

## Course Information Sheet

# BA (Hons) Photography

**Mode and course length** – Full-Time (4 years)

**Location** – ARU Cambridge Campus

**Awarding Body** – Anglia Ruskin University. As a registered Higher Education provider Anglia Ruskin University is regulated by the Office for Students.

## Overview

Explore and experiment with photographic practices and be inspired, through the study of photographic theory, to develop your own unique visual language. Become a confident and versatile photographer able to promote your work using professional techniques or find employment in the wider creative industry.

On our BA (Hons) Photography degree, you'll explore many areas of photographic practice including digital / analogue image-making, experimental crossovers, multimedia, self-publishing and exhibition.

Through continuous experimentation, you'll be encouraged to refine your photographic style and voice, with plenty of opportunities to explore your emerging practice. Our contextual studies lecturers will guide you to specialist research resources in our well stocked campus library. You'll be able to explore hundreds of photographers' monographs and access technical and contextual texts, as well as other online resources, to underpin and expand your practice.

You'll also learn to adopt a professional approach to your photography practice, covering many aspects of career management such as rights issues, project management and self-promotion through social media.

All your work will be supported by a team of practising photographers and visual artists, who will share their wide-ranging expertise and experience with you not only in lectures, seminars and workshops, but also through individual tutorial and studio support.

Our analogue and digital facilities will improve your confidence using industry-standard equipment, including colour and b/w darkrooms; continuous, daylight and flash studios; and a digital post production and printing suite. You can also borrow specialist camera equipment for your work using our dedicated loan service.

Through our unique photography student and alumni network, including Twitter and Facebook, you'll also have the chance to learn from others who have already started on their path towards becoming a professional photographer.

## Course Delivery

Our courses are delivered through teaching and learning methods which provide students with the widest possible exposure to a modern and innovative higher education experience.

These methods vary and could include attendance at lectures and seminars, undertaking laboratory exercises or work-based activities, practical work, performances, presentations, field trips, other relevant visits and e-learning through Canvas, our online learning management system.

Each course is divided into a number of 'modules' which focus on particular areas, each of which has a specific approach to its delivery. This information is published to students for each module they take via the Module Definition Form (MDF) and Canvas.

## Assessment

You'll demonstrate your learning through both written and practical (portfolio) work, helping to prepare you for creating your own

professional photography portfolio.

## Fees

Information about your course fee including any annual fee increases or deposits (if required) can be found in your offer letter.

## Additional Costs

Materials- Estimated £250

## Modules

### Core Modules

#### **Year 1: Foundation in Art and Design**

This module will provide students with the necessary skills to begin studying at level 4 in Art, Design and related courses.

Students will be introduced to the core skills necessary to succeed in higher education, including researching and referencing appropriately, demonstrating appropriate ICT skills, and communicating effectively verbally and in writing.

Students will be introduced to practical art and design skills including developing skills of visual storytelling, image-making both in traditional and digital media, visual language and communication, formulating an independent creative response to a broad range of subject matter.

Students will also be introduced to the fundamentals of design from a creative perspective, and to some of the key ideas/movements dominating art, design and culture, during the past few centuries.

Students will work extensively in groups and collaboratively, with students from art and design, architecture and engineering pathways.

The module is made up of the following 8 constituent elements:

- Interactive Learning Skills and Communication (ILSC)
- Information Communication Technology (ICT)
- Composition and Style
- Creative Workshops 1
- Approach to Design
- Critical and Contextual Studies
- Creative Workshops 2
- Specialist Project

#### **Year 2: Photographic Practice and Context 1**

This module will introduce you to the practical and theoretical tool set in photography. You will explore light appreciation and management, creative camera control, photographic research and context to your work. You will develop analytical competence of your own practice and will contextualise your work with historic and current photographic practice.

Practical workshops will introduce you to the creative control of camera functions and lenses and the appreciation and control of available light in digital and analogue photography. You will also have the opportunity to experiment with analogue black/white film and printing techniques and explore a range of alternative outcomes through appropriate risk taking. An introduction to Lightroom will give you the tools to catalogue your images and discuss the use of metadata.

Research and writing workshops will introduce you to appropriate historic and contextual research sources, will discuss the relevance of social media photography sources and will develop your critical and analytical skills through the introduction of key texts.

Lectures, technical presentations and workshops will develop your skill set, while group discussions and one to one tutorial will give you chance to identify individual strength and weaknesses and help you enhance you're your individual learning. You will produce weekly entries to your development and research log, which will evidence your learning throughout the trimester.

## **Year 2: Photography: Post Production Workflow**

This is an intensive practice-based module designed to introduce you to the fundamentals of the post production workflow, giving you the means to control and manipulate your photographic images.

The module will introduce you to the fundamental principles of digital hardware, and Photoshop software. You will explore the use of digital imaging techniques and processes in a series of lectures, practice-based workshops and discussions, where you will be actively working on projects and activities, individually and in groups. The relationship between techniques, methods and ideas will be explored through assigned projects, class activities and self-guided learning. Peer group reviews and one-to-one tutorials will support the development of your work throughout the trimester.

## **Year 2: Photographic Practice and Context 2**

This module will further develop your photographic skill set. You will develop an awareness of how your own photography can contribute to and critically reflect upon a range of genres in photography. You will explore the relationship of photographic influences to your own practice.

You will explore single and multiple studio flash lighting in a range of genres including still life, fashion and portraiture. You will explore the use of medium format cameras and discuss the appropriate use of different camera formats.

Practical workshops will introduce you to the creative use of analogue colour printing and scanning negatives and produce colour analogue and digital prints from negatives.

