Course Specification

MA
PHOTOGRAPHY



Arts University Bournemouth

About the Course Handbook

This Handbook provides you with basic information about your course. Through the approved course specification, it provides you with the aims and outcomes of your course and outlines the content and how this will be delivered.

The course is subject to a rigorous process of quality assurance and enhancement. This may result in changes to individual units as the course develops, to ensure that the relevance and quality of the course is upheld. You will be consulted by a member of the course team before any changes are made.

Information in this Handbook should be used in conjunction with the HE Assessment Regulations. It is your responsibility to ensure that you are aware of the regulations that apply to your course and you should refer to the regulations throughout your studies. If you have any questions, you should speak to your Course Leader, or member of the course team. The Assessment Regulations can be located on the Induction section of Canvas, or https://aub.ac.uk/regulations

Important information about key policies which apply to your academic studies is available on the Induction section of Canvas. Please view this material on the Induction section of Canvas.

If you would like a copy of this Handbook in an alternative format, please contact equalities@aub.ac.uk.

ARTS UNIVERSITY BOURNEMOUTH

COURSE SPECIFICATION

The Course Specification provides a summary of the main features of the **MA 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 in the Unit Descriptors, which forms part of the Course Handbook.

Key Course Information	
Final Award	Master of Arts
Course Title	MA Photography
Award Title	• MA Photography • MA Photography (Fine Art) • MA Photography (Commercial & Advertising) • MA Photography (Fashion) • MA Photography (Landscape & Environmental) • MA Photography (Documentary)
Teaching institution	Arts University Bournemouth
Awarding Institution	Arts University Bournemouth
Professional accreditation	None
Length of course / mode of study	1 year full-time / 2 years part-time
Level of final award (in FHEQ (Framework for Higher Education Qualifications))	Level 7
Subject benchmark statement	Art and Design and Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies
Language of study	English
External Examiner for course:	Details available on request
Please note that it is not appropriate for students to contact external examiners directly	
Date of Validation	May 2015
Date of most recent review	June 2024
Date course specification written/revised	August 2024

Course Description

Encouraging independent thinking and creative exploration, the MA Photography course empowers students to undertake ambitious photography projects spanning the realms of art and commerce. It provides an opportunity to make professional level work that combines artistic expression with commercial appeal, enabling students to realise their professional aspirations.

What defines this work as professional, is its awareness of its target audience and the socio-political nuances shaping its meaning. It can be utilised in a variety of ways: to stimulate commerce; promote new trends; deliver complex narratives; and inform and express opinions. In the process, opportunities arise for creative practitioners working in professional contexts to produce highly innovative work.

From expressing challenging, thought-provoking opinions on the complexities of our world, to promoting commercial ventures, the course provides fertile ground for creative thinkers to make a lasting impact and build careers, whether in the realm of gallery exhibitions or publication.

With this career focus in mind, the course allows students to undertake advanced study in a wide range of genres including fashion, advertising, editorial, portraiture, documentary, environmental, fine art and in the expanding fields of photography, such as artificial intelligence. Students are encouraged to combine their specialisation with emerging technologies and innovations, such as image generative AI. Through the lecture and discussion programme they will consider the opportunities and implications of these technologies that may well influence their practice and their future career pathways.

In this way, students are equipped with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in today's dynamic photographic landscape. It is the responsibility of all students to familiarise themselves with and to adhere to current AUB (Arts University Bournemouth) policies relating to academic protocols and the use of AI.

The course encourages exploration of the intersectionality between photography genres and associated activities, such as designing and editing photobooks, curation, or critical writing on photography. By merging traditional and contemporary methodologies, in both thinking and execution, students will evolve into imaginative photographic artists and critical thinkers.

Through a combined approach of practice, theory and professionalism, the course will provide a challenging and stimulating environment in which students are able to develop their full potential, with the aim of becoming a practitioner at the forefront of the discipline in their future career.

The course enables students to develop an in-depth and critically informed understanding of the field of photography. They will engage with key themes in emerging and established critical and research practices that underpin each professional genre. This will equip students with the theoretical understanding to progress their practice and effectively articulate their concepts. Students find inspiration through independent research, feeding their creativity and enriching their practice, as they explore the ever-evolving field of photography.

