

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

Programme Specification 2019/20

Awarding Body	University of the Arts London
College	London College of Communication
School	University of the Arts London
Programme	Photography (L046)
FHEQ Level	Level 6 Degree
Course Credits	360
Mode	Full Time
Duration of Course	3 years
Valid From	September 1st 2019
QAA Subject Benchmark	Art and Design
UAL Subject Classification	Photography
JACS Code	P500 - Journalism
UCAS Code	N/A
PSRB	N/A
Work placement offered	N/A
Course Entry Requirements	<p>Home/EU/International</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>The standard entry requirements for this course are as follows:</p>

64 UCAS tariff points which can be made up of one or a combination of the following accepted full level 3 qualifications:

- A Levels at grade C or above (preferred subjects include: English; History; Media; Business; Art and Design, or other subjects within Social Sciences).
- Pass at Foundation Diploma in Art & Design (Level 3 or 4).
- Merit, Pass, Pass at BTEC Extended Diploma (preferred subjects: Art and Design, IT & Computing, Media, Music and Performing Arts).
- Pass at UAL Extended Diploma.
- 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)

	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Selection Criteria	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Demonstration of an appreciation of photojournalism and documentary photography as a specialised discipline▪ Technical skills and experimentation with visual creativity, demonstrated in your own photographic work▪ Evidence of research and development of ideas through practice to achieve specific outcomes▪ Quality of ideas and thought processes in the production of your work

Awards and Percentage of Scheduled Learning

Year 1

Percentage of Scheduled Learning	32
Awards	Credits
Certificate of Higher Education	120

Year 2

Percentage of Scheduled Learning	19
Awards	Credits
Diploma of Higher Education	240

Year 3

Percentage of Scheduled Learning	12
Awards	Credits
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 specialized study in the practical, technical, digital, theoretical and historical aspects of photojournalism and documentary photography.
Aim	Introduce and support you in acquiring the practical skills for effective photographic communication including image capture, digital workflow, editing, captioning and metadata, transmission and delivery, presentation, archiving.
Aim	Develop your understanding of what news is and what characterises stories with the potential to engage whether a mass media or specialised niche audience.
Aim	Prepare you for the multi-tasking nature of photojournalism in the 21st century by encouraging digital literacy and an understanding of convergence in storytelling methods.
Aim	Develop aptitudes and skills in communication, information technology, enterprise, team working and social function so as to build an understanding of the characteristics essential to employability in photojournalism.
Aim	Develop an understanding of the politics of representation: gender, disability, ethnicity and other forms of diversity in the media
Aim	Contextualise practical skills and photographic work with an appropriate understanding of the history and theories of documentary photography, photojournalism and contemporary media.
Aim	Suitably develop students' study and research skills for independent intellectual and academic endeavour to dissertation level.
Aim	Prepare students to transfer from University to the workplace or postgraduate study.

Outcome	Demonstrate an understanding of photojournalism and documentary photography and critically evaluate news, current affairs, documentary stories and contemporary issues in terms of their visual and commercial potential and relevance to an audience and the contemporary market place. (Knowledge; Enquiry)
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)
Outcome	Display critical understanding of newspapers, magazines, news picture agencies and online outlets as businesses and employ a variety of key communication, interpersonal and enterprise skills required for effective practice in the industry. (Communication)
Outcome	Demonstrate the ability to work independently and co-operatively to produce visual, written and verbal material based on research and argument. (Process)
Outcome	Identify and apply research methods to documentary, photojournalistic and academic projects to prepare for entry to media employment or postgraduate study. (Enquiry)
Outcome	Demonstrate competence in digital workflow suitable for photography and an understanding of the importance of IPTC, EXIF and metadata. (Realisation; Enquiry)
Outcome	Demonstrate creative, practical and technical abilities to produce a body of work to a professional standard within the fields of photojournalism and documentary photography. (Realisation; Enquiry)
Outcome	Present a professional portfolio of work and market your ideas and stories in a professional manner. (Communication)
Outcome	Reflect on own strengths and weaknesses, set realistic goals, priorities and action plans. (Realisation; Process)

