

# **MA Photojournalism and Documentary Photography (Online)**

Programme Specification 2018/19

<b>Course AOS Code</b>	05186
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<b>No. of Terms</b>	6
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<b>FHEQ Level</b>	Level 7 Masters
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<b>QAA Subject Benchmark</b>	Art and Design
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<b>Course Credits</b>	180
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<b>Term Duration</b>	10 Week(s)
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<b>Valid From</b>	September 1st 2018
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<b>Programme</b>	Photography (L046)
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<b>PSRB</b>	
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No PSRB Assigned	
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<b>Work placement offered</b>	No
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<b>Collaboration</b>	
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No collaboration	
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<b>Course Entry Requirements</b>	<p>An Honours degree in a relevant subject, or a professional or academic qualification recognised as equivalent to an Honours degree. If you do not have the required qualifications, but do have professional experience, you may be eligible to gain credit for previous learning and experience through the Accreditation of Prior and Experiential Learning (APEL) i.e. professional experience or a combination of courses and work experience.</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>Candidates without a first degree can be accepted onto the course if they can demonstrate past experience equivalent to a first degree, such as professional experience. This is assessed as a learning process and tutors will evaluate that experience for currency, validity, quality and sufficiency.</p> <p>English Language requirements</p> <p>Please provide a CV detailing your education and qualifications and any relevant work or voluntary experience.</p> <p>If English is not your first language it is important that you also include in your CV details of your most recent English language test score.</p> <p>IELTS 6.5 (or equivalent) with a minimum of 5.5 in each skills is required on this course</p> <p>You can check you have achieved the correct IELTS level in English on the Language Requirements page.  <a href="http://www.arts.ac.uk/lcc/courses/support-for-international-students/">http://www.arts.ac.uk/lcc/courses/support-for-international-students/</a></p>
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	<p>Deferring an offer:</p> <p>Applicants holding an offer for the coming academic year are permitted to defer their place to the following academic year, e.g. 2019/20 place deferred to 2020/21. International applicants should first meet any offer conditions and pay the deposit in order to defer. In all cases, deferred places will be held for one year.</p> <p>Making a deferred application:</p> <p>Home/EU applicants are permitted to make a deferred application, for example to the following academic year instead of the next, e.g. to 2020/21 instead of to 2019/20. Immigration regulations prevent International applicants from making a deferred application.</p>
<p><b>Selection Criteria</b></p>	<p>Applicants are assessed against the following selection criteria.</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 career in photojournalism or documentary photography</li> <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> <li>• 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)</li> </ul>

## Introduction to Course

The Master of Arts course in Photojournalism and Documentary Photography (MAPJD Online) is a part time course delivered over 90 weeks entirely by distance learning with no requirements for attendance in London, either for interview, enrolment or tuition. This pioneering course is intended to equip you with the theoretical, methodological and practical tools to operate at a professional level in the field of photojournalism and documentary photography, working across a range of markets and media, including newspapers, magazines, galleries and books. You will produce an extended body of photojournalistic/documentary work (the MA Major Project) which you will situate within a wider context of photographic practice. The MAPJD is a professionally orientated course that seeks to develop critically aware practitioners who are capable of working at the highest levels, both individually and collaboratively, in the complex world of digital media. The MAPJD maintains a high level of currency with contemporary practice, and foregrounds the production of multimedia projects, work presented in the form of books, and work produced for exhibition within galleries and museums as well as more conventional editorial platforms.

The design of the course meets the terms and conditions for the award of the title of Master of Arts as approved by University of the Arts London. The course will be delivered entirely online via a variety of internet based delivery systems, both synchronous and asynchronous, including web-conferencing, webinars, blogs, wikis and a social networking platform, and uses industry standard digital image management databases to archive and edit photographs. Students will be expected to work collaboratively in addition to their own projects, and will be expected to maintain a reflective blog throughout the duration of the course.