One of the fundamental aims of the course is for students to develop a good understanding of the significance of research methodologies and their effectiveness when developing practice. The curriculum is designed to encourage independent learning, a vital asset for career advancement or pursuing further studies at the doctoral level. Students learn how to define a research question, giving them the opportunity to progress to PhD study. In this way as a postgraduate research student, they have the potential to make significant contributions to the field of photography.

The course is designed to cater for a diverse range of individuals from a wide variety of international backgrounds, cultures, and photography experience. Whether an aspiring artist, or a seasoned professional, our curriculum is crafted to push boundaries, stimulate students' thinking, and elevate their creativity.

Under the guidance of a dedicated team of professionally experienced academics and technicians, students will undertake a series of immersive workshops. These hands-on sessions are carefully designed to equip them with the essential knowledge to work at a

professional level. Central to this experience is the excellent on-campus facilities with seven professionally equipped studios, cutting-edge digital resources, a comprehensive array of analogue cameras, and expansive darkroom facilities, students have all the necessary tools to fully realise their creative potential.

Students are encouraged to make industry links across a broad range of organisations relevant to their chosen professional specialism. Using these links, they will learn to manage and exceed client expectations through the application of their new academic understanding to the production of inventive saleable work.

Whilst studying on the course students have the option to add a 'Named Award' to the overall award title of MA Photography. These additional title descriptions indicate a student's specialisation within a specific area of photography and include these options; MA Photography (Fine Art), MA Photography (Commercial & Advertising), MA Photography (Fashion), MA Photography (Landscape & Environmental) and MA Photography (Social Documentary). To add a 'Named Award' to the overall MA Photography title, both Master's 2 and Master's 3 must be in the area of practice described by the award.

The overall aim of the course is to encourage independent thinking by challenging students to create ambitious work that captivates and engages audiences, whether in a cultural or commercial realm. Through this process, they will demonstrate their potential as dynamic and creative individuals capable of thriving as a freelancer or assuming a responsible position within a major corporate organisation or as creative researchers.

Distinctive features of the course include:

- **Balance of Art and Commerce**: The course uniquely empowers students to undertake projects that blend artistic expression with commercial viability.

- **Career-focused:** Throughout the course students are encouraged to plan an approach that helps them build or direct a career. They are encouraged to collaborate with external organisations and participate in prestigious professional awards to attain recognition at the highest level.

- **Highly specialised pathways:** Students develop advanced specialist knowledge leading to named awards that reflect the student's particular expertise.

- **Highly practical:** Unusually for a master's course it provides numerous hands-on workshops with access to state-of-the-art facilities, both digital and analogue.

Course Industry Patron Scheme

All courses at AUB (Arts University Bournemouth) are connected formally with an industry Patron, an industry practitioner or business that acts as a critical friend to the course and course team. Many courses work with several industry partners, but the more formal Industry Patron connection offers the opportunity to collaborate and maintain close relations with industry / business. This is a unique concept that ensures AUB courses are industry relevant and maintain current practices while providing further opportunities for students to engage with industry practitioners.

AUB Strategic vision

The MA Photography fits with the university's strategic vision in several ways:

Innovation: Students are encouraged to explore new cutting-edge technologies within their field, contemplating the implications of advances, such as AI (Artificial Intelligence) image

generation, and how this might shape their future career pathway. Beyond simply mastering technology, they are encouraged to be innovative in their thinking, creating a unique visual approach that sets them apart from their peers.

Collaboration: Collaboration between Master's courses is encouraged. MA Photography has particularly strong links with MA Historical Costume, MA Graphic Design, BA Creative Writing and BA Fashion Additionally, partnerships with external organisations are organised to enable students to create professional-level work tackling real-world challenges, and so gain vital teamwork experience.

Internationalisation: The course is highly attractive to international students seeking to immerse themselves in the dynamic professional photography scene in the UK, while studying at AUB's renowned photography department, recognised for producing several industry leaders. We embrace students from diverse cultural backgrounds, recognising their invaluable contributions to enriching the educational experience for everyone.

Course Aims

This course aims to:

1. Provide students with a comprehensive understanding of professional photographic contexts and cultivate originality in these contexts, leading them towards achieving their career aspirations.

2. Equip the student with an in-depth understanding of how contemporary photographic practice is informed by current and established critical debates in turn shaping their artistic development.

3. Encourage an attitude of investigation of historic, contemporary, and emerging imaging technologies in order to effectively respond and identify creative and entrepreneurial opportunities.

