

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 Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB)	University of the Arts London (UAL)
Teaching Institution	Central Saint Martins
Final Award	MA Contemporary Photography; Practices and Philosophies
Length of Course	Masters: Extended Full time (EFT), 2 years (60 weeks)
UCAS code	Not applicable
Date of production/revision	May 2017

Course Aims

The aims of the course identify the rationale underlying the student's educational experience and own personal achievement from studying on the course and its affect upon the student's long term achievement and career.

This course aims to:

- Develop your creative abilities to instigate and produce work that is innovative, critical and explores the boundaries and contexts of contemporary photographic practice;
- Enable you to evaluate and position your work within a contemporary critical framework;

- Prepare you for ongoing professional practice, or for progress to research degree registration;
- Provide you with a challenging, supportive and inclusive environment for the production of photography and related research.

Course Outcomes

The course enables the student to demonstrate the following subject knowledge and understanding, intellectual and academic skills, practical subject skills, key attributes and transferable skills. Each outcome should be detailed below.

The outcomes that you will have demonstrated upon completion of the course, are:

Outcome:	Develop a professional practice that engages in and/or challenges the field of photography.
Outcome:	Articulate an in-depth critical understanding of theories, contextual issues and debates relevant to your practice.
Outcome:	Demonstrate a highly developed and appropriate synthesis of practical, research, evaluative and reflective skills.
Outcome:	Communicate creative concepts, complex knowledge and critical thinking effectively through both visual and written forms.
Outcome:	Initiate, manage and realise a purposeful and feasible programme of original creative practice.

Learning and Teaching Methods:

Provide a summary of the relevant learning and teaching methods for the course (i.e. lectures, seminars, independent learning).

The primary means of learning for each student is through practice. This is supported and developed through:

- briefing materials, written guidance and meetings;
- inductions and technical workshops;
- lectures and guest speakers;
- Independent Project proposal document;
- shared teaching events across the postgraduate art programme;
- off-site, site-specific and collaborative project opportunities;
- personal and group tutorials;
- seminars and symposium;
- presentations and exhibition;
- recommended reading and viewing;
- professional networking visits;
- independent study;
- critiques and peer evaluations;
- self-critical evaluation;
- assessment feedback

Scheduled Learning and Teaching

State the notional learning hours and provide a percentage breakdown of timetabled teaching and learning activities per level.

Scheduled Learning and Teaching – this is the percentage of your time spent in timetabled learning and teaching. You are expected to study for 1,800 hours over 60 weeks; below is the amount of time which is timetabled activity. The rest of your learning time will be self-directed, independent study.

Percentage of time spent in timetabled learning and teaching – 26%

Assessment Methods:

Provide a summary of the relevant assessment methods for the course.

Holistic assessment of achievement as demonstrated through:

- research and preparatory work;
- Independent Project proposal;
- outputs from group project work and assignments;
- documentation of work;
- verbal and visual presentations;
- written work;
- participation in activities and debate;
- self-critical evaluation;
- realisation of Independent Project

Reference Points

List any policies, descriptors, initiatives or benchmark statements used in the development of the course.

The following reference points were used in designing the course:

- The Learning and Teaching policies of the University of the Arts London;

- College policies and initiatives;
- HE Level Descriptors;
- Art and Design Benchmark statement;
- Experience of contemporary photography practice;
- External professional organisations

Programme Summary

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

List the course details that constitute the agreed student entitlement for this course. This should include unit titles and credit, types of learning, and details of tutorial support. If the course includes a work or study placement (including Dip Professional Studies), the duration and a summary of expectations around arrangements must be highlighted.

The course lasts 60 weeks structured as two consecutive periods of 30 weeks each (i.e. two academic years) in its 'extended full-time mode'. In Year 1 students are expected to commit an average of 40 hours per week. In Year 2 study is predominantly self-managed but students are expected to commit an average of 20 hours per week. Across the two years, therefore, students are expected to commit an average of 30 hours per week.

