

Programme Specification

BA (Hons) Commercial Photography



This Programme Specification is designed for prospective students, current students, graduates, academic staff and potential employers. It provides a summary of the main features of the programme and the intended learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

Whilst every endeavour has been made to provide the course described in the Programme Specification, the University reserves the right to make such changes as may be appropriate for reasons of operational efficiency or due to circumstances beyond its control. Any changes are made in accordance with the University's academic standards and quality procedures.

This document is available in alternative formats on request.

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

The Programme Specification provides a summary of the main features of the **BA (Hons) Commercial Photography** course, and the learning outcomes that a ‘typical’ student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she passes the course.

Further detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching and learning methods of each unit may be found in your Course Handbook.

<u>Key Course Information</u>	
Final Award	BA (Hons)
Course Title	Commercial Photography
Award Titles	BA (Hons) Commercial Photography BA (Hons) Commercial Photography (Advertising) BA (Hons) Commercial Photography (Fashion) BA (Hons) Commercial Photography (Documentary/Editorial)
Teaching institution	Arts University Bournemouth
Awarding Institution	Arts University Bournemouth
Offered in the Faculty of: <i>Contact details:</i> Telephone number Email	Media and Performance 01202 363138 fomp@aub.ac.uk
Professional accreditation	Creative Skillset
Length of course / mode of study	3 years full-time
Level of final award (in FHEQ)	Level 6
Subject benchmark statements	Art and Design Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies
UCAS code	W644
Language of study	English
External Examiner for course	Dr Mark Cocks University of Wales Trinity Saint David
<i>Please note that it is not appropriate for students to contact external examiners directly</i>	
Date of Validation	2012
Date of most recent review	May 2015
Date programme specification written/revised	Revised September 2015

Course Philosophy

The course aims to provide a wide range of undergraduate students with the opportunity to develop a specialist career in photography, by nurturing technically proficient and professionally astute photography students as they mature into critically aware creative decision makers.

By providing a strong technical foundation and encouraging creative maturity and conceptual awareness, the course provides you with the practical, critical and analytical ability to comprehend, yet challenge, conventional commercial output. Therefore equipping you with the ability to not only successfully respond to the wishes of clients, but also through the development of your own ‘visual voice’, offer alternative solutions to those already accepted within the creative industries.

We celebrate how cultural diversity and a broad range of interests contribute to an enhanced group dynamic and can provide an enriched experience through embracing difference, leading to the establishment of an open and balanced view of contemporary society.

The course provides you with the opportunity to take greater responsibility for your critical development through locating and articulating your practice within contemporary discourses. The focused research integral to this process allows you the opportunity for further study at postgraduate level, either at AUB or elsewhere.

Graduates of the course aspire to setting the creative agenda of contemporary commercial photography through determining rather than pursuing visual and conceptual trends, and exhibiting their ability to adapt and change within the ever shifting zeitgeist of the creative industries and popular culture. You may become a fashion, advertising, portrait or editorial/documentary photographer, or use the experiences gained on your course to help you to find employment elsewhere within the creative industries (Picture Editor, Studio Manager, Art Director, Production Manager, Set Designer, etc.). However, we expect you to be inspired by those who have previously graduated from this course, continuing to enhance its strong reputation, making your mark as a BA (Hons) Commercial Photography graduate from the Arts University Bournemouth.

Course Aims

1. To develop and refine your technical and creative potential within photography.
2. To enhance your understanding of the creative industries and the roles within them by expanding your professional knowledge and identifying your individual career potential.
3. To promote your personal development by undertaking academic and creative research which could lead to further study at postgraduate level.
4. To develop your abilities in visual communication and photographic presentation.

Course Outcomes

By the end of the course students will be able to:

1. Apply creative photographic ability, evidencing professional levels of ability, independent thought and understanding during the production of work.
2. Apply professional understanding when identifying career opportunities, and placing own work within the creative/photographic industries.
3. Apply a critical and theoretical understanding of photography within historical and contemporary contexts, offering opportunities to study at Masters Level.
4. Show evidence of effective problem solving, research, communication and presentation skills through applying creative and conceptually considered solutions to professionally focused briefs.