4. Promote highly ethical and sustainable attitudes among practitioners emphasising diversity and inclusivity through sensitive visual representations of people and cultures, for specialist and wide audiences.

5. Equip the student with a range of high-level transferable professional skills, including enterprise, networking, self-promotion, and small business marketing, while developing the ability to strategically plan for career progression.

6. Give students the ability to self-reflect whilst effectively applying academic frameworks and showcasing potential as artist-researchers for high-level employment or PhD study.

Course Outcomes

By the end of this course, a graduate will be able to:

1. Produce complex and advanced work that is informed by critical debates at the forefront of the discipline and evidences originality in the application of ideas.
2. Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of photographic genres and professional contexts communicated effectively through the presentation of visual outcomes to targeted and wider audiences.

3. Demonstrate and apply in-depth understanding of current sustainable practices and techniques to innovative professional level outcomes.

4. Demonstrate ethical and sustainable practices, embracing diversity and inclusivity in photographic representations of individuals and cultures.

5. Demonstrate a range of transferable business and professional skills while developing the ability to strategically plan for career progression.

6. Demonstrate the ability to function as an autonomous learner able to critically self-reflect leading to the production of advanced professional outcomes or undertake PhD study.

Reference Points

UK Quality Code for higher education, including:

- Office for Students' (OfS regulatory framework: 4.17 Degree for a descriptor for a higher education qualification at level 7 on the FHEQ: Master's degree.
- Subject Benchmark Statements: (a) Art and Design and (b) Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies.
- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ), 2nd Edn (2024)
- AUB LTAF (Learning, Teaching and Assessment Framework) and Postgraduate Taught Assessment Regulations (2023).

Learning, Teaching, and Assessment Strategies

MA Photography aligns with other AUB courses in reflecting the shared University values of Collaboration, Connection, Innovation and Passionate. In accordance with the pedagogical framework laid out by the institution, postgraduate course delivery is strategically designed to:

- Maintain the highest quality and consistency of student experience.
- Provide teaching and assessment that is credible, progressive, and innovative.
- Apply a curriculum that is enlightened, agile and meaningful.
- Ensure students deploy core techniques of disciplinary enquiry and analysis.
- Enable an experiential and transformative learning journey.
- Enable future professional practice and careers across a diversity of graduate roles.

Students on the MA Photography course benefit from belonging to the wider AUB community and provision of shared learning opportunities alongside subject specific sessions. At MA level, students are strongly encouraged to engage with their peers, developing essential skills through peer learning and group work. Students are encouraged to play an active role in collaborative learning activities, initiating such activities as part of a continuing experiential learning journey that starts before joining the course and continues afterwards.

Through participation in cross-course collaborative assignments, working groups, transdisciplinary lectures, study skills workshops, drawing lessons, educational trips, and student-led events, MA students work together to establish the roots of good practice and form potentially valuable peer networks. Establishing trust among students is vital in promoting an environment in which collaboration thrives. Through mutual support, students can engage in activities, such as idea testing and peer review. This environment stimulates broader conversations around the arts, sustainability, ethics, socio-political issues, and the creative industries, acting as a catalyst for innovation, enriching the learning experience and empowering students to excel in their creative research activities.

The University embraces blended and technology-enhanced approaches to learning. AUB learning technology effectively provides course, school and institutional-wide communication and is integrated into teaching delivery as appropriate. A range of technical workshops are

offered to support students in the use of digital media, from good housekeeping and file management practices to more sophisticated video, sound, and image-manipulation software.

MA Photography

The MA Photography course is structured in such a way that learning develops systematically and with an emphasis on the independent learning abilities required for continuing professional development and career advancement.

The course consists of formal teaching (lectures, seminars, workshops), group critiques of work-in-progress, and tutorial support. Students receive specialist tutor support depending on their own interests and direction as set out in their Learning Agreement.

The holistic approach to the course is one in which practice, theory, or professional studies are seen as a whole, and therefore it is essential for students to engage with staff, other students, and guest speakers. Through making wider contact with the industry and functioning as an independent learner and pursuing self-directed study, students will be able to place themselves and understand their relationship to others in the field.

Developing as a professional photographer requires a balance of individualised creative skills and open-minded collaborative working and we believe that the environment at the AUB enables this synthesis to happen. By employing the diverse delivery methods listed below, a broad spectrum of learning styles and approaches have been accommodated.

