BA (Hons) Photography

Programme Specification

ARTS UNIVERSITY BOURNEMOUTH

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

The Programme Specification provides a summary of the main features of the **BA (Hons) Photography** course, and the learning outcomes that a 'typical' student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if they pass the course.

Further detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching and learning methods of each unit may be found within this Handbook and the online Unit Information.

Key Course Information	
Final Award	BA (Hons)
Course Title	Photography
Award Title	BA (Hons) Photography
Teaching institution	Arts University Bournemouth
Awarding Institution	Arts University Bournemouth
Offered in the School of:	Arts and Communication
Professional accreditation	Skillset
Length of course / mode of study	3 years full-time
Level of final award (in FHEQ)	Level 6
Subject benchmark statement	Art and Design and Media
UCAS code	W640
Language of study	English
External Examiners for course	Ryan Moule Swansea College of Art
Please note that it is not appropriate for students to contact external examiners directly.	
Date of Validation	1999
Date of most recent review	2017
Date programme specification written/revised	September 2022

Course Description

Recognising the individual and their aspirations, and celebrating ideas and creative risk-taking, our approach and experience of encouraging photographic practice lies with the provision of a meaningful journey for our students. It is a journey beyond the obvious, as students meet the new, often unpredictable and certainly challenging possibilities that are offered as they test, develop, progress, interrogate, make and confidently reflect on their outcomes. Our guiding principle is to inspire and offer distinctive and exciting opportunities for students to engage in photographic culture in order to discover and define their individual practice and position employability within their chosen external creative economic and cultural environment. Crucial to the

course and its inherent multifaceted creative artistic outcomes, is that each student develops a visual curiosity through experiential learning and demonstrates a committed passion for their practice and the medium.

About the course

The course is conceptually driven and responds to the expanded field of contemporary photography and the growing number of opportunities afforded by technological advances in the medium. We value the creative individual and encourage an exploration of the medium in an experimental and risk-taking way. We believe that students should learn how to contextualise their practice in a wider cultural context using historical and contemporary models, rigorous research methods and theoretical discourses. Our students are free to gradually define their practice throughout the course and are encouraged and supported to become confident and autonomous practitioners, embracing inclusivity and cultural diversity. Craft is a distinctive and important part of the student experience and this aspect features in all practical units that includes bookmaking and frame production.
The course is distinguished by an expansive approach to the medium and the integration of theory and practice. Although units of study are themed, each student can respond to these in any way they wish, creating rich and diverse outcomes.

Students graduate from the course with a strong sense of self with a high level of research, analytical and technical skills and can communicate well in both oral and written form. They possess excellent professional documentation. Their skills are enhanced by their awareness of the medium, a good knowledge of the creative industries/audiences, and how to position their practice. The primary currency our graduates own is their creativity, evidenced by their entry into a wide variety of their professional careers and progression to postgraduate study.

Course Aims

1. To inspire and support the exploration of your creativity in an experimental and risk-taking way.

2. To enable you to develop and apply a range of specialist technical and professional skills.

3. To develop your awareness of the medium of photography in relation to historical and contemporary photographic practice.

4. To enable you to develop critical skills, awareness and judgment.

5. To enable you to engage in your practice with autonomy and professionalism.

6. To enable you to engage in opportunities to apply new knowledge and advanced problem solving.

7. To raise your awareness of ethical, sustainable, social and cultural issues appropriate to your practice.

8. To instil ambition and prepare you for professional practice and postgraduate study.

Course Outcomes

By the conclusion of the course you will be able to:

1.	Demonstrate that you have explored your creativity in an experimental and risk-taking way.

2.	Demonstrate that you have developed and applied a range of specialist technical and professional skills.

3.	Demonstrate that you have developed your awareness of the medium of photography in relation to historical and contemporary photographic practice.

4.	Demonstrate that you have developed critical skills, awareness and judgment.

5.	Demonstrate that you have engaged in your practice with autonomy and professionalism.

6.	Demonstrate that you have engaged in the application of new knowledge and advanced problem solving.

7.	Demonstrate your awareness of ethical, sustainable, social and cultural issues appropriate to your practice.

8.	Demonstrate ambition and preparation for your professional career.

Reference Points

UK Quality Code for higher education, including:
•	Subject Benchmark Statement: Art and Design and Media
•	Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)
AUB Regulatory Framework and Undergraduate Assessment Regulations

Learning and Teaching Strategies

Honours study combines independent learning and taught sessions.

