

COURSE SPECIFICATION

Course Aim and Title	BA(Hons) Photography
Intermediate Awards Available	BA, DipHE, CertHE
Teaching Institution(s)	UEL on campus
Alternative Teaching Institutions (for local arrangements see final section of this specification)	Barking & Dagenham College Level 6 Top-up
UEL Academic School	Architecture, Computing & Engineering
UCAS Code	W641
Professional Body Accreditation	N/A
Relevant QAA Benchmark Statements	Art & Design
Additional Versions of this Course	N/A
Date Specification Last Updated	March 2019

Course Aims and Learning Outcomes

The BA (Hons) Photography course is part of an Art & Design cluster of courses including Foundation in Art & Design, BA (Hons) Graphic Design, BA (Hons) Illustration, BA (Hons) Fine Art and MA Fine Art. Additionally some of the cluster modules are shared with BA (Hons) Animation and BA (Hons) Creative Writing. Graduating from the cluster courses means that you are not only prepared for your future 4.0 career, but that you will be supported by a network of friends and collaborators from the Art and Design Cluster.

The modules on the course are designed to give you the opportunity for:

- Interdisciplinary Practice – You will have access to extensive resources in photography as well as those of other disciplines, giving you access to extended learning and the opportunity to engage with a range of interdisciplinary practices, accruing fundamental core skills for working in the creative industries.
- Collaborative Practice – You will have opportunities to work on collaborative and inter-disciplinary projects, pin ups and exhibition opportunities throughout the course, enabling you to develop an understanding of different working practices in creative industries settings.
- Professional Life (Mental Wealth) –Professional practice is foregrounded in each level in a Professional Life module, preparing you for entry into the creative industries or post-graduate study. You will begin professional practice from level 4 onwards.

- Contextual Studies- You will gain an appreciation of contemporary cultural development and the contribution of technological innovations to visual culture. Some of the module delivery will include shared learning opportunities with the cluster module students. In the final year of your study (level 6) you will have an option to choose between a theory-into-practice module, with an option module enabling you to apply your learning in a new media project (instead of a traditional written thesis).

Rather than students dropping off a 'production line' we are interested in the individual having a fresh perspective and approach (divergent thinking). Those fresh ideas can be tested, using convergent and critical thinking. It's this method that the creative industry needs its new talent have to be able to succeed in 4iR and beyond.

Each level of study is supported by a creative industry speaker series, allowing you to identify possible career paths for employability and /or entrepreneurship. You will also meet our successful alumni who visit your exhibitions and e.g. pinups, allowing you to feel part of the community of East London creative practitioners and photographers.

What you will learn:

Knowledge

- Creative approaches and experimentation with processes, techniques, forms of presentation and both analogue and digital media
- Critical understanding of the technical, historical, theoretical and political potential of the medium
- Understanding of the collaborative nature of the medium and skills to identify, reflect and develop employability competencies and professional skills to enter the creative industries

Thinking skills

- Critical thinking and effective analysis of academic sources, conducting visual and professional research
- How to apply analytical and research skills to the creative process
- How to articulate coherent arguments about your practice

Subject-Based Practical skills

- Confidence in visualising ideas and briefs
- Confidence in experimenting with key photography skills, wider media technologies, and multi-disciplinary approaches to contemporary photography practice
- Competently complete creative projects to professional outcomes
- To create and maintain professional online portfolio/presence/ promotional skills, framed appropriately for relevant creative industry context

Skills for life and work (general skills)

- Presenting ideas and work to audiences, clients, collaborators
- Self-management skills in managing workloads and meeting deadlines

- Interpersonal, team working, collaborative and negotiation skills, arising from the creative practitioner's relationship with audiences, clients, markets, environments, users, consumers and or participants.
- Critically reflect and act on ethical considerations and professional standards