Briefing

An academic staff member will deliver unit introduction information in a presentation to the cohort. It will usually include:

- Unit introduction
- Unit Assessment criteria
- Unit schedule/scheme of work
- Assessment requirements and submission deadlines
- Assessment feedback deadlines
- Assessed Presentation dates

Lectures

An academic staff member of guest speaker will deliver information via a presentation to a cohort. Lectures are used to focus on issues and provide information that progresses through the course. They are generally followed by question-and-answer sessions. Gallery lectures usually take the form of an event supporting an exhibition and would include a presentation of work and/or dialogue with exhibitors that are drawn from a broad range of practitioners – such as artists, photographers, performers, designers, crafts persons, writers, critics, and curators. Students from both BA and MA programmes have access to the Photography Visiting Lecturer Program, where visiting practitioners share insights into their work. This active engagement with professional methods and standards often contributes to outstanding student achievements across a diverse range of professional photographic awards and competitions.

Workshops

Interactive learning sessions in a practise-based setting. Unusually for a master's course there are numerous workshops that cover studio and location photography techniques. These include the studio lighting techniques tailored to the various genres of photography explored within the curriculum. Moreover, students engage in darkroom and digital

workshops, where they refine their craft and explore cutting-edge printing and manipulation techniques. These workshops allow students to acquire professional-level skills and invaluable knowledge, directly applicable to their future careers. By honing these capabilities, students enhance their prospects and lay a solid foundation for future career opportunities.

Seminar activity

A group session that usually relates to a lecture topic of subject-related topic aligned to the Learning Outcomes and assessment requirements of the unit. This might include:

- Group discussion of a topic
- Critique (peer and/or staff feedback on work in progress)
- Peer Review (students discuss or feedback on each other's work)

Seminars are important opportunities for generating dialogue and interrogating practice. In these sessions issues related to practice in context are explored and opportunities follow with student-led response seminars for specific aspects, issues, or areas of individual and/or collective inquiry to be developed in detail.

Open studio with support

Opportunity for students to use studio space in their own time with academic or technician demonstrator support available. These open studio sessions count as formal taught contact time.

Tutorials

Engagement of staff with students to discuss their work or progress. These can be scheduled or sign-up tutorials. Group and individual tutorials provide an opportunity to discuss individual progress on the unit and on the course. They are used to air specific issues raised through the work, provide critical observation, and recommend new direction and research strategies. The tutorial following a formal assessment is known as an assessment feedback tutorial. Supervision may be provided by a tutor delegated from another course if appropriate. Tutorials are often face-to-face but can also be delivered online.

Assessed presentations

Group assessed presentations are integral to the learning process and are both formative and summative. These discussions centre primarily on the individual work generated during the units, occurring midway and at the conclusion of each unit. During these students present their research work and images, receiving group feedback that enhances project development. In the final unit sessions, students are encouraged to approach the presentations as if they were addressing real clients. This exercise not only strengthens their project presentation skills but also cultivates invaluable professional-level business communication skills.

Educational visits

Supervised trips organised for students off campus to a destination, organisation, or business relevant to their learning for the unit. There are educational visits to galleries and museums, trade fairs, biennales and design practices here in the UK, the EU and worldwide. There are added costs notified in advance of the visit. Student attendance at academic and discipline specific conferences is encouraged.

Teaching, learning and assessment across all three units is designed around two key components:

- Portfolio of Work - developing creative, academic, and professional outputs through the application of skill, creativity, knowledge, experience, and artistic enquiry in students' role as Photographic practitioner.

- Reflective Journal – supporting evolving practice and thinking through ongoing reflection on action, contextual research and critical analysis that is appropriately deployed, documented, referenced, and communicated.

At the end of each unit, evidence of these components is digitally/physically submitted alongside a Learning Agreement outlining students' plans for subsequent progress. These are graded according to the same weightings throughout the course:

- Portfolio of Work 80%
- Reflective Journal 20%
- Learning Agreement (ungraded)

Student Engagement

The course offers a wide range of opportunities for students to actively participate in that benefit their learning experience. There are numerous practical workshops held across the seven dedicated photographic studios.

In addition, students can explore a variety of extracurricular activities such as film screenings, exhibitions, and life drawing classes. At AUB, students become part of a dynamic arts community, fostering collaboration with peers from both MA and BA programs. For those specialising in fashion or advertising photography, teamwork is paramount. Building a reliable team, comprising of stylists, fashion designers, models, makeup artists, and even model makers, is facilitated by the diverse pool of talent available at AUB.