Reference Points

UK Quality Code for higher education, including:

Subject Benchmark Statements: *Art and Design*
Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies
Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)
AUB Undergraduate Regulatory Framework
AUB Creative Learning Plan
AUB Strategic Plan
AUB Employability Framework

Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Learning and Teaching Strategies

The course outcomes will be met by deploying a wide variety of teaching and learning methods including workshop projects, studio projects, lectures, seminars, group critiques, guided reading and tutorials.

The methods employed will, whenever possible, lead you ‘the student’ into the disciplines required of a creative practitioner and promote the transferable skills of self-management and self-reliance.

The course is structured progressively to provide increased opportunities for autonomous learning.

The progressive promotion of student-centred learning reflects your developing maturity, as a student, and supports your individual learning towards your aims and goals.

The integration of theory and practice is promoted and reinforced through a team teaching approach. Lectures, seminars and tutorials may be delivered by team members, as appropriate, in the creative environment of the studio.

The methods employed will, wherever possible, induct students in the disciplines required of a creative practitioner in commercial photography along with transferable skills (managing self, professional skills and team working), and value and credit any relevant previous experience. A key method will be the promotion of work related learning, including work placements; visits to the workshops or studios of relevant practitioners or organisations; guest lectures or workshops led by visiting practitioners and 'live' or simulated project briefs. Learning and career planning will be consolidated through the encouragement of skills in personal planning, reflection and development.

Teaching is directed at supporting individual engagement in learning although there will be opportunities for students to work in teams to enable them to learn the value of peer co-operation. Also, it is anticipated that due to the vocational and professional orientation of the course, and to enable students to benefit from the range of resources and disciplines within the University, opportunities will exist for students to collaborate in teams with peers in, for example, make-up, textiles, fashion or model-making. It is also envisaged that live project work may benefit from the collaboration of students from all levels of the course.

The study time allocated to each unit in the course incorporates a balance of teaching support and learning. The progressive promotion of student-centred learning reflects the anticipated maturity of students and allows them to direct their learning towards individual goals. For example, the teaching in Level 4 is directed at providing students with the knowledge, concepts and skills necessary to take increasing responsibility for the management of their own learning as they progress through to Level 5. Level 6 of the course allows the student to confirm their particular creative concerns and to extend the scope and depth of their enquiry, taking the major responsibility for their study. Teaching support reflects these expectations, as mature learners, through tutorial support that complements the autonomous nature of their study.

Negotiated Learning Agreements are the principle means of defining learning goals and monitoring progress and achievements, providing the opportunity for student to extend their interests and abilities, and demonstrate their capacity for sustained independent and professional work.

Guidance and counselling to help students in realising their learning potential will be provided continuously throughout each academic year.

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 you will be provided with a Unit Handbook, which will state what you are expected to learn within the unit; the work that you have to submit; and how it will be assessed. The Unit Handbook will also give the deadline for presenting your work for assessment.

You will receive a final mark for each unit in the form of a percentage, which will be recorded on your formal record of achievement (transcript). 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 using two different algorithms, which are detailed in your *Quick Reference Guide to the regulations*. If the two algorithms produce different results, you will be awarded the higher class of degree.

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 progression, awards and classifications, please visit <https://viewpoint.aub.ac.uk>

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 (Dip HE), 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.

Course Content

Level 4

Level 4 of the course provides you with the creative and practical skills that you will build upon during your degree. It introduces you to a variety of traditional and digital photographic techniques and processes through the units *Principles and Practices* and *Digital Imaging and Production*, giving you a strong technical foundation in

location and studio lighting, analogue and digital capture and digital post-production techniques.

Photographic themes and theories are addressed during the unit *Historical and Theoretical Studies in Photography*. Photography projects and written assignments are used to reinforce learning and enable you to exercise your developing knowledge and practical skills in the unit *Creative Photographic Practice*, where additional workshops will also introduce you to moving image. During these units guest lectures by visiting photographers and industry professionals will be given to underpin your holistic knowledge of contemporary commercial photographic practice.

Level 5

Level 5 of the course builds upon the skills and knowledge gained during Level 4 and provides opportunities for you to develop your (photographic) genre specific interests.

