

# **BA (Hons) Photojournalism and Documentary Photography**

Programme Specification 2020/21

<b>Awarding Body</b>	University of the Arts London
<b>College</b>	London College of Communication
<b>School</b>	University of the Arts London
<b>Programme</b>	Photography (L046)
<b>FHEQ Level</b>	Level 6 Degree
<b>Course Credits</b>	360
<b>Mode</b>	Full Time
<b>Duration of Course</b>	3 years
<b>Valid From</b>	September 1st 2020
<b>Course Entry Requirements</b>	<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 industry.</p> <p><b>The standard entry requirements for this course are as follows:</b></p> <p>64 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, Pass, Pass at BTEC Extended Diploma (preferred subjects: Art and Design, IT &amp; Computing, Media, Music and Performing Arts).</li> <li>• Pass at UAL Extended Diploma.</li> </ul>

- Access to Higher Education Diploma (preferred subject: Digital and Creative Media, Film and Production).
- OR equivalent EU/International qualifications, such as International Baccalaureate Diploma at 24 points minimum

**And** 3 GCSE passes at grade 4 or above (grade A\*-C).

### **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;
- A combination of these factors.

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

### **English Language Requirements (International/EU)**

IELTS level 6.0 or above, with at least 5.5 in reading, writing, listening and speaking. Please check our main [English language requirements](#) page for more information.

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.

### **Selection Criteria**

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:

- Demonstration of an appreciation of photojournalism and documentary photography as a specialised discipline

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Technical skills and experimentation with visual creativity, demonstrated in your own photographic work</li><li>▪ Evidence of research and development of ideas through practice to achieve specific outcomes</li><li>▪ Quality of ideas and thought processes in the production of your work</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>32</b>
<b>Awards</b>	<b>Credits</b>
Certificate of Higher Education	120

## Year 2

<b>Percentage of Scheduled Learning</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Awards</b>	<b>Credits</b>
Diploma of Higher Education	240

## Year 3

<b>Percentage of Scheduled Learning</b>	<b>12</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:

Aim/Outcome	Description
Aim	Offer to students drawn from diverse backgrounds specialised study in the practical, technical, digital, theoretical and historical aspects of photojournalism and documentary photography.
Aim	Support students in acquiring the core technical and practical skills for effective photographic storytelling and narrative structure including image capture, digital workflow, editing, captioning, dissemination, presentation, and archiving.
Aim	Interrogate and constantly re-examine the changing genre boundaries and definitions of photojournalism and documentary photography in the contemporary media landscape.
Aim	Prepare students for the multi-tasking nature of photojournalism and documentary photography in the 21st century by encouraging digital literacy and an understanding of convergence in storytelling methods.
Aim	Develop employability: aptitudes and skills in communication, networking, collaborative working and entrepreneurial skills.
Aim	Develop an understanding of the politics and ethics of representation and awareness of diversity in the media through a diverse range of texts, speakers, perspectives and bodies of work.
Aim	Contextualise practical skills and photographic work with an understanding of the histories and theories of documentary photography, photojournalism and visual culture.
Aim	Develop students' study and research skills for independent intellectual and academic endeavour to dissertation level.
Aim	Prepare students to progress from University to employment, self-employment and further study.
Outcome	Demonstrate an ability to critically evaluate news, current affairs, documentary stories and contemporary visual culture.
Outcome	Demonstrate knowledge and critical understanding of the theoretical, legal, political, historical and economic contexts within which

	photojournalists and documentary photographers work incorporating compliance with codes of practice. (Knowledge, Enquiry)
Outcome	Display critical understanding of the business of the marketplace and its audiences, including news websites, magazines, news picture agencies, social media, publishing and galleries, and how they operate. (Communication)
Outcome	Demonstrate the ability to work independently and co-operatively to produce visual, written and verbal outcomes based on research and argument. (Process)
Outcome	Effectively apply research methods to documentary and photojournalistic practice in preparation for employment, self-employment and further study. (Enquiry)
Outcome	Demonstrate competence in digital workflow suitable for photography and an understanding of the importance of technical specifics such as IPTC, EXIF and metadata. (Realisation; Enquiry)
Outcome	Demonstrate the creative, ethical, practical and technical abilities to produce a body of work to a professional standard within the fields of photojournalism and documentary photography. (Realisation; Enquiry, Communication)
Outcome	Present a resolved portfolio of work and market your ideas and stories in a professional manner. (Communication)
Outcome	Confidently reflect on own strengths and weaknesses, set realistic goals, priorities and action plans. (Realisation; Process)