The photography department has a vibrant guest speaker program, providing invaluable networking opportunities alongside enlightening talks. These engagements not only enrich students' knowledge but also expand their professional connections, enhancing their overall educational experience.

Full-Time and Part-Time Modes of study

The option of choosing a Full-Time or Part-Time study mode (FT (Full Time) and PT (Part Time) (Part Time)) is regarded as a highly positive aspect of this course. Allowing for greater inclusivity, diversity and flexibility, this choice enables experiential and cultural integration of huge benefit to our community.

Whilst FT students work throughout the week in AUB studio spaces, those taking the PT mode must ensure they have adequate off-campus space to sustain their developing practice and thinking appropriately. Whether accommodation, visas, jobs, families, or other personal circumstances affect this decision, please be assured that whether PT or FT, students can expect to be taught by the same staff and have equitable access to learning.

As the designated weekly study hours for PT are half of those for FT students, and for reasons of parity, access to subject area resources and academic support are understood commensurately. The longer study periods (x2) of each unit for PT students ensure that parity of study hours and experience are accounted for between the FT and PT modes.

Autumn and Spring intakes

MA Photography accepts intakes at two different points in the year (subject to viability). Both FT and PT modes are available to those starting in September (Autumn), whilst January (Spring) only allows for FT mode. The rolling nature of cohorts means that there are always

existing students to welcome newcomers onto the course and act as mentors. As well as learning from their skills, experience, and knowledge of the University, students can gain real understanding of what is expected in the Units ahead by attending their Assessment Presentations.

Assessment

Each unit is assessed separately, and the assessment forms part of the unit. Assessment both provides a measure of student achievement, and also provides students with regular feedback on how their learning is developing.

For every unit of a course, we will inform students of what they are expected to learn; what they need to submit; how their work will be assessed; and the deadline for presenting work for assessment.

Students will receive a final mark for each unit in the form of a percentage, which will be recorded on a 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 with a minimum mark of 50 to successfully complete the unit.

On successful completion of a Master's Degree (MA), a Merit or Distinction may be awarded. Only units at Level 7 contribute towards the determination of a Merit or Distinction.

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

Assessment at AUB is aligned to the unit Learning Outcomes and consists of two types:

Formative Assessment is used throughout the learning process to assess students' progress and understanding. It may take place in tutorials, seminars, presentations, and other discussions about their work and provides ongoing feedback on students' learning-in-process. By identifying positive practices and thinking to potentially take forward and develop it serves to enhance their progress. This kind of dialogue-based, written, or recorded feedback (or 'feedforward') is usually ungraded.

Summative Assessment is used at the end of each study period, reflecting upon what students have achieved. It evaluates evidence of their outcomes, skills acquisition and learning achievements. Marks are graded using a matrix of assessment criteria aligned to the Learning Outcomes to ensure the greatest possible clarity.

Unit Assessment Feedback

Students can expect to receive Assessment Feedback four weeks after the submission deadline. Assessment Feedback for all units provides Summative explanation of what has been done well and what could have been done better, as well as feedforward commentary on how the work might be further developed.

Assessment of Collaborative or Group Work

In the event of collaborative or group work produced and submitted for assessment, the contribution of each student will be assessed individually against the Learning Outcomes according to their specific input. The Learning Agreement will serve to indicate the individual contribution to the task for each individual student and is confirmed by a member of the course team. Consideration is given to how any unsuccessful group work might be rectified

for resubmission. In theory, this approach allows students who participate in a collaborative project with a final group output that is subpar or fails to still have the opportunity to receive a high grade based on their individual contribution.

Course Structure

All students are registered for the award of Master of Arts; however, exit awards are available if a student leaves the course early. If students successfully complete a level of the course, they will automatically be entitled to progress to the next level.

For the award of Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert) students must have achieved a minimum of 60 credits at Level 7; and any specific requirements of the course as outlined in the Course Handbook.

For the award of Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip), students must have achieved a minimum of 120 credits at Level 7; and any specific requirements of the course as outlined in the Course Handbook.

For the award of Master of Arts (MA), a student must have achieved 180 credits, of which a minimum of 120 credits must be at Level 7; and any specific requirements of the course as outlined in the Course Handbook. This qualification will be awarded upon successful completion of the course.