MA Contemporary Photography; Practices and Philosophies is credit rated at 180 credits, and comprises 2 units. Unit 1 (60 credits) lasts 15 weeks. Unit 2 (120 credits) follows after the completion of Unit 1 and runs for 45 weeks. Summative assessment is conducted for each unit. Both units must be passed in order to achieve the MA but the classification of the award of MA is derived from the mark for Unit 2 only.

Students successfully achieving Unit 1 may exit at this point with the award of Postgraduate Certificate.

Units are as follows:

Unit 1: What is Practice? (in photography) (60 credits)

We inhabit an age in which "Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold" – in the words of William Butler Yeats – but then the same 'things' also come back

together to form new, previously unimagined configurations that are both the stuff of fantasy and of nightmares. It is an age in which dizzying advances in artificial intelligence and computer technologies are intertwined with cultural and economic extremes. The complex and challenging landscape of contemporary photography in all its aspects: post-internet, digital, networked, mediated, visual, performative, public, political is inextricably linked with this. Indeed, photography – in all its hybridised forms – is often found at the core of our understanding of ‘who we are’ in this challenging and mutable world: what we are made of; our relationship to other human and non-human entities; how we fight, play, find pleasure, take sides, make things ‘change’, make things ‘work’, make things heal or bleed, take on colour, find the beat.

This unit provides a detailed engagement with your practice through experimentation, questioning, play and dialogue.

It is organised around several key components: study statement; a weekly install of your work followed by a group crit that focuses on different aspects of your developing practice; a weekly philosophy seminar; lecture series. The main aim of these components is to provide you with the tools necessary to exercise your curiosity and imagination about visual imaging. These tools will guide you in the task of finding your voice and your signature style in order to get to grips with the world of art, new media and technology, or in a word: photography.

Unit 2: Realisation of Research and Practice (120 credits)

In this unit you will have an opportunity to demonstrate your own authority in the field of photography through developing an independent body of work as a fusion of your analytical study and practice.

The first 15 weeks focus on your developing practice. You will consider your study statement and rework this into a research proposal that will become the blueprint for your second year of study. Weekly seminars will continue and will help you to clarify your research interests and to formulate the key questions for the Research Paper. Experimental installs and crits will provide a space for re-negotiation of practice and for developing a proposal for the final exhibition.

At the end of year one you will take part in the interim show in which you will curate and install an exhibition in a public venue outside of the art school. All aspects of mounting an exhibition will be considered including publicity, curation and collaborative working.

During Year 2 you will be supported in the production of a body of work for exhibition (degree show), and in the completion of your agreed written work.

Support takes the form of tutorials, technical advice and bookable workshops. The unit culminates with the degree show in which you will make use of your developing professionalism; you will be collaborating with students from the other MAs within the programme to prepare the degree show spaces and consider curation and placement of works.

The first 15 weeks provide the foundation for subsequent development of practice through a programme of seminars, installs, crits, gallery visits and guest speakers.

By the end of Unit 2 your exhibited and written work reflects a synthesis of reflexive, conceptual, practical and professional abilities. Your mark for Unit 2 determines the classification of your MA award.

Distinctive features of the course:

Identify and list those characteristics that distinguish your course from other, similar courses. Refer to both the student experience on the course and future possible career opportunities.

The synergies of the Postgraduate Art Programme, incorporating MA Fine Art, MA Contemporary Photography; Practices and Philosophies, MA Art and Science, MRes Art: Exhibition Studies, MRes Art: Moving Image, and MRes Art: Theory and Philosophy will create a dynamic context for exploration of practices and issues in contemporary culture.

The extended full time mode provides flexibility for students to manage time, to engage with the richness of professional and study opportunities provided by London, and to devote comparatively substantial real time to personal and professional development.

The course provides an extensive final unit of 120 credits (45 weeks) enabling continuous development and realisation of a substantial personally defined project.

