

Photography

Final award	BA (Hons)
Intermediate awards available	Cert HE, Dip HE.
UCAS code	W641
Details of professional body accreditation	N/A
Relevant QAA Benchmark statements	Art and Design Benchmark Subject Statement
Date specification last up-dated	November 2013

Alternative locations for studying this programme

Location	Which elements?	Taught by UEL staff	Taught by local staff	Method of Delivery
Havering - This programme is no longer recruiting at Havering	All elements	No	Yes	Taught Programme
Barking & Dagenham College	Level 3 only	No	Yes	Taught Programme
Linton Education Group, Malaysia. This programme is no longer recruiting.	Single only	No	Yes	Taught Programme

Profile

The summary - UCAS programme profile

In a world where most of our information reaches us through a lens, photography represents one of our main tools of communication and creative expression.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students are selected on their suitability for the programme by a portfolio interview. Applicants would normally have completed an Art and Design Foundation, GAD, or an appropriate BTEC, GNVQ or Access programme of at least one year's duration prior to joining the programme. Students with other relevant professional or life experience will also be considered.

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

What is Photography?

Photography has a strong history and tradition that has helped shape societies attitudes over much of the last two centuries both within the fields of contemporary art as well as design and communication. If anything the importance of the medium is becoming more crucial in

all aspects of commercial and creative practice with the development of global mass communication.

Photography at UEL

Photography at UEL develops from traditional darkroom and studio practice. It enables students to develop a sound knowledge of the medium, both practical/commercial and theoretical as well as exploring their own creative and imaginative language. Because of this approach it is possible for students to grow and expand their practice into related practices like; print, film, video and digital media.

Programme structure

The programme can be studied full-time for 3 years or in a part-time mode. It has a modular structure that enables students to study it as a Single, Major, Joint or Minor honours programme. This allows combinations to be built with its sister programmes in Digital Arts and Visual Communication and also other programmes in the School of Architecture and The Visual Arts and also the University as part of our Combined Honours menu.

Learning environment

The learning environment is centred on the individual, with Learning outcomes directly aligned with the assessment criteria, and following headings outline the components within the teaching and learning strategy.

Group Projects

Programme work where you work as part of a team with a group of your peers

Studio Project work

Studio based work undertaken by an individual or group of students in collaboration with project tutors. It includes an intro briefing, discussion on progress and development of ideas

Professional Practice

Students are encouraged to develop a strong ethos and understanding of professional practice; this can take the form of work placements, study visits, exhibitions, international exchanges, visiting professionals talks, etc.

Self-Initiated work

These are structured projects based on your own written proposal, agreed and discussed with your programme or module tutor with agreed aims and outcomes.

Seminars

These are small mixed sessions (from one or more area, or year group), discussing a project or contextual issue and sharing views and experiences.

Lectures

Group teaching of your year or with other year groups at the same time, usually around a particular topic delivered by one or more tutors

Workshops

Practical demonstrations and hands on learning takes place, as well as facilitation of your own self-initiated projects. Introductory workshops are normally undertaken in relation to project work as part of the module. Later in the programme, project proposal forms identify your needs and these are agreed with your pathway staff and the technical demonstrators. These are available in keeping with access and entitlement as well as satisfying Health and Safety requirements.

Study visits

These are trips to external venues such as museums or relevant places often as part of a module or project but can be whole year groups with tutors identified as responsible for the visit.

Assessment

The programme has a mixed menu of 20 and 40 credit modules which vary in their assessment. Students will be required to present work for assessment in the form of exhibition, portfolio presentation, oral presentation or in the form of an evaluative learning journal, report or essay.

20 credit modules are assessed at the end of each semester and 40 credit modules are assessed at the end of each year, with the marks from year 2 and 3 used to formulate the final degree award.

Work experience/placement opportunities

The programme contains a professional practice module, which enables students a variety of opportunities to undertake or engage in aspects of the professional arena. This includes visits from renowned professionals and can include any work placements, international exchanges or exhibition opportunities, study trips. These are monitored through a self evaluation/ learning journal of the experience.

Project work

In year one all modules are project led. These vary from module to module but most are design to inculcate a creative and imaginative response as well as introduce the practice and mediums related to photography and lens media.