This innovative form of delivery closely mirrors the changes in the industry that the digital revolution has imparted. Many professional photographers work entirely digitally now, and almost all deliver their images to clients digitally in some form. Photographers and clients often never meet physically, and carry out their professional relationships entirely at a distance. Editing and viewing images onscreen is now commonplace and has almost entirely replaced more traditional ways for editing work. In addition, multimedia presentations combining recorded sound and still images are increasingly common, and social media, websites and blogs have become a major vehicle for self-expression by photographers, providing alternative outlets for work beyond mainstream media. The course team also acknowledge that the industry is in a state of considerable flux and change due to these changes, and therefore engages in a continuous process of exploring how the new landscape of practice is emerging, especially in terms of how new business models are developing in response to these forces.

The course seeks to address these changes and places great emphasis on producing digitally literate practitioners fully able to operate in the new landscape of digital technology, using multimedia as one of their main forms of dissemination of work to the audience and marketplace.

The MAPJD encourages a wide range of practice from editorial photojournalism to fine art conceptual documentary, but maintains a clear focus on the production of extended and long-term bodies of work, which report on, document and respond to the contemporary world around us. The course has a core focus on involved and socially concerned photography, including the documentation of human rights, environmental and other humanitarian issues. We encourage students to challenge and critically examine accepted forms of visual documentation and to seek new ways of documenting the world, new ways of telling stories and to explore routes for addressing new audiences. Whilst the MAPJD is a practice-based course, the integration of theory and research methodologies is deeply embedded in the course. This provides a clear pathway onto further study at PhD level where appropriate.

The course team and visiting professionals who work on the MAPJD are a highly experienced team who operate at the highest levels professionally on the international stage. The course delivery relies on innovative pedagogic practice centred around the idea of a 'community of practice' with the faculty, students and visiting professionals all engaged jointly in exploring the changing landscape of the media. This places great emphasis on developing the individual practitioner in the context of a collaborative learning community.

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.

## Distinctive Features

	Distinctive Features
1	The course's identity and reputation within industry is second to none. Every year, graduates from the course go on to be commissioned by national and international newspapers, magazines, NGOs and other creative organisations.
2	At present, this is the only course of its kind and level available entirely via online part time delivery. The course is intended for mature self-motivated students who are already established in their practice, or who can prove a dedicated commitment to a career in the industry. The tightly structured and highly specialised nature of the course encourages you to develop your practice to a recognisably professional level, whilst at the same time encouraging you to develop a critical perspective on photojournalism and documentary photography, to analyse and reflect upon your own work and to develop a personal vision and strategy within the medium. The longer timeframe of the part time option will allow students to explore the development of their practice in a reflexive and considered way. This will allow students who are already in employment either as staff or freelancers, or in another industry, to participate, as well as those who seek the extended support of a 2 year programme to complete a major body of work. The unique nature of the course with its focus on real time interaction with tutors and other students through live web conferencing, allows for 'situated learning', i.e. the participants can get feedback and support whilst actually working on their practice based projects without having to return physically to the classroom for tuition. Additionally, because of the wide range of backgrounds and locations of the cohort, the course generates a stimulating and energetic environment for debate and discussion.
3	The course uses a series of overlapping interactive spaces with differing temporalities to create our 'virtual commons'. This replicates the physical face-to-face environment of the academy, with spaces that are akin to classrooms, libraries, cafes and 'water coolers', ensuring that there is a dynamic and engaging environment in which there is a substantial degree of real time 'live' interaction with tutors, fellow participants and visiting faculty.
4	The course team has an excellent track record of teaching the practice of photojournalism and documentary photography to the highest levels as well as undertaking their own practice-based research projects leading to exhibition and publication internationally. The team's approach to teaching is marked by a close, informal, but very professional working relationship with an energised group of students.
5	Students' progress in a structured way from small, set assignments towards the final self-directed major project, thus building a repertoire of skills and methodologies. The course is practice based and highly vocational, and founded on a problem based experiential approach to learning.
6	The integration of theory and practice is foundational to the course. Students are introduced to critical concepts and ideas from the history and theory of photojournalism and documentary photography, and they are encouraged to wrestle with and respond to these in a way that actively informs their development as photographers. This is achieved through dialogue and discussion, reading, research and reflective writing. At each stage, students are equipped to develop a combination of journalistic, academic and practice-based research skills, the culmination of which is a critical and evaluative report that underpins their final major project.
7	The course also offers a programme of visiting speakers (including ex- students), consisting of leading and influential figures from the world of photojournalism and documentary photography. These speakers may also contribute to seminars and tutorials. The course maintains close connections with the industry, including agencies, photography magazines, editorial publications, galleries and book publishers.
8	An essential feature is the group dynamic of the enrolled community of students which has become a flourishing element of the course, providing mutual support, criticism and networking, as well as skill and information sharing.
9	Professional and Personal Development (PPD) is embedded in every term of the course through regular discussions of professional practice and the visiting lecturer program.
10	One of the differences you will experience between working at postgraduate level and working at undergraduate level is that you will be expected to timetable and manage your own learning to a much greater extent at postgraduate level. Your success on the course will depend to a great extent on how rigorously and responsibly you take this self-direction and how well you respond to tutorial advice. The level of self-management required of you will increase throughout the course. This reflects the degree of initiative and commitment that you will need to operate in the professional arena. As an online course you will need to be especially