MA Contemporary Photography; Practices and Philosophies is distinguished by its support for:

- challenging and provocative work across traditional and new technologies within photography, printmaking, moving image and communication/networking media, capitalising on the links between these facilities that will be a feature of King's Cross;
- the development of individual ways of seeing and realising creative intentions;

- analysis, critical debate and the development of personal position regarding the ethical and social responsibilities of the photographer;
- the contemporary identity of photography in close, critical and dynamic relation to the disciplinary and professional arenas of art and design.

Recruitment and Admissions

Selection Criteria

The criteria used to make a decision on selection must be fully listed. It must be clear how an applicant's suitability to study on the course as demonstrated at the pre-selection and/or interview stage will be judged (good practice examples are available through the Programme Specification Guidance). Procedures for selection must adhere to the Equal Opportunities Policy of UAL.

We're seeking imaginative, resourceful individuals who are committed to exploring photography.

Applications, indicative project proposals and supporting material will be assessed for:

- 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 from and contribute to the learning environment at postgraduate level.

The interview (for applicants selected following submission of the application form, indicative project proposal and supporting work) is used to evaluate the extent to which a candidate demonstrates:

- A thoughtful and responsible approach to practice

- The capacity for independent research;
- Appropriate critical and reflective abilities;
- An awareness of the cultural and social context within which they practice;
- Appropriate communication skills;
- A preparedness to participate collaboratively in debate, practice and presentation

Portfolio and interview advice

References and interviews help determine whether your personal and professional aspirations are compatible with the aims and outcomes of the course. The interview also gives you an opportunity to demonstrate an objective, critical and reflective relationship to your work. If possible, it's a good idea to bring examples of current work (e.g. since application).

MA Contemporary Photography; Practices and Philosophies welcomes discussion with potential applicants about the appropriateness of their initial proposals. We encourage applicants to use every opportunity to make contact with us before applying.

Entry Requirements

List the academic entry requirements relevant to the course, noting any requirements that are above the UAL minimum, or any course specific grade requirements. Language requirements such as IELTS must also be provided. Entry requirements will constitute the standard, conditional offer for the course.

Selection to MA Contemporary Photography; Practices and Philosophies is determined by the quality of your application (including a written indicative project proposal and supporting material). You'll also need to meet the minimum entry requirements as indicated below, but please note that these qualifications alone won't be sufficient to secure entry to the course.

Minimum entry requirements

We consider applicants who have already achieved an educational level equivalent to an Honours degree. You can demonstrate this educational level by:

- Having a relevant Honours degree or an equivalent academic qualification;
- Having a professional qualification recognised as equivalent to an Honours degree;
- Prior experiential learning, the outcome of which can be shown to be equivalent to formal qualifications otherwise required;
- A combination of formal qualifications and experiential learning that, taken together, can be shown to be equivalent to formal qualifications otherwise required

Advanced entry: applicants may be considered for admittance at a point later than the start of the Course, provided that they have fulfilled, in a way judged to be equivalent, the requirements of the Course prior to the proposed point of entry.

English language requirement

All classes are conducted in English. If English is not your first language, we strongly recommend you send us an English language test score together with your application to prove your level of proficiency. If you have booked a test or are awaiting your results, please clearly indicate this on your application form. When you have received your test score, please send it to us immediately. The standard English language requirement for entry is IELTS 6.5 with a minimum of 5.5 in any one paper, or equivalent. For further information visit the <http://www.arts.ac.uk/study-at-ual/language-centre/>

Applicants who will need a Tier 4 General Student Visa should check the External English Tests page which provides important information about UK Border Agency (UKBA) requirements.

Course Diagram

Insert a course diagram which includes; units and their credit values, plus credit values per year/level, category of units (i.e. core or specialist), progression routes, years/levels of the course, any other relevant characteristics that distinguishes the course

Red lines = unit assessment points; grey squares = personal tutorials

see your course timetable for further formative assessment events