Learning and Teaching

Knowledge is developed through

- Practical workshops
- Lectures, Seminars and discussion
- Group tutorials
- One-to-one tutorials
- Knowledge-based activities with feedback
- Research skills-based activities with feedback
- Guest lectures
- Critiques and peer-review feedback
- Guided reading and independent research

Thinking skills are developed through

- Reflective activities with feedback
- Research skills-based activities with feedback
- Seminars and discussion
- Practical fieldtrips
- Museum/ gallery visits /industry visits
- Presentations
- Group tutorials
- One-to-one tutorials
- Problem solving and reflection
- Writing and composition

Practical skills are developed through

- Practical workshops
- Creative project work
- Portfolio development
- Guided and supported independent activities in specialist facilities (e.g. in print rooms, shoot studio, immersive studio, edit suits)

- Self-directed projects
- Work in progress critiques with feedback
- Group tutorials
- One-to-one tutorials
- Peer review feedback (in crits and presentations)
- Exhibitions
- Graduate shows
- Film Screenings

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

- Group work and collaboration
- Planning creative projects with feedback
- Project work- independent, collaborative or self-directed
- Presentations
- Research skills-based activities with feedback
- Live briefs/ projects/ client-based projects

Assessment

Knowledge is assessed by

- Coursework
- Presentation
- Exhibition
- Pin ups and critiques
- Learning/ Research Journal/ sketchbook completion

Thinking skills are assessed by

- Coursework
- Written Document
- Project work
- Pinups and critiques
- Learning/ Research Journal/ sketchbook completion
- Presentation

Practical skills are assessed by

- Project work
- Portfolio completion
- Professional Outcome
- Quality of work
- Curatorial competence in Exhibition contexts
- Online Portfolio
- Film Screenings
- Degree Show

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

- Project work

- Group work
- Engagement in professional and collaborative practice
- Presentation
- Time management in relation to meeting project deadlines

Students with disabilities and/or particular learning needs should discuss assessments with the Course Leader to ensure they are able to fully engage with all assessment within the course.

Work or Study Placements

We encourage full time students to seek work experience during their academic course, either during the summer vacations, or to take a sandwich year out between level 5 and level 6 or their studies. Those students who successfully opt for the sandwich placement will be enrolled on a 120 credit Industrial Sandwich Placement module VA*** which will appear in the final transcript as evidence of the sandwich placement year. An employment liaison officer oversees the administration of the year out placements and assists in helping students secure a placement.

Course Structure

All courses 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:

- 3 Equivalent in standard to GCE 'A' level and is intended to prepare students for year one of an undergraduate degree course.
- 4 Equivalent in standard to the first year of a full-time undergraduate degree course.
- 5 Equivalent in standard to the second year of a full-time undergraduate degree course.
- 6 Equivalent in standard to the third year of a full-time undergraduate degree course.
- 7 Equivalent in standard to a Masters degree.

Courses are made up of modules that are each credit weighted.

The module structure of this course:

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit Weighting	Core/Option	Available by Distance Learning? Y/N

4	VA4026	Professional Life 1 (Mental Wealth)	20	Core	N
4	VA4012	Practice 1	20	Core	N
4	VA4011	Contextual Studies 1	20	Core	N
4	VA4025	Research into Practice 1	20	Core	N
4	VA4013	Experimentation and Application 1A	20	Core	N
4	VA4024	Experimentation and Application 1B	20	Core	N
5	VA5026	Professional Life 2 (Mental Wealth)	20	Core	N
5	VA5012	Practice 2	20	Core	N
5	VA5011	Contextual Studies 2	20	Core	N
5	VA5025	Research into Practice 2	20	Core	N
5	VA5013	Advanced Experimentation and Applications	20	Core	N
5	VA5022	Advanced Practice	20	Core	N
P	VA5027	Industrial Sandwich Placement	120P	Optional	N
6	VA6026	Professional Life 3 (Mental Wealth)	20	Core	N

6	VA6012	Practice 3	20	Core	N
6	VA6027	Independent Major Project Part A	20	Core	N
6	VA6028	Independent Major Project Part B	20	Core	N
6	VA6315	Research into Practice 3 – Global Photography	40	Option	N
6	VA6415	Research into Practice 3 –Extended Research Project	40	Option	N

Please note: Optional modules might not run every year, the course team will decide on an annual basis which options will be running, based on student demand and academic factors, in order to create the best learning experience.