Distinctive Features	
1	Our strong links with industry and a curriculum rooted in the practice of real world photojournalism and contemporary modes of documentary photography provide a strongly practice-based course underpinned by a theoretical framework;
2	The wide-range of practice based learning activities are supported by a grounding in key areas of the history and theory of photojournalism, documentary photography and related media to develop the student's critical engagement not only as a photographer but as a viewer and participant in visual culture generally.
3	Industry experts and speakers from the world of professional photography, design and associated fields [including potential clients] will introduce you to a variety of perspectives on contemporary photojournalism and documentary photography including the possibilities arising from recent technological developments. Vitally for an industry in which most people are self-employed the course includes a series of practical business studies seminars looking at strategies for setting-up and running a small business including accountancy, taxation and investment for photographers. These lectures and workshops form a bridge between University and beginning a career.
4	The course is in an excellent location for the study of photojournalism and documentary photography. London is an unrivalled source of stories waiting to be told because of the dynamics of the Capital. Whether political or economic issues, happenings, news events, cultural or social concern the diversity of daily life in London will enhance learning and broaden your world view.
5	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 photojournalism course content at both FE and HE levels. The School also has a well established and internationally successful photojournalism and documentary photography specialism at MA level so that on occasions students may benefit from shared tutors and joint guest speaker programmes.
6	There is a growing research specialism into photojournalism and documentary photography within the School which is home to the Photography and Archive Research Centre (PARC)

Course Detail

This course allows you to follow an innovative and exciting curriculum rooted in the methodologies of photojournalism and documentary photography as they are professionally practiced today.

As well as the opportunity of gaining a 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 [printed and online], galleries, books and picture agencies. The practical elements of the course emphasise learning by doing and therefore you will cover news events, photograph and interview newsworthy people and complete documentary stories based in the real world. Students are encouraged to become involved with media organizations and the lively photographic community in London; a process which is enhanced by visiting speakers from the photographic and related industries. Indeed it is not uncommon for students to be working for picture agencies and national news organizations by the time they reach the third year. Complementing the practical and career focused aspects of this degree course are contextual studies in the history of photojournalism and documentary photography.

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

Year One

The emphasis in **Year One** is on:

- a grounding in the photojournalistic skills of news picture taking, editing and **caption writing**, digital technologies, digital SLRs and appropriate software such as Adobe Photoshop, archiving, **digital workflow and metadata**.

- a grounding in the basics of journalism including news, **extended caption and report writing, feature writing**, ethics and law for photojournalists;
- familiarity at a photojournalistic level with current affairs and the national and international 'news agenda' as well as ethical and topical issues confronting the media;
- an understanding and ability to shoot illustrative, feature pictures
- An introduction to documentary photography and the simple picture story
- An introduction to the key historical and social developments surrounding photojournalism and documentary photography from their earliest stages to the 21st century

Year Two

The emphasis in **Year Two** is on:

- A grounding in the skills and techniques of multi-image reportage, photo essays and diverse documentary projects.
- Providing, through the editorial project, the opportunity to work on a real life publication, producing and writing your own themed stories within the given brief for the periodical magazine **White_space**
- Further developing a multi-skilled approach to photojournalism, documentary photography and deepening your skills in the print and online areas
- Developing an understanding of and ability to research, shoot and edit sets of images in the form of the photo essay and other narrative forms
- Deepening your awareness of the social and cultural context of your subject through a lecture programme on the history and theory of photojournalism and documentary photography through the 20th century and into the 21st century
- Acquiring sufficient skills to enable you, **on completion of the course**, to find a specialised work place attachment in print or online photojournalism or related activity.

Year Three

The emphasis in **year three** is to consolidate your learning experience in previous units in the following ways:

- Further developing your ability to identify, research, shoot and edit a body of work in the form of a major photojournalism or documentary photography project using traditional or contemporary mediums.
- The research and writing of an 7500 word dissertation on a photojournalistic/documentary photography issue or topic of the student's choice;
- The production and presentation of a professional portfolio, printed and/or digital and the establishing of a website appropriate to the editorial aims of the student;
- The further development of digital literacy and multi-media skills and techniques as appropriate to the major final editorial project, production of a final portfolio, and in preparation for future editorial work;
- Analysis and evaluation of recent developments and trends in contemporary photojournalism and documentary photography practice.
- Preparation for migrating to a career in photojournalism or progression to postgraduate education or training

Learning and Teaching Methods

- Lectures
- Seminars
- Group Project Work
- Individual Projects
- Workshops
- Individual Tutorials
- Group Tutorials
- Study Visits
- Reflective Diaries

Assessment Methods

- Practical photojournalistic work
- Computer based activities (picture desk editing)
- Projects and project appraisals
- Oral and seminar presentations (for example in Contextual Studies)
- Report and essay writing
- Timed constrained assessments (eg law and ethics unit)

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 similar courses had direct input into course design and structure
- Industry panel feedback

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