Core Values and Skills

In developing courses, the University aims to create a curriculum that reflects its values and ethos. It should prepare students for the future not only in enabling them to have a successful career, but also empower students with the knowledge, skills, and passion to have a positive impact on the world and be an agent for change. AUB has 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.

Equity, 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 an individual’s 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 has been defined that we feel are particularly appropriate to the creative courses that we deliver and to AUB’s core values; during the

course, both curricular and extra-curricular activities will provide the opportunity to prepare for a working career.

The course will introduce students to topics which are integrated within the curriculum at every stage of learning. This will allow the student to structure their career development journey through the course and consider the following stages: Self Awareness, Opportunity Awareness, Decision Making and Transitioning into Work. These align to the AUB Career Readiness stages: Explore, Focus, Engage and Achieve.

In practice, this means that each unit of the course will include elements of career development, and these will be shown explicitly in unit descriptors and outline syllabuses. Whilst students engage with these as they go through each unit, they will all come together in the final unit. Such an approach is designed to support students in the next steps they take after graduation, in whatever direction those may be, and is fundamental to degree studies.

Maintaining Health and Wellbeing

Throughout the course students are encouraged to reflect on their own health and wellbeing, and to develop themselves as a healthy creative practitioner. Students will consider how to develop study and work strategies and habits which maintain and promote their own wellbeing, and to manage their professional activities in a way which safeguards their mental and physical health.

Course staff have designed the course in order that, as far as is reasonably possible, health and wellbeing are promoted. Therefore, it is vital students maintain constructive communication with their colleagues and their staff throughout their time on this course.

Course Content

The Master of Photography programme is structured as three equally weighted units of study (see below), offering a flexible approach to learning. Designed for creative practitioners seeking to engage with both emerging technologies and heritage media, the course encourages students to develop their skills, refine their visual identity, and deepen their understanding of contemporary photographic practices. One of the fundamental aims of the course is for students to develop a good understanding of the significance of research methodologies and their effectiveness when developing practice. The course begins with research-focused sessions introducing effective research methods, followed by supporting tutorials to enable students to identify their research focus. The Reflective Journal serves as a comprehensive tool for documenting all aspects of the students' research. It can be structured in a wide variety of formats other than a standard written document, reflecting individual student learning preferences, as agreed with their tutor.

Throughout the course, students will benefit from the guidance of experienced faculty members, who bring decades of professional and research expertise to the classroom, as well as industry contacts who serve as mentors and visiting tutors.

Units

Master's 1: Defining Practice: Methodologies, Contexts & Experimentation

In this unit students will engage in a dynamic process of critical review and collaborative dialogue with peers and mentors, enabling them to advance and reframe their work.
Unit lectures and discussions will explore relevant historical, current, and emerging technologies, alongside pertinent methodologies, contexts, and theoretical frameworks, providing students with a comprehensive understanding of the complex interactions of art and photography.

Under the guidance of highly experienced staff, students will participate in a sequence of immersive workshops held in our state-of-the-art facilities. These workshops are meticulously designed to provide the knowledge necessary to operate at a highly professional level.

Through a succession of small-scale experimental projects, challenging both technically and creatively, individuals will learn to push boundaries and be encouraged to be creative risk-takers. They will record these steps in their Reflective Journal and will be assessed on the insights they have gained through this process. Through experimentation and reflection, they will clarify their identity as photographic artists, and this will inform the Learning Agreement for their Master's 2 project.

Master's 2: Investigation, Exploration & Collaboration

The unit focuses on innovation, collaboration, and communication within contemporary creative practice. Students will develop research skills, business awareness, self-direction, and trans-disciplinary skills as they investigate and explore innovative ideas. Throughout this process, students experience significant personal growth, gaining confidence as they stretch their creative boundaries. Students produce a second Learning Agreement which serves as a plan for their studies in the final unit Master's 3.

Collaboration between students from diverse disciplines is encouraged, building teamwork, and potentially leading to substantial joint projects. In addition, the unit prompts students to explore external collaborations with organisations relevant to their professional aspirations, such as galleries, brands, or charities.

Master's 3: Resolution, Presentation & Evaluation

In the final unit, students advance their skills by refining their practice and showcasing a cohesive portfolio of work that highlights their proficiency in editing, presenting, and disseminating outcomes to wide, as well as specialist audiences. With a focus on self-directed learning, students execute the strategies laid out in their Learning Agreement, leading to a thorough reflection of their progress.