You are encouraged to reflect on your particular professional interests and to take responsibility for your learning in your choice of topics for project work (negotiated between you and your tutor/s via Learning Agreements) through the unit *Creativity and Context* and culminating in the unit *Photographic Futures*. Projects for these units are designed to develop your creative, research and conceptual skills combined with commercial and professional awareness and understanding. Where possible opportunities for live projects or competition work are accommodated, thereby extending your understanding of the professional demands of photography.

During this level you will continue to develop your digital skills and promotional awareness through the unit *Professional Futures*; this unit will provide you with the opportunity to market yourself as a photographer via the web, while developing your own branding. Your industry understanding will be consolidated towards the end of the unit when you undertake a period of work experience in the form of a placement, which will be overseen by the unit leader (negotiated between you and your tutor/s). This draws together your achievements on the course so far and gives you live opportunities to apply your learning in the workplace. The timing of the *Professional Futures* unit is such that, potentially, you are able to extend your placement beyond the formal end of the unit to the conclusion of the summer holiday period. In these circumstances, arrangements for your end of level assessment in June can be negotiated.

The unit *Critical Analyses* provides an overview of some of the approaches used in the analysis of commercial photography, together with the development of research and written communication skills, allowing for a more intellectual engagement with photographic practice, and preparing you for the major written assignment at Level 6.

During Level 5 you will be offered an opportunity to consider the three named awards. Work that you will undertake in *Photographic Futures* may help inform your decisions. Although there is no obligation for you to opt for a named award, the choices around the following awards will be informed by academic counselling during the *Photographic Futures* unit and consolidated in the *Specialist Practice* unit and then pursued in the *Major Project* at Level 6:

BA (Hons) Commercial Photography (Advertising)
BA (Hons) Commercial Photography (Fashion)

BA (Hons) Commercial Photography (Documentary/Editorial)

Level 6

Level 6 of the course builds on the platform of skills and knowledge gained during Levels 4 and 5. Level 6 adopts an extremely focused approach to your career ambitions, developing specific creative and conceptual skills in order to gain a more complex understanding of the particular discourse with which you wish to be professionally engaged.

Graduates are capable of advancing and challenging accepted ways of working within the industry, allowing them the opportunity to reach their creative potential. Critical and theoretical research will have informed their commercial practice, while offering the opportunity to extend their critical engagement and academic interests. Gaining a BA (Hons) award in this discipline equips graduates to compete at the highest level of professional practice as well as providing a platform for potential post-graduate study. After three years of extensive investigation, graduates will possess all the attributes necessary to feel confident as they seek employment within contemporary commercial photographic practice. This is evidenced through and articulated by an accomplished and developed commercial portfolio and the critical skills with which to locate this work within an ever more complex visual culture.

The unit structure enhances the delivery and professional integrity of the course by enabling appropriate specialists to deliver units of study. The units in Level 6 are the culmination of students' professional understanding and it is expected that your Level 6 Learning Agreement will reflect your chosen specialism and award title. Two major units, *Specialist Practice* and *Major Project*, provide the opportunity for two bodies of work that will essentially become your professional portfolio and the content relates directly to the named award title. The unit *Research Paper*, for which a critically informed analysis of a subject related topic will be produced, will help to inform your practical work, while supporting your aspirations for future study at post-graduate level.

Specialism

During the Course you will be supported and encouraged to specialise within your photographic practice. To gain an understanding of the key specialisms that you may wish to consider (those that are linked to our 'Named Awards- see below), you will be given guidance through content in lectures and workshops, which will be supported through the specialist input given during our regular Guest Speaker Programme. The Guest Speaker Programme will include professionals from key areas of commercial practice, including:

- Photographers (fashion, advertising, portrait, documentary/editorial etc.).
- Picture Editors (fashion and editorial).
- Art Buyers and Art Directors (advertising).
- Stylists (fashion).
- Agents
- Photo Agency Representatives.

Additionally the specialisms already existing within the Course Team will be consolidated through specialist Visiting Tutors (working photographers).

At Level 5 you will be encouraged to try working within different genres, therefore allowing you to make an informed choice of specialism through both your choice of ‘Named Award’ (*Photographic Futures*) and type of placement or ‘Live’ project during *Professional Futures*.