	rigorous in managing your time and in attending the timetabled tutorials and group sessions online.
11	The course's teaching philosophy is centered on the creation of a collaborative learning space, where individuals can enhance their practice through interaction with their peers. This forms a 'community of practice' that mirrors the larger professional community of photojournalism and documentary photography. Mapping and modelling this larger community prepares the students for entry into the profession, providing a 'sandbox' in which they can develop their professional practice in a controlled environment. Our intention is that students learn through growing into a practice based collaborative learning community, which then enables them to be part of the wider community of practice of photojournalists. The combination of practice based, experiential learning is underpinned by theoretical and contextual studies that locate the practitioner within a community of practice, and locate that community within a broader socio-cultural milieu of the media.
12	Students on the MA Photojournalism and Documentary Photography course come from a variety of backgrounds. Many will already be working practitioners who wish to further develop and hone their practice through the completion of a long-term project at MA level. Others may come from other related areas of interest such as journalism, the humanities and social sciences, graphic design and fine art, environmental and other sciences and want to establish the photographic and journalistic methods to translate their interests into visual terms. In the experience of the course team, some of our most successful students have had limited photographic experience before undertaking the course, but all had the passion and commitment to the medium necessary to survive in an extremely competitive marketplace.
13	Students are expected to be mature, self-reliant and highly motivated. These qualities are absolutely essential for those aspiring to work in a profession that is largely freelance in nature. Photojournalism and documentary photography involves engaging with the real world, working on stories and ideas for publication and exhibition. Although extremely rewarding and often enjoyable, it can be physically, emotionally and financially demanding at times and you should bear this in mind when developing and planning projects and schedules.
14	The course will prepare graduates for a future career as a freelance or staff photographer working the fields of photojournalism and documentary practice additionally, the course is a suitable preparation for those wishing to work as picture editors, researchers, curators and in photo agencies, editorial publications and NGO picture desks. The research elements of the course are also a suitable preparation for higher levels of study including PhD. The course readily acknowledges that a career within the world of photojournalism and documentary photography can take many different forms and is by no means restricted to becoming a practicing photographer alone. We welcome students with a broad interest in the documentary process and encourage all participants to look beyond the traditional image of the solo-practitioner towards a future in which collaboration and adaptability are essential as multiple medias converge and evolve in the story telling process.