The course objectives are met by deploying a wide variety of teaching and learning methods including projects, lectures, seminars, group critiques and tutorials. In consultation with the Course Leader, staff are responsible for co-ordinating individual units of study, and for selecting appropriate methods of delivery according to subject matter and student experience.

There may also be occasions where digital delivery is appropriate. Where this is the case, this might include on-line lectures, seminars, presentations, and one to one tutorials. It is important that you engage with on-line course delivery in the same way that you would if you were on campus.

The methods employed induct you to the disciplines required of a creative practitioner and promote the development of transferable and adaptable skills.

The study time allocated to each unit in the course incorporates a balance of formal teaching, tutorial support and independent learning. The course is structured

progressively to provide increased opportunities for independent learning as you reach the later stages of the course.

The progressive promotion of independent learning reflects your anticipated maturity as a student and allows you to direct your learning towards individual goals. The teaching in Level 4 is directed at providing you with the knowledge, concepts and skills to take increasing responsibility for the management of your own learning.

Teaching is directed at supporting individual engagement in learning although there will be opportunities for you to work in teams to enable you to learn the value of peer co-operation.

The integration of theory and practice is promoted and reinforced through a team-teaching approach in both written and practical units. Lectures, seminars and tutorials may be delivered by team members, as appropriate, in the creative environment of the studio and lecture theatre. You will evidence your learning in this context in essays, research journals and presentations. The integration of theory and practice is crucial in developing you as a well-rounded and informed visual practitioner.

Practical work may take the form of a range of technical workshops, assignments briefs and studio-based workshops. Group technical workshops begin when you first arrive on the course to ensure you will be able to access all the technical resources and individual and group technical support will continue throughout the course. Your technical skills will be assessed in the practical units as part of the unit assessment criteria. You will also be required to keep a record of your technical skills acquisition throughout the three levels to help tutors assess your technical progress and needs.

Assessment

Each unit is assessed separately, and the assessment forms part of the unit. Assessment both provides a measure of your achievement, and also gives you regular feedback on how your learning is developing.

For every unit of your course, we will inform you of what you are expected to learn; what you have to submit; how your work will be assessed; and the deadline for presenting your work for assessment. This is made available through the online Unit Information.

A minimum of one unit at Level 4 will be assessed on a pass/fail basis, with written feedback but no numerical grade. Details of this will be clearly expressed on the Unit Information Sheet. All other units will be given a percentage mark.

The final mark for each unit will be recorded on your formal record of achievement (transcript). With the exception of the pass/fail unit, each component of assessment is graded using a notched marking scale, whereby only certain marks are used within each grade. The only marks available within any ten-point band are *2, *5 and *8 (e.g. 62, 65, 68). These marks correspond to a low, mid, and high level of achievement within each grade band.

All learning outcomes must be passed to successfully complete the unit.

On successful completion of your Honours degree course, you will be awarded a degree classification based on your unit marks. The final classification is determined using all unit marks at Levels 5 and 6.

If you have joined Level 6 through either the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) route or having completed a Foundation Degree (FdA), the final classification is determined using only your unit marks at Level 6.

For further information on assessment, progression, awards and classifications, please visit https://aub.ac.uk/regulations

Course Structure

All students are registered for the award of BA (Hons); however, exit awards are available if you leave the course early, having successfully completed one or two levels. If you successfully complete a level of the course, you will automatically be entitled to progress to the next level.

For the award of a Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE), you must have achieved a minimum of 120 credits at Level 4. This qualification may be awarded if you leave the University following successful completion of the first year of your course.

For the award of a Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE), you must have achieved a minimum of 240 credits of which a minimum of 120 must be at Level 5. This qualification may be awarded if you leave the University following successful completion of the second year of your course.

For the award of a BA (Hons) you must have achieved a minimum of 360 credits of which a minimum of 240 must be at Level 5 or above, of which a minimum of 120 credits must be at Level 6. This qualification will be awarded upon successful completion of your course.

A BA without Honours may be awarded if you have achieved 300 credits, at least 180 of which are at Level 5 or above, and at least 60 of which are at Level 6.

Core Values and Skills

In developing courses, the University wanted to create a curriculum that reflected its values and ethos. It should prepare you for the future not only in enabling you to have a successful career, but we also want to empower you with the knowledge, skills and passion to have a positive impact on the world and be an agent for change. We have drawn from the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (https://sdgs.un.org/goals) which have informed our values of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion as well as our Graduate Attributes.