During the final term of Level 5 and then throughout Level 6, you will be supported through tutorials and seminars designed to help you establish your ‘creative team’, therefore allowing you to work within a recognised industry structure. This support will include cross course networking events, allowing you to find your creative partners, and the potential for mutually beneficial collaborations.

Named Awards

Increasingly, a number of students are arriving on the course with interests in pursuing particular disciplines within Commercial Photography. To meet this interest we offer the opportunity to graduate with one of several named specialisms in addition to the award of Commercial Photography. During the last term of Level 5 you will be required, via a process of academic counselling, to discuss your intentions to pursue one of these named awards. Our aim is to ensure that your chosen award name is appropriate and achievable. Each of these named award specialisms can be undertaken in the Level 5 *Photographic Futures* (40 credits) unit and at Level 6 in the *Specialist Practice* (40 credits) and *Major Project* (60 credits) units. Please note these units must be passed to gain a named award.

Named Awards available:

- BA (Hons) Commercial Photography
- BA (Hons) Commercial Photography (Advertising)
- BA (Hons) Commercial Photography (Fashion)
- BA (Hons) Commercial Photography (Documentary/Editorial)

Course Units

Unit code	Unit Title	Credit Weighting
Level 4		
CPH460	Principles and Practices	40
CPH461	Digital Imaging and Production	20
CPH462	Creative Photographic Practice	40
CPH463	Historical and Theoretical Studies in Photography	20
Level 5		
CPH560	Creativity & Context	20
CPH561	Critical Analyses	20
CPH562	Photographic Futures	40
CPH563	Professional Futures	40
Level 6		
CPH660	Specialist Practice	40
CPH661	Research Paper	20
CPH662	Major Project	60

Course Diagrams

This diagram shows the proposed start/end dates for each unit and shows teaching weeks only; holiday periods are not included. Further information on the structure of each unit will be included in Unit Handbooks.

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	CPH460 Principles & Practices (weeks 1-14) (40 credits)															CPH462 Creative Photographic Practice (weeks 15-30) (40 credits)																								
	CPH461 Digital Imaging & Production (weeks 1-14) (20 credits)															CPH463 Historical & Theoretical Studies in Photography (weeks 15-30) (20 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											
CPH560 Creativity & Context (weeks 1-10) (20 credits)															CPH562 Photographic Futures (weeks 11-30) (40 credits)																				
CPH561 Critical Analyses (weeks 1-12) (20 credits)															CPH563 Professional Futures (weeks 13-30) (40 credits)																				

Level 6																																			
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											
CPH660 Specialist Practice (weeks 1-12) (40 credits)															CPH662 Major Project (weeks 13-30) (60 credits)																				
CPH661 Research Paper (weeks 1-15) (20 credits)																																			

Resources

University Resources:

Library

The course is supported by a Subject Librarian who liaises closely with the team to ensure that the Library resources are relevant and meet student and staff research needs. As part of the AUB's Information Literacy Framework, the Subject Librarian provides sessions on researching and using information, as well as individual support for students in the use of Library resources.

The Library holds an excellent range of specialist learning materials including books, journals, CDs, DVDs, and newspapers. It has subscriptions to a wide range of specialist electronic resources focusing on art, design, media and performance, including e-books and e-journals. The Library's facilities include computers, viewing rooms, a presentation space and a silent reading room.

The Library consistently receives high scores in both the in-house and national student surveys which are carried out annually.

Digital Learning Resources

The University provides a range of computing hardware and software applications for use in general purpose locations such as the library and computer studios, as well as high quality and specialist resources linked to subject specialisation. You will be able to use Microsoft Office and Adobe Creative Suite on the majority of computers in the University and have access to industry standard digital resources and computing appropriate for your subject in course areas.

We have a comprehensive wireless network and our new virtual learning environment (VLE) can be used on desktop, laptop and mobile devices. The VLE, called MyAUB, provides a customisable portal to a variety of course and university related information including timetables, email, course handbooks, resource booking and online learning materials.

Support for digital learning resources is provided by a network of University staff. Course related equipment is cared for by Technician Demonstrators and library information resources is supported by library staff. General computing support and advice on your own equipment is provided by our Digital Campus Services Team who provide a servicedesk facility. The servicedesk is open from 8.30 am until 7.00 pm* Monday to Thursday (*5.00 pm during undergraduate vacation time) and Friday from 8.45 am until 4.30 pm. The servicedesk is located in the North Building above TheGallery. Their email address is: servicedesk@aub.ac.uk.