## Years

### Year 1

**Credits** 60

**Exit Awards** Postgraduate Certificate (Exit Only)

### Year 2

**Credits** 180

**Percentage  
of Scheduled  
Learning** 18

**Exit Awards** Postgraduate Diploma (Exit Only)

## Aims and Outcomes

The Aims and Outcomes of this Course are as follows: :

Aim/Outcome	Description
Aim	Facilitate substantial development of your creative abilities, techniques, self-reflection, evaluation and personal vision within photojournalism and documentary photography;
Aim	Prepare you for the realities of the current marketplace by equipping you with the necessary methodological frameworks and in-depth knowledge to operate in the professional arena and the relevant skills needed in the new digital landscape of communications;
Aim	Facilitate you in the organisation and development of a body of photojournalism and documentary photography that reflects a commitment to intelligent, involved, research-driven and ethical photography as practiced at the forefront of the industry;
Aim	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 practice, and to situate this within the context of wider social, economic and political forces;
Aim	Facilitate the development of critical self-reflection, problem-solving in complex and unpredictable situations, analysis and evaluation through both critical engagement and practical application in a collaborative engagement with fellow students;
Aim	Equip you with a range of knowledge and frameworks to conduct an independent self-directed major documentary project that reflects academic and journalistic rigour, a developed visual sense and critical self evaluation.
Outcome	Demonstrate your creative, visual, intellectual and technical abilities to produce a body of work of professional standard within the fields of photojournalism and documentary photography (Research, Analysis, Subject Knowledge, Technical Competence, Communication and Presentation, Collaboration and Independent Professional Working)
Outcome	Critically evaluate newsworthy and documentary ideas in terms of their visual and commercial potential for development and presentation in the contemporary marketplace, as well as current research and advanced scholarship in the field (Subject Knowledge, Analysis, Collaboration and Independent Professional Working)
Outcome	Critically analyse photojournalism and documentary photography within both historical and theoretical frameworks, evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline, as well as in contemporary discourse on technological change, representation, ethics and other issues, and apply your appreciation of these concerns to the location of your practice within a wider context (Research, Subject Knowledge, Analysis, Communication and Presentation)
Outcome	Demonstrate, within your creative output, a thorough understanding of the ethical, legal, moral and commercial issues that impinge upon the forefront of current professional practice (Subject Knowledge, Analysis, Communication and Presentation)
Outcome	Present a professional portfolio of work and market your ideas and stories, in a professional manner, to the marketplace, with a thorough appreciation and application of the opportunities offered by digital technology (Collaboration and Independent Professional Working, Personal and Professional Development)
Outcome	Engage in critical self-reflection and formative peer review, reflecting your developed skills in evaluation and communication within an interactive online environment (Analysis, Collaboration and Independent Professional Working, Personal and Professional Development)
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, evaluative and analytical report, showing originality in the application of knowledge and critique (Research, Subject Knowledge, Collaboration and Independent Professional Working, Personal and Professional Development)
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## Course Diagram 18/19 | MA Photojournalism and Documentary Photography (Part-time Online)

		Autumn Term (Term 1   11 Weeks)										Spring Term (Term 2   10 weeks)										Summer Term (Term 3   10 weeks)										Undergraduate Summer Period (14 weeks)											
		week 0	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	week 31	week 32	week 33	week 34	week 35						
<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Freshers Week</b>	Unit 1 Photojournalism Practice (40 credits)										Unit 1 Photojournalism Practice cont'd									S	Unit 4 Documentary Practice with Research Methods (40 credits)										PG Summer Break Independent Study / Writing Up Period											
		Unit 2 History of Photojournalism and Documentary Photography (20 credits)										Unit 2 History of Photojournalism and Documentary Photography cont'd									S	Unit 3 Collaborative Unit (20 credits)																					
<b>Year 2</b>		Unit 4 Documentary Practice with Research Methods cont'd										Unit 5 Major Project (60 credits)										Unit 5 Major Project cont'd										S	S										
		Unit 3 Collaborative Unit cont'd																																									

S = Summative Assessment Point (Your Assignment Brief will give you details on the deadline date, time and how to hand in your assignment)

Formative assessment points will be indicated by your tutor in your unit handbooks or assignment brief

