

# **MA Photography**

Programme Specification 2020/21

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Awarding Body</b>             | University of the Arts London  |
| <b>College</b>                   | London College of Communication  |
| <b>School</b>                    | Media  |
| <b>Programme</b>                 | Photography (L046)   |
| <b>FHEQ Level</b>                | Level 7 Masters  |
| <b>Course Credits</b>            | 180  |
| <b>Mode</b>                      | Full Time  |
| <b>Duration of Course</b>        | 1 year   |
| <b>Valid From</b>                | September 1st 2020   |
| <b>Course Entry Requirements</b> | <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The course team also welcomes students with relevant experience or those who may have previously worked in industry.</p> <p>Educational level may be demonstrated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Honours degree (named above);</li> <li>• Possession of equivalent qualifications;</li> <li>• Prior experiential learning, the outcome of which can be demonstrated to be equivalent to formal qualifications otherwise required;</li> </ul> |

- 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) required, with 6.5 in Speaking and a minimum of 6.0 in Listening, Reading, Writing.
- 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.

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A capacity for independent research-led study on PG level.</li><li>• A strong project proposal ready to be explored on the course.</li><li>• Knowledge of conceptual approaches to photography in contemporary exhibition context.</li><li>• An understanding of the need for a critical and analytical approach to own area of practice.</li></ul>                   |
| <b>Scheduled Learning and Teaching</b> | <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>26</b>      |
| <b>Awards</b>                           | <b>Credits</b> |
| Postgraduate Certificate (Exit Only)    | 60             |
| Postgraduate Diploma (Exit Only)        | 120            |

## Year 2

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| <b>Percentage of Scheduled Learning</b> | <b>26</b>      |
| <b>Awards</b>                           | <b>Credits</b> |
| Postgraduate Degree                     | 180            |

# 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 (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 (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)   |

| <b>Distinctive Features</b> |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 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 an alumni network through which, among other things, alumni achievements are circulated as well as employment opportunities and news of events  |

## Course Detail

MA Photography at London College of Communication offers a variety of conceptual approaches to thinking, writing and exhibiting photography.

It is a research-led course that equips students for a wider inquiry into the photographic medium, using a single exhibition project which students develop over 15-months.

The exhibition gives students the chance to produce a distinctive body of work, by supporting their individual practice through encouraging visual experimentation, theoretical contextualisation, and active research processes.

Situated within the [Media School](#), we understand photography as an interdisciplinary medium, that expands as an effect on, and of culture.

As part of the respective project development, we interrogate the agency of a piece of work and its relationship with the viewer, in a post-documentary environment, alongside thinking about non-representational strategies in installation.

We encourage students to work experimentally and produce work that tests the ever expanding boundaries of the medium, encompassing the still image, video, installation, performance and digital media, and culminating in a public exhibition.

The Media School offers a longstanding tradition of photography education with a highly regarded artistic research culture, and the course has close ties with the [Photography and the Archive Research Centre](#) and [The Stanley Kubrick Archive](#), both based at London College of Communication.

Located close to central London, the course has excellent links with galleries, museums and archives.

MA Photography attracts a broad range of practitioners, from backgrounds in fine art, sculpture, and other areas of media practice as well as related theoretical subject disciplines. They are united by a desire to develop a distinctive practice with a high level of conceptual resolution.

### **What can you expect?**

There are both analogue and digital photography [facilities](#) at London College of Communication, including colour and black-and-white darkrooms, photographic studios and a Mac-based digital suite including Imacon scanners, as well as medium and large format analogue cameras, digital cameras, HD video cameras and lighting equipment.

Students also have access to other technical facilities such as the 3D workshop, book binding or screen-printing.

The course runs for 45 weeks from September to December (15 months full time, across a four-term model) and attendance is 2 days per week.

The course is demanding of time and commitment in addition to attendance, and you will need a considerable capacity for self-directed study to fulfil the aims of the programme.