Museum of Design in Plastic (MoDiP)

MoDiP is a registered museum of 20th and 21st century design and popular culture with a focus on plastics. Its collection is unique within the UK and has been developed to support teaching and learning at Arts University Bournemouth.

There are many ways in which MoDiP can play a part in your studies:

- as a source of inspiration – large numbers of items may be viewed, handled and explored in depth, drawn, photographed and filmed
- as the focus of a brief for products and projects relating to course work
- as an exhibition venue – your work can be displayed in relation to the collections and exhibitions and events may be mounted in the museum space

The Museum is in a purpose built space within the Library, designed with wheelchair access in mind, and has the same opening hours as the rest of the University for the viewing of exhibitions. Objects not on display can be borrowed and taken to the studio. To see what is available, go to the [MoDiP website \(\[www.modip.ac.uk\]\(http://www.modip.ac.uk\)\)](http://www.modip.ac.uk).

The Gallery

The Gallery is a major resource for contemporary visual art at Arts University Bournemouth and has received regional and national recognition. There are regular gallery events, including collections on loan from galleries and museums, as well as individual exhibitions by some of today's leading artists, photographers, designers and critical writers.

It also functions as a learning resource and is integrated into the teaching, learning, and research practice undertaken at the University.

text + work is the ethos which underpins the exhibition programme at Arts University Bournemouth. The **text + work** concept promotes and provides a forum for challenging dialogue between innovative contemporary art, design, and media practice and its theoretical context.

There are **text + work** gallery events, critical texts, shared and networked exhibitions and a **text + work** website.

Student Support

Academic Guidance

Academic staff are responsible for providing you with feedback on your work and your general academic progress, and for providing academic support and guidance through the course. This is provided through "critiques" and written feedback, as well as guidance on practical work and informal discussion about your concerns. These sessions may be individual or, in the case of collaborative work, in small groups.

Academic tutorials are scheduled to allow you to discuss in depth matters relating to creative or theoretical work, or the course in general. You will be entitled to at least one formal academic tutorial per term with a nominated member of the course team.

Support and advice is also provided on an informal basis throughout the course, through discussions between staff and students.

Career Education, Information and Guidance

You will be prepared for employment, and given the opportunity to learn about the various career options available to you, through a wide range of projects which may include live briefs or external competitions. Academic staff remain very familiar with the discipline, and will often still work in the field, and are also able to advise on specific opportunities.

The Careers Service within the University offers impartial, confidential advice, support and guidance, to help you explore and develop your career ideas and manage your future career successfully. The Service offers individual career guidance interviews, as well as advice on job seeking strategies, CVs and interview skills, self-employment / freelancing, and further study opportunities.

The Senior Employability Officer holds regular lunchtime lectures, which cover a range of popular careers topics, including Postgraduate study and funding, Career planning, Networking and self-marketing, and Teaching as a career. Full details and dates of forthcoming lectures are available on the Careers intranet pages and on the Student Services notice boards.

The Careers Service also offers specialist events, working in partnership with local employers, AUB alumni, and external agencies to bring together a range of art, design, media and performance expertise.

Support for students with disabilities (including dyslexia)

The Arts University Bournemouth is firmly committed to a policy of equal opportunities for all students and positively welcomes applications from people with disabilities and/or additional needs. Throughout all aspects of University life, we actively encourage and support the participation of students with disabilities. We aim to support disabled students by offering needs assessments and support plans which enable you to achieve your personal goals.

The Learning Support team provides academic support for students with specific learning difficulties including dyslexia. We ask all new Home students to complete a 'Quickscan' screening programme when they join the University. This screening is designed to check your learning style (the way you learn best) and whether you might have signs of dyslexia. If appropriate, you will be referred to an educational psychologist for a full assessment.

Students with a specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia are able to access individual tutorials aimed at improving your independent study skills, and are supported in applying for the Disabled Students' Allowance, which can provide specialist equipment and, if appropriate, personal support.

