

**MA Photojournalism and  
Documentary Photography  
Programme Specification 2024/25**

<b>Awarding Body</b>	University of the Arts London
<b>College</b>	London College of Communication
<b>School</b>	Media
<b>Programme</b>	LCC Photography(L046)
<b>Course AOS Code</b>	LCCMAPJDF01
<b>FHEQ Level</b>	Level 7 Masters
<b>Course Credits</b>	180
<b>Mode</b>	Full Time
<b>Method</b>	Face to Face
<b>Duration of Course</b>	15 months
<b>Valid From</b>	September 1st 2024
<b>Course Entry Requirements</b>	<p>The course team welcomes applicants from a broad range of backgrounds, from all over the world. MA Photojournalism and Documentary Photography attracts students who apply direct from an Honours degree course, or a professional or academic qualification recognised as equivalent to an Honours degree, or those with other, equivalent qualifications.</p> <p>Graduates of all disciplines may apply, although most students have a background in Arts and Humanities. You must be socially aware, inquisitive, self-motivated and passionate about a career in photojournalism or documentary photography. Relevant professional experience or work experience in the industry is increasingly important.</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> <li>• Or a combination of formal qualifications and experiential learning which, taken together, can be</li> </ul>

	<p>demonstrated to be equivalent to formal qualifications otherwise required.</p> <p><b>APEL (Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning)</b></p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Related academic or work experience</li> <li>• The quality of the personal statement</li> <li>• A strong academic or other professional reference</li> <li>• OR a combination of these factors</li> </ul> <p>Each application will be considered on its own merit but we cannot guarantee an offer in each case.</p> <p><b>Language requirements</b></p> <p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IELTS 6.5 (or equivalent) is required, with a minimum of 5.5 in each of the four skills.</li> </ul> <p>If your first language is not English, you can check you have achieved the correct IELTS level in English on the <a href="#">Language Requirements page</a>.</p>
<b>Selection Criteria</b>	<p>Offers will be made based on the following selection criteria, which applicants are expected to demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of prior knowledge and/or experience of Photography that would indicate potential to successfully complete the programme of study</li> <li>• Social awareness, inquisitiveness and passion about a</li> </ul>

	<p>career in photojournalism or documentary photography</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An ability to work on one or more projects over a sustained period of time and in an intimate and involved way (portfolio)</li> </ul> <p>A journalistic and documentary awareness and an understanding of research and practice methodologies and a realistic idea of what makes a strong project (project ideas)</p>
<b>Scheduled Learning and Teaching</b>	<p>Details of the Scheduled Learning and Teaching can be found on your student portal on SITS, the UAL student records system, at the following link:</p> <p><a href="https://sits.arts.ac.uk/urd/sits.urd/run/siw_lgn">https://sits.arts.ac.uk/urd/sits.urd/run/siw_lgn</a></p> <p>Click on the “scheduled learning and teaching” tab on the home screen when you have logged in using your UAL details.</p>

## Awards and Percentage of Scheduled Learning Year 1

Awards	Credits
Postgraduate Certificate (Exit Only)	60
Postgraduate Diploma (Exit Only)	120
Master of Arts	180
Scheduled Learning Split by Level	
Level 7	18%
Total Scheduled Learning Split	18%

## Course Aims and Outcomes

The Aims and Outcomes of this Course are as follows:

Aim/Outcome	Description
Aim	To facilitate substantial development of your creative abilities, techniques, self-reflection, evaluation and personal vision within photojournalism and documentary photography;
Aim	To give you the opportunity to develop a strong working methodology - of research, experimentation, and critical reflection - that can be successfully used in the development and realisation of projects;
Aim	To develop you as an ethical practitioner with the potential to make positive impact in the areas of climate, racial and social justice;
Aim	To establish a dynamic and meaningful framework of critical analysis and awareness of the nature of contemporary and historical photojournalism and documentary photography and its relation to other forms of image-based journalistic and art practice, and to situate it within the context of wider social, economic and political forces;
Aim	To develop a deep understanding, and experience of, effective collaborative approaches, strategies and practices, so that you can collaborate successfully with other students, groups and/or institutions;
Aim	To facilitate a clear understanding of the professional industries you wish to enter, as well as the ability to critique and shape these industries in the future.
Outcome	Identify, analyse, and evaluate a diverse range of primary and secondary research material relevant to an area of enquiry related to photojournalism and documentary photography (Enquiry)
Outcome	Critically analyse and synthesise a range of practical, conceptual, and technical knowledge related to your identified area of enquiry of photojournalism and documentary photography and apply this knowledge to the development of your work. (Knowledge)
Outcome	Develop and apply innovative, individual and collaborative approaches to the development and creation of projects in photojournalism and documentary photography, through engaging in an iterative process of experimental making and evaluation. (Process)
Outcome	Create research-led and practice-based project outcomes with a well