Please note: The course assumes that you are technically proficient and able to research and develop any further skills you require.

Technical tuition is restricted to the tutorial support of individual projects. If you need to acquire a significant skill base, then you are advised to do so before you apply for the course.

### **The Sproxtton Photography Award**

The [Sproxtton Photography Award](#) is given each year to one student in the MA Photography Final Show, as judged by a panel consisting of an industry professional and MA Photography Alumni. The winner receives £1200 to help them kickstart their photography career.

The prize was set up in memory of Andrew Sproxtton, who together with [Professor Val Williams](#), curator, historian and writer, and former Director of the Photography and the Archive Research Centre here at LCC, founded the Impressions Gallery in York in 1972.

### **Mode of Study**

MA Photography is in Full Time mode which runs for 45 weeks over 15 months. You will be expected to commit 40 hours per week to study.

### **Course Units**

Each course is divided into units, which are credit-rated. The minimum unit size is 20 credits. The MA course structure involves four units, totalling 180 credits.

### **Autumn, Term 1**

**Exploring the Possibilities (60 credits)**

Following an Induction Week, you will begin to develop a body of work with tutorial support.

You will also receive a series of critical context seminars to help you start developing your critical context review.

## **Spring, Term 2**

### **Taking an Idea Forward (40 credits)**

#### **Collaborative Unit (20 credits)**

Taking an Idea Forward builds on the experience of Exploring the Possibilities unit, allowing you to consolidate and develop your knowledge and experience.

You will focus on and further develop one of your ideas for the body of work explored in the Exploring the Possibilities unit. You'll also continue to develop a critical framework for your work through critical context seminars and the submission of the critical context paper.

Increasingly, students take responsibility for leading seminars and group tutorials with staff acting as facilitators.

In the Collaborative Unit, you will develop an interim showcase of your developing research together with your peers and supported by other input.

## **Summer, Term 3**

### **Taking an Idea Forward (continued)**

#### **Resolving Outcomes (60 credits)**

## **Autumn, Term 4**

### **Resolving Outcomes (continued)**

In the Resolving Outcomes unit, you will undertake the resolution, finalisation, and presentation of the body of work in an exhibition or other outcomes you decide on, individually or as a group.

Through both practice and your written submission of a critical rationale, you will demonstrate a reflective understanding of the medium, the critical and professional context, and the position of your practice within it.

You will need a high level of commitment and self-management to achieve the course outcomes.

In addition to formal teaching sessions, seminar work, presentations, and tutorial work you will also be expected to engage in independent research, writing, coursework, and the origination, development and completion of the body of work, for which both tutor and peer support is provided through individual tutorials, group discussions, and peer review.

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.

### **Learning and Teaching Methods**

Unit One is developed through lectures and seminars, student-led seminars and tutorials, visiting speakers and where practicable 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 Review;

During Unit Two there is a shift from experimentation towards artistic research methods supported by group tutorials with tutors from different backgrounds including curators, critics, writers and editors as well as photographers and artists;

Professional support is also provided through visiting speakers and services provided by UAL Careers and Employability, including portfolio and business start-up advice.

The inter-relationship of theory and practice is central to the Course. The development of a critical framework and research base for the Body of Work is supported through the Critical Context Paper 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 Unit One and Unit Two;

Technical support is provided through tutorials and technical facilities 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. 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 Critical Context Review submission for Unit One, the final Critical Context Paper is submitted for the Unit Two assessments;

Your Project Proposal is written in three stages – initial project proposal, intermediate project proposal, and final project proposal – and submitted for tutorials during 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. 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 dossier of Research Documentation to map your research process. The development and production of the Body of Work runs through all units of the course. Assessment of this is holistic. The separate elements within each 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;

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;

Unit Three, the Collaborative Unit, will give you the chance to work with others on the production of an Interim exhibition (or other form of peer/public and/or online display agreed in advance by the Programme).

In the final 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 form of public and/or online display agreed in advance by the Institution), 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



*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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