Throughout this phase, students strategically contemplate how to effectively represent themselves in both digital and physical portfolios. Moreover, they are encouraged to explore potential pathways for advanced academic pursuits, such as progressing to PhD and are provided with guidance and assistance to develop these aspirations further.

Named Awards

Students have the opportunity to enhance their final qualification title by selecting one of the designated awards, reflecting their specialisation within a specific genre of photography. It is not mandatory for students to decide on their specialisation when joining the course. However, to qualify for a 'Named Award' both Master's 2 and Master's 3 must align with the chosen specialisation of the award title. The selection of named awards occurs during the course as students progress through their studies. Opting for a named award is voluntary, and if not chosen, the qualification title will be MA Photography without any additional description.

MA Photography (Fine Art)
MA Photography (Commercial & Advertising)
MA Photography (Fashion)
MA Photography (Landscape & Environmental)
MA Photography (Documentary)

Specialist resources

The photographic area comprises of seven dedicated studios outfitted with high quality lighting equipment, including Broncolor and Profoto, ensuring professional-grade setups for every shoot. Each studio is equipped with an Apple laptop running Capture One software for seamless tethering. Additionally, we offer high-end digital medium format cameras, such as Phase One 100MP, Hasselblad 50MP, and Fuji GFX100, as well as numerous Pro-Photo battery lighting kits for location shoots.

For versatility, we provide top-end Nikon and Canon DSLRs, available for both studio and on-location bookings. Our impressive stores facility also includes a wide range of analogue cameras and darkroom equipment, featuring Hasselblad V system, 6X7 Mamiya, and large format photography options such as, Sinar, Toyo, and Shen Hao 5x4 cameras.

Our photography department encompasses both colour and black-and-white darkrooms, along with comprehensive film processing facilities. In the realm of digital manipulation, we offer two state-of-the-art retouching facilities housing approximately 40 high-end Apple workstations, each equipped with the latest Adobe Creative Cloud software.

The scanning and printing capabilities are excellent with the ability to produce prints on paper up to 40 inches wide, equaling the best London photographic laboratories. To support student's creative efforts our team of dedicated technician demonstrators stand ready to offer expert assistance and guidance at every step.

Course Units

Unit Code		Unit Title	Credits
(F/T)	(P/T)		
PYF701	PYP701	**Master's 1:** Methodologies, Contexts & Experimentation	60
PYF702	PYP702	**Master's 2:** Investigation, Exploration & Collaboration	60
PYF703	PYP703	**Master's 3:** Resolution, Presentation & Evaluation	60

Course Diagram

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

Level 7 Full-Time mode of study Autumn start (45 weeks)													
	Trimester One				**Trimester Two**				**Trimester Three**				
Wk 0	Weeks 1-15				Weeks 16-30				Weeks 31-45				
Induction	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	Assessment
	PYF701 Master's 1: Defining Practice: Methodologies, Contexts & Experimentation (weeks 1-15) (60 credits)			Assessment	**PYF702 Master's 2: Investigation & Exploration (weeks 16-30)** (60 credits)			Assessment	**PYF703 Master's 3: Resolution, Presentation & Evaluation (weeks 31-45)** (60 credits)				Assessment

Level 7 Full-Time mode of study January start (45 weeks)													
	Trimester One				**Trimester Two**				**Trimester Three**				
Wk 0	Weeks 1-15				Weeks 16-30				Weeks 31-45				
Induction	JAN	FEB	MAR	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	Assessment
	PYF701 Master's 1: Defining Practice: Methodologies, Contexts & Experimentation (weeks 1-15) (60 credits)			Assessment	**PYF702 Master's 2: Investigation & Exploration (weeks 16-30)** (60 credits)			Assessment	**PYF703 Master's 3: Resolution, Presentation & Evaluation (weeks 31-45)** (60 credits)				Assessment

Level 7 Part-Time mode of study September start (90 weeks)																								
	Trimester One								**Trimester Two**								**Trimester Three**							
Wk 0	Weeks 1-30								Weeks 31-60								Weeks 61-90							
	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A
Induction	**PYP701 Master's 1: Defining Practice: Methodologies, Contexts & Experimentation (weeks 1-30)** (60 credits)							Assessment	**PYP702 Master's 2: Investigation & Exploration (weeks 31-60)** (60 credits)							Assessment	**PYP703 Master's 3: Resolution, Presentation & Evaluation (weeks 61-90)** (60 credits)							Assessment

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