The Senior Disability Officer and Wellbeing Officer provide ongoing support and advice for students with all other types of disability, including mental health difficulties, physical disabilities, medical conditions and sensory impairments.

The Arts University Bournemouth has a duty to anticipate the needs of disabled students, and to make "reasonable adjustments" to ensure that these students can access education and related services. If you feel that some aspect of the learning,

teaching or assessment on your course places you at a disadvantage because of your disability, please contact the Senior Disability Officer within Student Services, who will be happy to work with you and your course team to identify any appropriate reasonable adjustments. Contact wellbeing@aub.ac.uk or telephone 01202 363291.

Academic support for students for whom English is a second language

If English is not your first language, AUB has a team of specialist English for Academic Purposes (EAP) lecturers who provide personalised guidance and support with the academic aspects of your course. You can book tutorials with them for individual assistance.

At the beginning of your course you will be invited to complete an academic skills assessment. One of our English for Academic Purposes (EAP) team will review this with you in a follow-up tutorial. If there are indications that you would benefit from additional advice and support, the EAP tutor will work with you to draw up an Individual Learning Plan which will set out a structured approach to developing your use of academic language and study skills. This may, for example, include helping you to develop strategies for interpreting assignment briefs, working on the structure of your written work or developing your proof-reading skills. Your Individual Learning Plan will be reviewed each term and shared with your course tutor, if requested, so that they are aware of the work you are doing to improve your use of language and study skills.

Throughout the academic year the EAP service also offers Study Skills Workshops and academic reading, writing, speaking and listening skills Upgrade Modules.

Further details can be found at:

<http://aub.ac.uk/international/english-not-first-language/international-student-support/>

Pastoral support and guidance

Support and advice on non-academic matters is provided through trained and qualified professional staff within Student Services. We have a team of professionally qualified male and female counsellors, with appointments available during weekdays and evenings. Students accessing the service are offered various levels of support ranging from regular weekly sessions, occasional support or just a "one off" consultation. In most cases, you can expect to be seen for a session within two days of making initial contact with the service. If the situation is very urgent and you are very emotionally distressed, we also have a crisis support service and you will be seen by one of our counsellors almost immediately.

Pastoral support is also available from the AUB Chaplaincy. The Chaplaincy at Arts University Bournemouth is shared with Bournemouth University and is an inclusive Chaplaincy, which welcomes people of all faiths and none. The Quiet Room and the Islamic Prayer Room are in regular use by staff and students, and meetings with ministers of any faith can be arranged.

Advice and support with practical issues such as funding, accommodation or childcare is available from the Student Advice, Funds and Accommodation Office within Student Services.

Monitoring the quality of your course

The course is subject to the University's rigorous quality assurance procedures which involve subject specialist and internal peer review of the course at periodic intervals, normally of 5 years. This process ensures that the course remains up to date, and is preparing you for a career within the creative industries while also delivering a high quality student experience.

In addition all courses undertake an Annual Course Review which takes account of relevant information such as:

- External Examiners' Reports
- Key statistics including data on application, retention and achievement
- Results of the National Student Survey
- Results of the in-house Student Perception Survey
- Feedback from Student Representatives
- Feedback from relevant employer groups, including the course Industry Liaison Group

All courses develop an action plan arising out of this exercise, which is monitored by the University. Your student representatives can keep you informed about progress against the action plan.

Staff development priorities for the course team as a whole are identified through the Annual Course Review process, and for individuals through the Staff Performance Review process.

Indicators of Quality and Standards

The Arts University Bournemouth was granted taught degree awarding powers by the Privy Council in 2008; and University status was conferred in 2013. All students on taught higher education courses are enrolled on a course validated by the University.

The University was audited by the QAA in May 2011 and received a judgement of 'Confidence' in the management of the academic standards of its awards, and its management of the quality of learning opportunities. This is the best available outcome, and confirms that our quality assurance mechanisms are robust, meaning that we can have full confidence in the standard of course outcomes, and the quality of the educational experience we deliver.

More detailed information is available in the following documents, which are available on the AUB Intranet:

- Online course information
- Unit Handbooks
- HE Student Regulations: Quick reference guide to the regulations
- Undergraduate Regulatory Framework and Assessment Regulations