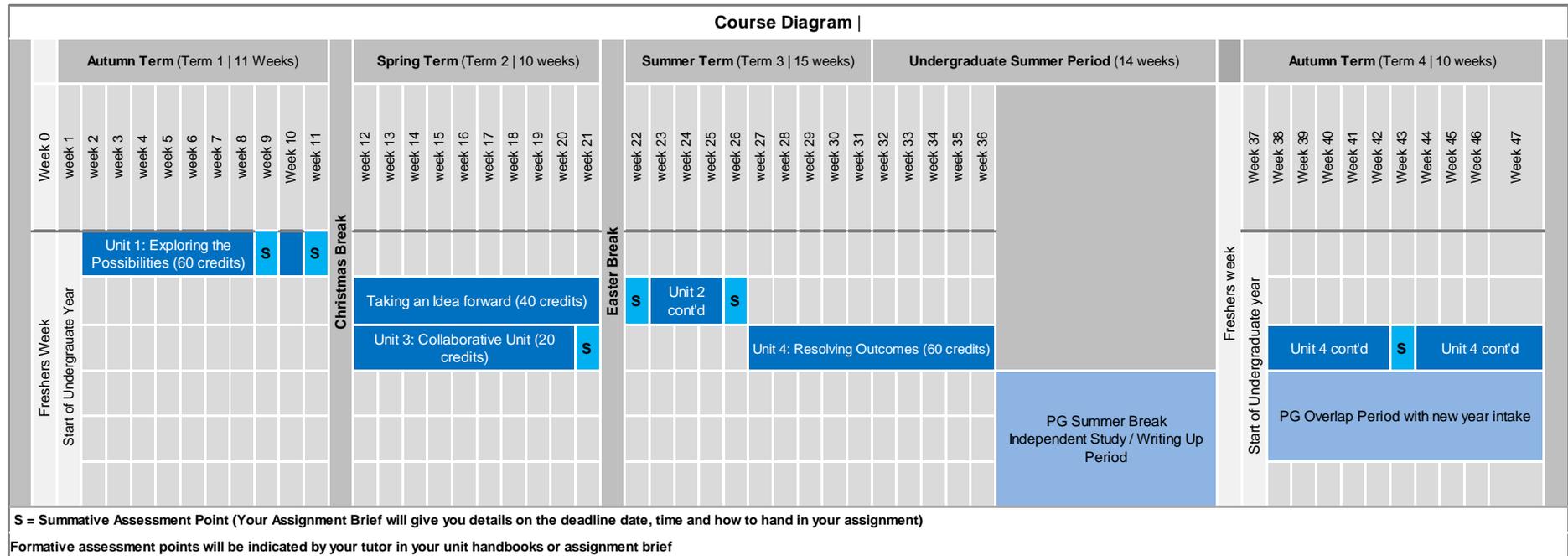
Reference Points

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

	Course Diagram	

Autumn Term (Term 1 | 11 Weeks)   **Spring Term** (Term 2 | 10 weeks)   **Summer Term** (Term 3 | 15 weeks)   **Undergraduate Summer Period** (14 weeks)   **Autumn Term** (Term 4 | 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 | Christmas Break | week 12, week 13, week 14, week 15, week 16, week 17, week 18, week 19, week 20, week 21 | Easter Break | 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

Freshers Week — Start of Undergraduate Year

Unit 1: Exploring the Possibilities (60 credits) **S** **S**

Taking an Idea forward (40 credits)

Unit 3: Collaborative Unit (20 credits) **S**

S Unit 2 cont'd **S**

Unit 4: Resolving Outcomes (60 credits)

PG Summer Break Independent Study / Writing Up Period

Freshers week — Start of Undergraduate year

Unit 4 cont'd **S** Unit 4 cont'd

PG Overlap Period with new year intake

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

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