	developed critical and conceptual approach to your area of enquiry, evidencing clarity of intention and understanding of the context in which the project(s) will be located. (Communication)
Outcome	Create research-led and practice-based project outcomes that evidence the successful development and application of professional, academic, and technical production skills, suitable for the identified context for the work. (Realisation)
Outcome	Conduct a rigorously planned and academically informed self-directed major project, completing the necessary original research and production, to industry standard, for a major documentary or photojournalistic project, supported by a critical and analytical report, showing originality in the application of knowledge and critique. (Enquiry, Knowledge, Process, Realisation)

<b>Distinctive Features</b>	
1	The teaching team has an excellent track record of teaching the practice of photojournalism and documentary photography to the very highest levels, as well as undertaking their own significant research, in image and text, which are published and exhibited internationally. The team's approach to teaching is underpinned by a vibrant ethos of care, and an understanding of how to connect students with the heart of their visual practice.
2	Students benefit from a curated speaker programme, organised to appeal to specific course and student interests and concerns each term. Students will have the opportunity to meet the very best practitioners, editors, writers and curators, who will bring a global perspective.
3	The course has a strong emphasis on professional practice and employability, focused on preparing students to graduate with clear understanding of the professional industries they wish to enter. The course will support students in developing informed and robust ethical and sustainable approaches to professional practice, ensuring that they are well-equipped to make positive contributions to their chosen fields throughout their careers. MAPJD FT has and will continue to develop strong industry links with visual arts organisations, news media, magazines and publishing houses large and small.
4	The course understands the making of the photographic image as collaborative from the outset. Specialist lectures on the subject of collaboration ensure that students can make the most of this approach, and can benefit from longstanding associations with NGOs and organisations which will reshape their practice.
5	Students' photographic practice is developed through a carefully structured sequence of set assignments, through collaborative practice, plus a chance to completely rethink their practice, and undertake a significant research project prior to commencement of their final major project, which will constitute a passport to the industry sector they have chosen.



## Course Detail

MA Photojournalism and Documentary Photography is a vibrant Masters course with an international reputation, which brings together research and practice for photojournalists and documentary photographers who want to take their practice to the next level.

Photojournalists have explored and recorded the human experience since the inception of the medium, recording significant moments in history, documenting unfolding news and creating enduring images that can change people's understanding of the world.

The documentary approach is a slower, more reflective form of practice, which adds deep research to synthesise the complex global conditions you wish to address.

Whether you want to situate your work in news media, an art gallery, book or a public space, MA Photojournalism and Documentary Photography offers you the opportunity to develop your existing skills and expand your creative practice in order to do so.

With an emphasis on contemporary political and social issues, the course will engage you with the ethics of photographic practice as well as the aesthetics.

### What can you expect?

The course aims to equip students with a thorough grounding in the discipline, through lectures, seminars, workshops, and crits.

You'll follow a rigorous programme of photographic assignments, as well as initiating and developing your own projects examining topics and issues of special interest to you. All this takes place within the framework of the history and development of the medium, together with critical ethical and theoretical contexts.

You'll be encouraged to develop a wider vision of the practice and potential of the medium through an exploration of the uses of documentary and reportage photography in magazines, portfolios, exhibitions, books, television, online and other multimedia areas.

At the same time, you will be encouraged to find creative freedom by exploring and rethinking your practice, perhaps by experimenting with photographic processes to expand your vision. Your practice will become more research-focused.

Before your major project, you will benefit from a hostile environments workshop as well as an introduction to multimedia and bookmaking practices. We will help you shape a specific critical and theoretical context for your project, to help you think, write and speak with confidence and clarity about your work.