	<b>Distinctive Features</b>
1	We have a broad and inclusive approach to photojournalism and documentary photography, constantly questioning the genre boundaries and looking to the future of the industry. Everything we do is guided by a commitment to research, professional ethics and critical reflection.
2	Our strong links with industry and a curriculum rooted in the practice of real world contemporary photojournalism and documentary photography provide a strongly practice-based course underpinned by a theoretical framework. Our practice tutors are working professionals from across the industry.
3	The wide range of practice-based learning activities are supported by a grounding in history and theory to develop the student's critical engagement not only as a photographer but as a viewer and participant in visual culture. The critical and theoretical elements of the course are delivered by internationally-published scholars and recognised leaders in the field.
4	Each week students will be introduced to and work with an inspiring range of industry experts and leaders from the world of professional photography who visit to conduct talks, workshops and tutorials.
5	Our analogue and digital technical teams are resourced with cutting-edge equipment and dedicated, course-specific expertise.
6	London is a key location for the study of photojournalism and documentary photography. Whether political or economic issues, happenings, news events, cultural or social concerns, the diversity of daily life will enhance learning and broaden your world view.
7	The course is part of the highly regarded Media School which has a strong tradition in photographic education and a proven track record of delivery of photography course content at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.
8	There is a growing research specialism in photojournalism and documentary photography within the Media School which is home to the Photography and Archive Research Centre (PARC).
9	Vitality for an industry in which many practitioners are self-employed, the course includes a Contemporary Professional Practice unit, learning strategies of personal branding, setting up a business, portfolio preparation and presentation.
10	Our students have gone on to be well-known and award-winning photographers, as well as to a range of other photography-related careers including picture editing, curating, picture research, NGO and human rights work, publishing, journalism and further academic study.

## Course Detail

We see documentary photography as an umbrella term under which photojournalism and other related forms of storytelling, including moving image, exist. These genre boundaries continue to develop and shift within the contemporary media landscape, and this course will equip you to explore and work within this area in a self-defined, flexible and creative way.

BA (Hons) Photojournalism and Documentary Photography allows you to follow an innovative and exciting curriculum rooted in the methodologies of photojournalism and documentary photography as they are practised professionally today. As well as gaining an academically-rigorous degree, it will enable you to acquire the essential skills to become a working photographer, equipping you to produce work for a range of outlets including newspapers, magazines, digital platforms, galleries, books and picture agencies. It is not uncommon for our students to be working to a professional standard by their third year.

The practical elements of the course emphasise learning by doing: you will begin by learning to photograph newsworthy subjects and create topical documentary stories, and then go on to develop your own self-directed documentary practice culminating in a final major project and a dissertation.

Students are encouraged to become involved with the lively photographic community in London; a process which is enhanced by an exciting range of visiting speakers from the photographic and related industries. The course team is committed to diversity in representation of gender, ethnicity and disability in its programme of visiting speakers and tutors.

Complementing the practical and career focused aspects of this degree course are contextual studies in the history of photojournalism and documentary photography, delivered by academics who are internationally published scholars in the field. At the heart of this aspect of the course is our belief in the importance of critical engagement not only as photographers but as viewers and participants in a globalized visual culture.

We are committed to enhancing your employability, individuality and entrepreneurship. Success within the arts and media is about the integration of practice, skills and mindset that enable you to develop and sustain a rewarding working life. Our curriculum is designed to open up the possibilities of your own creativity by developing your unique subjectivity, career aspirations and professional awareness, whether for the creative and cultural sector or beyond.

## Course Units

In common with all courses at the University of the Arts London, this course is credit rated. The course is 3 years, levels 4-6. Each year requires you to achieve 120 credits. To be awarded the BA (Hons) Photojournalism and Documentary 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 sessions, 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. Beginning now and continuing through all three years of the course, there will be a guest lecture from a visiting professional photographer giving insight into a range of photographic practices, which is also a space to meet fellow photography students from across the programme at BA and MA levels.

### Units summary:

1. Introduction to Photojournalism and Documentary 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.

2. Practical Documentary Photography & Photojournalism (20 credits)

This unit will introduce you to the skills and knowledge required to identify, research, shoot and edit a series of photographic images within particular genres of documentary and photojournalistic image making.

3. Histories & Theories of Photojournalism and Documentary Photography (20 credits)

This unit introduces you to the key historical and social issues surrounding photojournalism and documentary photography from their earliest stages to the present day.

4. Documentary Storytelling (20 credits)

This unit helps to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to produce a documentary storytelling project. It will examine contemporary ways of using images for storytelling and help you develop an understanding of visual and narrative structure.