Added value

The programme is sited in a purpose built, new Architecture and Visual Arts building on our landmark Docklands Campus. This is in turn situated in the creative heartland of London, an area of exciting new media activity and also an area about to undergo dynamic regeneration

and change as preparation for the 2012 Olympics. The campus is adjacent to Excel, Canary Wharf, Docklands airport and the new international rail terminus for Europe at Stratford. East London also represents the quintessential multicultural environment on the doorstep of 2000 years of cultural history.

IS THIS THE PROGRAMME FOR ME?

If you are interested in...

- Photography: Art, Commercial, Fashion
- Film and video
- Digital media
- Animation
- Visual communication
- Media

If you enjoy...

- Being creative,
- using your imagination,
- problem solving,
- a challenge,
- working in groups,
- field work,
- developing your independence and social skills

If you want...

- To learn a range of different camera formats from SLR, medium format and new digital technologies.
- To develop a practical awareness of different studio lighting techniques, work with different photographic genres;
- To develop an understanding of the work of important practitioners historically and within the industry.
- To gain practical understanding of the relationship of new and emerging technologies on photographic processes.
- To have the opportunity to work with other creative, artists, and designers, fashion designers within the School and within the industry.

Your future career

Career opportunities in photographic and image-related industries; Commercial Photography, TV and Film, Media, Archive/documentation, Advertising, Photographic illustration, Research, Post graduate, Artist or Designer.

How we support you

UEL provides a comprehensive range of support services for students which includes: residential/student finance advice/careers advice/study skills development/IT/learning resources. The programme provides strong personal tutor guidance and professional advice

related to the practice. Visiting artists, designers and other professional practitioners regularly visit the programme and study trips to working environments are an important component.

Bonus factors

UEL

East London environment offers excellent access to galleries, libraries, museums and collections. The proximity of a wide range of creative industries enables regular visits from industry professionals from all subject areas.

Linton Education Group

The Linton Education Group Mantin campus offers excellent recreational facilities for sports and social engagement. The university runs organized trips and regular university bus services to towns and centers in Malaysia. The School's collaborative arrangement with the University of East London offers opportunities for travel and exchange to the UK.

Barking & Dagenham College

Barking & Dagenham College offers excellent specialist photography facilities on campus, and provides good materials and equipment support through its sponsorship relationships with key photographic suppliers.

Outcomes

Programme aims and learning outcomes

What is this programme designed to achieve?

This programme is designed to give you the opportunity to:

- provide practical, historical and theoretical understanding of the photographic arts.
- provide a platform for students to access their imagination and develop their creative identity.
- inculcate key transferable and employability skills.

What will you learn?

Knowledge

- Historical, theoretical and ethical positions.
- Develop an understanding of the power of the medium.
- Understanding the creative potential of the medium
- Understanding the relation to developing technologies.

Thinking skills

- Self reflection/analysis and critical awareness
- Creative thinking and invention.
- Visual research skills.

Subject-Based Practical skills

- Practical Darkroom and studio practice
- Technical aptitude
- Health and safety awareness
- Format and presentation

Skills for life and work (general skills)

- Time management (participation, working to deadlines etc.)
- Working within groups (collaborative, work experience)
- Interpersonal skills (Client awareness, etc.)

Structure

The programme structure

Introduction

All programmes are credit-rated to help you to understand the amount and level of study that is needed.

One credit is equal to 10 hours of directed study time (this includes everything you do e.g. lecture, seminar and private study).

Credits are assigned to one of 5 levels:

- 0 - equivalent in standard to GCE 'A' level and is intended to prepare students for year one of an undergraduate degree programme
- 1 - equivalent in standard to the first year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme
- 2 - equivalent in standard to the second year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme
- 3 - equivalent in standard to the third year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme
- M - equivalent in standard to a Masters degree

Credit rating

The overall credit-rating of this programme is 360 credits.

Typical duration

The expected duration of this programme is 3 years when attended in full-time mode or 6 years in part-time mode. It is possible to move from a full-time mode of study to a part-time mode of study and vice-versa, to accommodate any external factors such as financial constraints or domestic commitments. Many of our students make use of this flexibility and this may impact on the overall duration of their study period.