In the final term, you will be editing your major project and working towards the

Postgraduate Shows, regularly attended by leading industry practitioners. Your final portfolios will be reviewed by renowned experts in the field of documentary photography: picture editors, curators, photographers and critics.

### **Work experience and opportunities**

During the second term, you will have the opportunity to collaborate with external organisations, working to real-time briefs, which will help you understand different contexts and potential uses for your work.

Previous collaborative partners include human rights NGO Reprieve, environment litigators Plan B, UNESCO, Arab Image Foundation and LCC's innovative platform the Refugee Journalism Project .

Graduates of this course have won numerous awards, including Foam Talent, the World Press Photo (Daily Life, singles category) and the Taylor Wessing Portrait Prize.

### **Mode of study**

MA Photojournalism and Documentary 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**

We are committed to ensuring that your skills are set within an ethical framework and have embedded UAL's Principles for Climate, Racial and Social Justice into this course.

### **Autumn, Term 1**

#### **Photojournalism and Documentary Practice (40 credits)**

In Photojournalism and Documentary Practice, you will examine the theoretical, methodological and practical frameworks necessary for the research and production of successful photo and multi-media essays

The unit explores the technical, aesthetic and journalistic aspects of the photo essay, including the generation of ideas, research, image making, picture editing and caption writing. Particular emphasis will be placed on the development and production of still images and/or multimedia stories, and students will be encouraged to develop their stories with an acute awareness of the broad and rapidly changing media industry.

#### **Histories and Theories of Photojournalism and Documentary Photography (20**

**credits)**

This unit traces and analyses the development and historical context of photojournalism and documentary photography, identifying important practitioners and movements. This knowledge will support your ability to work ethically and make a positive contribution to future history.

**Spring, Term 2****Collaborative Unit (20 credits)**

The Collaborative Unit offers a unique opportunity to collaborate with external organisations and practitioners. Working to real-time briefs, this unit equips you with new methods of working, which will be invaluable post-graduation.

**Rethink (20 credits)**

Rethink further develops your knowledge of the methodology of documentary and photojournalistic production, culminating in the production of larger scale photo essays, series or installations. This is underpinned by an emphasis on research principles, strategies and methods.

**Summer, Term 3****Research Project (20 credits)**

The Research Project will consolidate your ideas for the Major Project in terms of your ethical approach, your theoretical and contextual framework and your visual strategy. There are different options for submission, including academic essay, image-text and video essay. You will have feedback before the summer break, so you are well-placed to create the work.

**Major Project (60 credits)**

The Major Project unit begins at the start of your summer term. Through a series of workshops, and interactive sessions, you will be able to hone your idea for your Major Project, prior to photographing over the summer.

**Autumn, Term 4****Major Project (continued)**

This final phase of the course aims to consolidate your learning experience during the

previous units through the completion of a Major Project. This will involve both the production of a major body of documentary/photojournalistic work and a related critical report. You'll be expected to apply the methodologies developed on the course and demonstrate evidence of a mature and considered personal vision.

The final form of the work is flexible. Previous students have presented their work in the form of a book dummy or an exhibition, immersive website, a portfolio of images as prints, multimedia presentation or as a film. Your related report must reflect academic rigour and a critical approach to the finished work.

The hallmark of our graduates is their ability to combine the personal with the political, in order that their stories touch their intended audience. You will work to refine a sensitive, ethically-minded, inclusive, passionate and intellectually rigorous body of work that demands to be seen.

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**

Definitions of our learning and teaching modes can be found [here](#).

Scheduled learning and teaching activities will include:

- Lectures
- Seminars
- Tutorials
- Workshops
- Project work
- Individual and group work
- Self-directed learning
- Critiques
- Industry guest speakers
- Study trips and visits as appropriate
- Assessed assignments
- Online learning
- Peer learning

## Assessment Methods

Assessment methods on this course include:

- Practical project work and digital based activities
- Prepared writing
- Responses to case studies
- Oral presentation
- Individual and/or group presentations of prepared work
- Workshop based activities
- Written research
- Portfolio realisation

## 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
- UAL Principles of Climate, Racial and Social Justice
- UAL Creative Attributes Framework
- Student and peer feedback

## Course Diagram

Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45													
Unit	Histories and Theories of Photojournalism and Documentary Photography (20 credits)									S																																																
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S = Summative Assessment

*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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