Equalities Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)
"We are better for our diversity. We are enriched by the depth of respect we have for each other and the strength of our relationships with our people, our places and the planet. Through our commitment to working with those who are different to us, or challenge us, we grow stronger together, creating new synergies, global connections and sustainable futures." (AUB Strategy 2030)

As an organisation we have moral, social and legal obligations to fulfil in terms of EDI, and in doing so our commitment is to put EDI at the heart of every area of activity. It is not covered as a separate, stand-alone section, rather it forms an integral part of the curriculum, throughout your study here.

Graduate Attributes (GA)
Over recent years, there has been an increasing pace of change, technological, social, environmental. This has been further impacted by the world-wide pandemic effecting significant change in the global economy and the employment market.

In this context, the University has recognised the importance of developing AUB graduates who have the attributes to be able to build their career, adapting to different circumstances and embracing changes. A suite of attributes have been defined that we feel are particularly appropriate to the creative courses that we deliver and to AUB's core values; during your course, both curricular and extra-curricular activities will give you the opportunity to prepare for your working career.

Course Content

The course consists of three levels, each lasting one academic year of full-time study. At the Level 4 stage of the course you will complete a series of technical workshops that aim to develop foundational skills in studio practice and lighting, analogue colour and black and white processing and printing and digital imaging. Fundamental concepts and issues in historical and contemporary photographic practices are also introduced in both creative and the theory units. Level 4 will also offer you the chance to work in groups as well as individually.

As the course progresses to Level 5, you are expected to engage in more complex issues through your creative work as well as in the more theoretical units. You are encouraged to begin to define an individual practice towards the end of Level 5. Professional studies are introduced at this level to encourage an awareness of the audiences and the contexts for your photographic work.

As the course enters the Level 6 you will develop and refine an independent practice that will take you beyond graduation and into a vocational or postgraduate context. The relationship between theory and practice and technical skills will be consolidated and your knowledge of professional practice deepened to enable you to make informed choices about your future.

Course Units

Unit code	Unit Title	Credit Weighting
Level 4		
PHO487	Process Materials and Histories	40
PHO488	Still Moving	40
PHO489	Strategies for Image Making and Evaluative Writing	40
Level 5		
PHO561	Realism and Representation	20
PHO562	Image and the Page	20
PHO563	Research Project	20
PHO566	Developing Practice	40
PHO565	Professional Enquiry	20
Level 6		
PHO661	Defining Practice – Concept, Research and Production	20
PHO662	Professional Career Planning and Portfolio	20
Plus:		
	Study option 1	
PHO663	Major Research Project	20
PHO664	Extended Major Project	60
Or:		
	Study option 2	
PHO665	Extended Major Research Project	40
PHO666	Major Project	40

Course Diagram

This diagram shows the proposed start/end dates for each unit and shows teaching weeks only; holiday periods are not included.

	Level 4																													
0	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
	Autumn Term										Spring Term										Summer Term									
Induction week	**PHO487 Process, Materials and Histories Weeks 1-10** (40 credits)										**PHO488 Still Moving Weeks 11-20** (40 credits)										**PHO489 Strategies for Image Making and Evaluative Writing Weeks 21-30** (40 credits)									

	Level 5																													
0	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
	Autumn Term										Spring Term										Summer Term									
	PHO561 Realism and Representation (weeks 1-10) (20 credits)										**PHO563 Research Project (weeks 11-20)** (20 credits)										**PHO565 Professional Enquiry (weeks 21-30)** (20 credits)									
	PHO562 Image and the Page (weeks 1-11) (20 credits)											**PHO566 Developing Practice (weeks 12-27)** (40 credits)																	

	Level 6 Option 1																													
0	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
	Autumn Term										Spring Term												Summer Term							
	PHO661 Defining Practice – Concept, Research and Production (weeks 1-10) (20 credits)										**PHO662 Professional Career Planning and Portfolio (weeks 11-28) 20 credits)**																			
	PHO663 Major Research Project (weeks 1-11) (20 credits)										**PHO664 Extended Major Project (weeks 12-27) 60 credits)**																			

	Level 6 Option 2																													
0	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
	Autumn Term										Spring Term												Summer Term							
	PHO661 Defining Practice – Concept, Research and Production (weeks 1-10) (20 credits)										**PHO662 Professional Career Planning and Portfolio (weeks 11-28) 20 credits)**																			
	PHO665 Extended Major Research Project (weeks 1-14) (40 credits)														**PHO666 Major Project (weeks 15-27) 40 credits)**															