How the teaching year is divided

The teaching year begins in September and ends in June, but some programmes also allow students to join at the start of Semester B, in February. A student, normally registering for 6 modules in one year (3 modules in each Semester) would do so in a full-time attendance mode of study and a student registering for up to 4 modules in one year (2 modules in each Semester) would do so in part-time attendance mode of study.

What you will study when

This programme is part of a modular degree scheme. A typical full-time student will take six 20 credit modules per year. An honours degree student will complete six modules at level one, six at level 2 and six at level 3.

It is possible to bring together modules from one subject with modules from another to produce a combined programme. Subjects are offered in a variety of combinations:

- Single - 120 credits at levels one, two and three
- Major - 80 credits at levels one, two and three
- Joint - 60 credits at levels one, two and three
- Minor - 40 credits at levels one, two and three

Modules are defined as:

- Core - Must be taken
- Option - Select from a range of identified modules within the field
- University wide option - Select from a wide range of modules across the University

LEVEL	TITLE	CREDITS	STATUS SINGLE	STATUS MAJOR	STATUS JOINT	STATUS MINOR
1	Photography 1	40	Core	Core	Core	Core
1	Skills for Academic Learning	20	Core	Core	Option	
1	Lens Based Practice	20	Core			
1	Discourse	20	Core	Core		
1	Photographic Genres	20	Core			
2	Photography 2	40	Core	Core	Core	Core
2	Professional Practice	40	Core			
2	History of Photography (Theory)	20	Option	Option		
2	Contemporary Photography (Theory)	20	Option	Option	Option	
3	Photography 3	40	Core	Core	*Option	Core

3	Exhibition/Presentation and Production	40	Core		*Option
3	Documentary Photography (Theory)	20	Option/Core for students studying at Barking & Dagenham College	Option	Option
3	Thesis (Theory)	20	Option (for students studying at UEL)	Option	Option
3	Advanced Professional Practice	20	Core	Core	Option

*Option:

Students studying a Joint Honours combination entirely within the Digital Arts and Visual Communication subject field will be required to take the Exhibition, Presentation and Production module in level 3 instead of two subject specific modules.

Requirements for gaining an award

In order to gain an honours degree you will need to obtain 360 credits including:

- A minimum of 120 credits at level one or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level two or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level three or higher

In order to gain an ordinary degree you will need to obtain a minimum of 320 credits including:

- A minimum of 120 credits at level one or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level two or higher
- A minimum of 80 credits at level three or higher

In order to gain a Diploma of Higher Education you will need to obtain at least 240 credits including a minimum of 120 credits at level one or higher and 120 credits at level two or higher

In order to gain a Certificate of Higher Education you will need to obtain 120 credits at level one or higher

In order to gain an Associate Certificate you will need to obtain a minimum of 20 credits at level one or higher

In order to gain a Foundation Degree you will need to obtain a minimum of 240 credits including:

A minimum of 120 credits at level one or higher

A minimum of 120 credits at level two or higher

(A Foundation degree is linked to a named Honours degree onto which a student may progress after successful completion of the Foundation degree)

Degree Classification

Where a student is eligible for an Honours degree, and has gained a minimum of 240 UEL credits at level 2 or level 3 on the programme, including a minimum of 120 UEL credits at level 3, the award classification is determined by calculating:

The arithmetic mean of the best 100 credits at level 3 $\times 2/3$ + The arithmetic mean of the next best 100 credits at levels 2 and/or 3 $\times 1/3$

and applying the mark obtained as a percentage, with all decimal points rounded up to the nearest whole number, to the following classification

70% - 100% First Class Honours

60% - 69% Second Class Honours, First Division

50% - 59% Second Class Honours, Second Division

40% - 49% Third Class Honours

0% - 39% Not passed

Assessment

Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching and learning

Knowledge is developed through

- Workshops and demonstrations
- Tutorials and seminars
- Professional practice talks
- Exhibitions and Gallery visits