#### 5. Moving Image (20 credits)

This unit will train you in the skills of basic moving image/film-making within a photojournalism and documentary photography context. You will be supported by expert tutors in developing content and technical skills, resulting in the production of your own short film.

#### 6. Media Ethics & Media Law (20 credits)

This unit will introduce media theories that underpin and help us to understand the role of communication systems, modes of representation and systems of meaning. You will learn about the main media laws that affect the work of photojournalists and documentary photographers.

### **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, creating space for you to begin to develop and contextualize your own practice by working on more open and self-directed assignments via both practice and theory/written work. Towards the end of the year, you will be supported to create a dissertation proposal.

#### Units summary:

#### 1. Contemporary Documentary 1 (40 credits)

This unit will help you to develop the theoretical knowledge and practical skills necessary to produce a documentary project and associated theoretical research. You will be encouraged to go beyond traditional narrative documentary approaches and to look at ways in which to disrupt expectations about storytelling and start to embrace experimental narratives and structures.

#### 2. Elective Unit (20 credits)

The Elective unit provides a choice of stimulating conceptual and practical projects that will compliment the core units of your course.

#### 3. Contemporary Documentary 2 (40 credits)

In this unit you will further develop the knowledge and skills necessary to produce an in-depth documentary project and associated research. The unit is designed to encourage

you to think holistically about the theoretical, philosophical and subjective aspects of documentary photography in relationship to the development of your own practice.

#### 4. Reading & Writing Practice (20 credits)

This unit explores the practices of reading and writing within, around and about photojournalism and documentary photography. The unit culminates in the submission of a Dissertation Proposal, and you will also create an analytical reading journal that records and articulates your engagement with literature in a personal way.

### **Year 3**

Year 3, the final stage, consolidates and develops your ability to direct and plan your own work by producing two substantial self-directed assignments – your Major Project, and your Dissertation. You will also complete a Contemporary Professional Practice unit, designed to prepare you in very practical ways for life after graduation. All three Year 3 units are designed to enable you to sustain your practice in an individual way and take the next steps towards your career.

Units summary:

#### 1. Major Project part 1 (20 credits)

In this unit you will begin the exploratory process of researching and making visual work towards your final major project. You will begin to develop a written proposal, complete a risk assessment and begin to make work that will be further developed in the Major Project Part 2 unit.

#### 2. Major Project part 2 (40 credits)

This unit requires the consolidation of your Major Project and its presentation in an appropriate form which will be negotiated with tutors and can encompass, for example, a portfolio of photographic prints, multimedia piece or a photographic monograph.

#### 3. Dissertation (40 credits)

In this unit you will write an extended written essay and will work closely with selected supervisors to present a substantial research project.

#### 4. Contemporary Professional Practice (20 credits)

This unit asks you to consider your future goals and how to best prepare yourself for your career after university. You'll do extensive research into your chosen career field,

produce a web presence, a creative identity package and an interview with a relevant professional.

### **Learning and Teaching Methods**

- Interactive lectures
- Seminars
- Guest talks
- Group Project Work
- Individual Projects
- Workshops
- Individual Tutorials
- Group Tutorials
- Study Visits
- Written and verbal feedback on work in progress

### **Assessment Methods**

- Practical photojournalistic and documentary workbook / Journals
- Formative Assessment
- Projects and project appraisals
- Oral and seminar presentations
- Written work (eg. essays, proposals and dissertation) In-class reviews

### **Reference Points**

The following reference points were used in 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 Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies Benchmark statement
- Course forums whereby students on this and similar courses had direct input into course design and structure
- Industry panel feedback

# 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		
Level 4 – Year 1																																
Block 1															End of Block	Block 2																
Introduction to... (20 credits)				S												Documentary Storytelling (20 credits)					S	Documentary Storytelling cont.					S					
Practical Documentary Photography and Photojournalism (20 credits)														S		Moving Image (20 credits)					S	Moving Image cont.					S					
Histories and Theories of Photojournalism and Documentary Photography (20 credits)														S		Media Ethics and Media Law (20 credits)					S	Media Ethics cont.					S					
Level 5 – Year 2																																
Block 1																End of Block	Block 2															
Contemporary Documentary 1 (40 credits)														S			Contemporary Documentary 2 (40 credits)										S					
Elective		S	(20 credits)				S										Reading & Writing Practice (20 credits)					S						S				
Level 6 – Year 3																																
Block 1																	End of Block	Block 2														
Major Project part 1 (20 credits)			S	Major Project Part 1 Cont'd						S								Major Project Part 2 (40 credits)					S									
Dissertation (40 credits)														S	Contemporary Professional Practice (20 credits)										S							

*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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