Additional detail about the course module structure:

A core module for a course is a module which a student must have passed (i.e. been awarded credit) in order to achieve the relevant named award. An optional module for a course is a module selected from a range of modules available on the course.

Students will have an option module in level 6. The option modules in level 6 are designed to be inclusive to students' discipline, and respond to differentiated assessments needs.

The Photography Research into Practice route- Global Photography - is assessed as a new media project, responding to the expanded practices of photography and the development of new media as part of photography discourse.

The Extended Research Project route is aimed as a specific route to those photography students whose professional practice aims are not covered in the Global Photography (documentary in nature). The Extended Research Project route allows students to contextualise their practice through the study of an area of photography or of a subject that provides potential content for their practical work.

The overall credit-rating of this course is 360 credits. If for some reason you are unable to achieve this credit you may be entitled to an intermediate award, the level of the award will depend on the amount of credit you have accumulated. You can read the University Student Policies and Regulations on the UEL website.

Course Specific Regulations

N/A

Typical Duration

It is possible to move from full-time to part-time 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.

The expected duration of this course is 3 years full-time or 5-6 years part-time.

A student cannot normally continue study on a course after 4 years of study in full time mode unless exceptional circumstances apply and extenuation has been granted. The limit for completion of a course in part time mode is 7 years from first enrolment.

Further Information

More information about this course is available from:

- The UEL web site (www.uel.ac.uk)
- The course handbook
- Module study guides
- UEL Manual of General Regulations (available on the UEL website)
- UEL Quality Manual (available on the UEL website)
- School web pages
- <https://uelbaphotography.wordpress.com/>

All UEL courses are subject to thorough course approval procedures before we allow them to commence. We also constantly monitor, review and enhance our courses by listening to student and employer views and the views of external examiners and advisors.

Additional costs:

You are expected to have your own DSLR camera to use, however all students have access to a wide range of cameras and lighting equipment from our school wide equipment stores, including high-end digital DSLR cameras, analogue medium / 5x4 format cameras and portable lighting kits. Additionally, you have access to university Mac labs and e.g. sound and moving image editing booths, including evening and weekend access, enabling you to complete coursework for assessments.

Additional costs on top of the course fee that you may incur include production and printing of coursework. You are encouraged to use in-house printing facilities. In the graduating year, the independent final major project professional outcome, be it printed and mounted/ framed images, film, installation or e.g. a book/zine, produced to a professional level is likely to incur an additional cost approximately between £100-£600 for students, depending on the selected professional outcomes and if using the school or external facilities. You will be inducted to all university facilities and workshops including wood and metalwork and e.g. in-house printing workshops, to help with production of work in-house to keep the costs down. Working with professional labs and

printers/ mounters/ framers is however part of students' professional practice, skills and networks students can apply in future professional projects and careers.

The course aims each year to run a yearly optional visit abroad, if sufficient interests, where you will visit photographers' studios, take part in a cross-institutional pin up, visits to exhibitions and undertake photography excursions/ shoots. You will be noted in advance of the visit. Past visits have included a cross-institutional pin up in Finland and a studio visit to a Hollywood filmmaker and photographer's studio in Berlin, both visits costing approximately £200-250 in flight and accommodation.

Alternative Locations of Delivery

Level 6 Direct Entry Top-up with Barking and Dagenham College, awarded by the University of East London. The overall credit rating of this course is 360 credits (240 level 4/5 credits transferred as APL from the FdA and 120 further credits at level 6). As this is a L6 direct entry course there is no intermediate award available for incomplete students. The expected duration of this course is 1 year full-time or 2 years part-time.