

# PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

BA (HONS)  
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.

## 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 he/she passes 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, which is available on your course blog.

<b><u>Key Course Information</u></b>	
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 Faculty of:	Media and Performance
<i>Contact details:</i> Telephone number	01202 363138
Email	<a href="mailto:fomp@aub.ac.uk">fomp@aub.ac.uk</a>
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	To be confirmed
<i>Please note that it is not appropriate for students to contact external examiners directly</i>	
Date of Validation	1999
Date of most recent review	May 2017
Date programme specification written/revised	Revised May 2017

## **Course Philosophy**

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

AUB Creative Learning Plan

AUB Strategic Plan

AUB Employability Framework

## **Learning, Teaching and Assessment**

### **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.

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 files 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 Unit Information, which is on your course blog.

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 (eg 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 the HE Student 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 assessment, 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 (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.

## **Course Content**

The course consists of three levels, each lasting one academic year of full-time study. Each level is divided into units of study. Units may vary in size. A standard unit represents 200 hours of study and is worth 20 credits. Depending on the complexity of the area being studied some units may be larger, for example, there are double units (40 credits) and at Level 6 you can study a treble unit (60 credits).

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
<b>Level 4</b>		
PHO461	Process and Materiality	40
PHO462	History of Photography	20
PHO463	Appropriation and Photography	20
PHO464	Narrative and Photography	40
<b>Level 5</b>		
PHO561	Realism and Representation	20
PHO562	Image and the Page	20
PHO563	Research Project	20
PHO564	Concepts in Contemporary Photography	40
PHO565	Professional Enquiry	20
<b>Level 6</b>		
PHO661	Defining Practice – Concept, Research and Production	20
PHO662	Professional Career Planning and Portfolio	20
<b>Plus:</b>		
<b>Study option 1</b>		
PHO663	Major Research Project	20
PHO664	Extended Major Project	60
<b>Or:</b>		
<b>Study option 2</b>		
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. Further information on the structure of each unit will be included in the online Unit Information which is available on your course blog.

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	PHO461 Process and Materiality (weeks 1-15) (40 credits)															PHO463 Appropriation and Photography (weeks 16-30) (20 credits)															
	PHO462 History of Photography (weeks 1-15) (20 credits)															PHO464 Narrative and Photography (weeks 16-30) (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 1-12) (20 credits)												PHO564 Concepts in Contemporary Photography (weeks 13-30) (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)																



## **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, a viewing room, 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 Service Desk is located in the Library, and their email address is: [servicedesk@aub.ac.uk](mailto:servicedesk@aub.ac.uk).

#### **Museum of Design in Plastic (MoDiP)**

MoDiP is a registered museum of 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> 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)).

## **TheGallery**

TheGallery 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, media and performance 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.

The University also has a team of Study Skills Tutors who can support you with your academic work such as essays, dissertations and presentations. This service is available to all students to access. You can book tutorials for individual or group sessions at the Student Services reception. The team also run regular lunchtime

study skills workshops and drop in sessions which can help support you in your studies.

## **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 and Employability 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 appointments, 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 and Employability intranet pages (Viewpoint) and on the Student Services notice boards.

The Careers and Employability 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, performance and business expertise.

For more information, or to make an appointment, please contact [careers@aub.ac.uk](mailto:careers@aub.ac.uk) or call +44 1202 363355. You can also drop in to Student Services on campus between 8.30am and 5pm, Monday to Thursday, and between 8.30am and 4.30pm on a Friday.

## **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 Wellbeing service is a free and confidential service offered by the University to all students. The Senior Wellbeing Officer is based in Student Services and is able to provide specialist advice, information and practical strategies to help students manage personal concerns or concerns they may have for a friend. Accessing the wellbeing service at an early stage may prevent more serious issues developing and help students to feel more in control of their situation.

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](mailto: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 needs assessment. One of our English for Academic Purposes (EAP) team will review this with you in a follow-up tutorial. If you feel 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 periodically 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. 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. Talking to a counsellor in a safe, non-judgemental and confidential setting can enable you to work through your problems with the aim of reaching a solution. Students wanting to access the service can book by email, phone or by



coming into the Student Services reception. The AUB Counselling Service is student focused and we offer single therapeutic sessions with a counsellor for one hour. If your situation is very urgent and you are extremely emotionally distressed, we also have a crisis support service where the aim is that one of our counsellors or the Wellbeing Officer will see you as soon as possible.

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.

A new Teaching Excellence Framework has been introduced to recognise excellent teaching. AUB was given a Gold award, reflecting the high quality of the academic student experience.

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 HE Student Regulations, Viewpoint and on your course blog