Thinking skills are developed through

- Tutorials and seminars
- Independent, creative practice
- Project work

Practical skills are developed through

- Workshop introductions

- Projects based on genres
- Professional practice talks
- Study visits

Skills for life and work (general skills) are developed through

- Professional practice talks
- Work placements
- Group projects
- Study visits

Assessment

Knowledge is assessed by

- Oral presentation of ideas during seminars, tutorials and at the end of each module.
- Portfolio and research folder presentation at the end of each module.
- Breadth and Depth of research work

Thinking skills are assessed by

- Oral presentation of ideas during seminars, tutorials and at the end of each module.
- Portfolio and research folder presentation at the end of each module.
- Innovation and lateral thinking displayed in realisation of work in relation to research material

Practical skills are assessed by

- Continuous monitoring of workshop progress
- Presentation of portfolio at the end of each module

Skills for life and work (general skills) are assessed by

- Participation in workshops, seminars , tutorials and meetings
- Time management in relation to meeting project deadlines etc.
- Engagement in professional practice components of the programme, placements, group activities etc.

Quality

How we assure the quality of this programme

Before this programme started

Before this programme started, the following was checked:

- there would be enough qualified staff to teach the programme;
- adequate resources would be in place;
- the overall aims and objectives were appropriate;

- the content of the programme met national benchmark requirements;
- the programme met any professional/statutory body requirements;
- the proposal met other internal quality criteria covering a range of issues such as admissions policy, teaching, learning and assessment strategy and student support mechanisms.

This is done through a process of programme approval which involves consulting academic experts including some subject specialists from other institutions.

How we monitor the quality of this programme

The quality of this programme is monitored each year through evaluating:

- external examiner reports (considering quality and standards);
- statistical information (considering issues such as the pass rate);
- student feedback.

Drawing on this and other information, programme teams undertake the annual Review and Enhancement Process which is co-ordinated at School level and includes student participation. The process is monitored by the Quality and Standards Committee.

Once every six years an in-depth review of the whole field is undertaken by a panel that includes at least two external subject specialists. The panel considers documents, looks at student work, speaks to current and former students and speaks to staff before drawing its conclusions. The result is a report highlighting good practice and identifying areas where action is needed.

The role of the programme committee

This programme has a programme committee comprising all relevant teaching staff, student representatives and others who make a contribution towards the effective operation of the programme (e.g. library/technician staff). The committee has responsibilities for the quality of the programme. It provides input into the operation of the Review and Enhancement Process and proposes changes to improve quality. The programme committee plays a critical role in the quality assurance procedures.

The role of external examiners

The standard of this programme is monitored by at least one external examiner. External examiners have two primary responsibilities:

- To ensure the standard of the programme;
- To ensure that justice is done to individual students.

External examiners fulfil these responsibilities in a variety of ways including:

- Approving exam papers/assignments;
- Attending assessment boards;
- Reviewing samples of student work and moderating marks;
- Ensuring that regulations are followed;

- Providing feedback through an annual report that enables us to make improvements for the future.
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Listening to the views of students

The following methods for gaining student feedback are used on this programme:

- Module evaluations and feedback questionnaires
- Student representation on programme committees (meeting 3 times year)
- Year group meetings (up to 4 per semester)
- Module and Group seminars
- Tutorials
- Personal Project proformas

Students are notified of the action taken through:

- circulating the minutes of the programme committee
- providing details on the programme notice board
- Group meetings
- Web CT publication

Listening to the views of others

The following methods are used for gaining the views of other interested parties:

- Questionnaires to former students
- Industrial liaison committee
- Placements Officer
- Discourse with visiting practitioners
- Feedback from exhibitions etc.

Further Information

Where you can find further information

- The UEL web site (<http://www.uel.ac.uk>)
- The Linton Education Group web site (<http://www.legendagroup.edu.my>)
- The Barking & Dagenham College Website (<http://www.barking-coll.ac.uk>)
- UEL Manual of General Regulations and Policies <http://www.uel.ac.uk/qa/>
- UEL Quality Manual <http://www.uel.ac.uk/qa/>
- Regulations for the Academic Framework <http://www.uel.ac.uk/academicframework/>
- The Student Charter (<http://www.uel.ac.uk/studentcharter/>)
- Visit our gallery of student work here: <http://www.uel.ac.uk/adi/showcase/studentwork/>