You will produce weekly entries to your development and research log, which will evidence your learning throughout the trimester.

Research and writing workshops will introduce you to a range of photographic genres and will discuss how contextual research influences current practice. You will produce a critical response to a photographer's work by analysing their practice and responding creatively to your findings.

Lectures, technical presentations and workshops will develop your skill set, while group discussions and one to one tutorial will give you chance to identify individual strength and weaknesses and help you enhance your individual learning.

## **Year 2: Photography: Multimedia Practice**

In the rapidly changing field of photography, this module provides an introduction to using screen and time-based digital media as an integral part of practice in photography. You will expand your existing practice through the experimental use of a variety of digital media and processes from the still to the moving image and audio.

The module will initially focus on developing a project through the acquisition of a variety of visual and audio material in camera and a method of conceptual inquiry. You will acquire technical knowledge and develop skills in specific areas of post-production through a series of practical workshops, in order for you to creatively control, manipulate and experiment with media. This will include narrative, non-narrative and interactive approaches. You will also consider the mode of address of your work by exploring presentation methods and the contexts in which your work will function including screen, on-line and physical location. An exploration of the historical and contextual aspects of the screen and time-based image will complement and enrich your practical work. In a series of lectures and workshops you will explore how sequencing and interactivity can be used to convey meaning, drawing on a range of examples of work by professional practitioners. You will have access to technical resources during timetabled taught and self-guided sessions.

Your research and progress is evaluated through a combination of tutorials, self-assessment and peer group reviews, which provide an arena for critical exchange and feedback. Formative assessment will take place at specified points throughout the module.

## **Year 3: Photographic Portfolio Practice**

This module sets out to expand individual practice through the introduction of a wide range of digital and analogue processes and skills. The digital medium format, analogue medium format and 5/4in cameras are introduced along with complex studio and on-location lighting. You will further develop your analogue and digital post production skills. With tutorial support you will define a critical path through the range of technical possibilities presented. You will research and develop an ambitious body of work, reflecting critically on the process at significant stages throughout the project's development. The module emphasises the

importance of researching and developing an individual visual language, which can explore a range of complex techniques, subject matters and photographic genres and will lead to a carefully considered published photographic sequence as a multimedia piece and/or photographic book.

Practical workshops explore new techniques to help build upon your existing skills base. A series of lectures introduces photographers who work in with sequenced bodies of work, methods and approaches to sequencing photography, layout of publications and the process of self-publishing.

You will develop skills in project planning and time management. You will work towards formative interim and summative final assessment deadlines. Group critiques and individual tutorials will develop and shape your project. Active contribution to class discussions and peer to peer critiques is expected. Final assessment includes a research and development journal contextualising your practice and documenting the project and your final publication.

This module will support your employability by giving you an insight in a wide range of professional practices.

### **Year 3: Photography: Professional Development**

This module aims to equip students with greater awareness of the importance of professional skills to their career development, how to think strategically about professional development, and how to adopt best practices to applying it to their own practice.

The module focuses on the acquisition, development and review of key professional principles, strategies and best practices. Through a pragmatic approach grounded on established literature, it covers the complementary dimensions of professionalism such as public speaking, interviewing, networking, public profile (CV, portfolio, website); rights, permissions and legal requirements, project planning and management.

The module is run on the basis of workshops, mock interviews (with a peer-assessment component) and presentations, and includes hand-on preparation for a photographic competition. It starts with identifying key gaps in skills to define the particulars of the delivery.

### **Year 3: Debates and Practices**

This module's purpose is to explore the links between critical studies and practice. It is intended to enable you to enrich your knowledge and develop your articulacy about your specialism and draw on wider perspectives in relation to your own work. It will be especially attentive to debates about contemporary practice. The module will be seminar based and may be held in the studio, when appropriate and possible. Discussions will engage theory and history with your own developing ideas about contemporary production. The agenda will be open and respond to current events, work and interests.

### **Year 4: Specialised Experimentation and Practice in Photography**

This module provides you with the opportunity to further develop and refine your photographic practice in preparation for the major project and final degree show. It considers the crucial importance of experimentation with shooting, editing, post-production and presentation methods i.e. as a wall piece, publication, installation, or through the incorporation of either video and/or sound. You are encouraged to seek a range of creative solutions to practical problems, supported by group and 1:1 tutorials with tutors and visiting lecturers and build networks.

You are encouraged to discuss ways of publishing and/or presenting your work on and off line and to consider the implications of such in terms of both audience and curatorial perspectives.

You will be experimenting autonomously using the facilities and workshops available to you. You are expected to be working at a high level, acutely aware of your materials, processes, and level of skill; able to adapt and work consistently towards refining your practice.

You will provide a written proposal outlining your line of enquiry in the beginning of the trimester. You will create a workbook charting your experimentation and development of your practice, referring to a range of inspirations. The final part of Personal Development Planning is included in the module.

### **Year 4: Major Project: Photography**

The Major Project is the culmination of the Art and Design undergraduate practice courses. Depending upon your course, you

will pursue the Major Project individually or as member of a group. At the outset, you will prepare a demanding proposal for an independent creative project, to be approved by your supervising tutor. In this final project, you will need to demonstrate your capacity to work to a planned schedule, research your options imaginatively, take account of current thinking on the issues your project raises, develop your work in convergent and divergent ways, respond positively to criticism and arrive at creative solutions. You will be expected to display, in both preparatory and finished work, an advanced understanding of the methods, techniques, materials and processes appropriate to your chosen media. Your developmental work will be subject to peer and tutor review and assessed with your finished work.

This module is exempt from the full ethical approval process in accordance with section 6 of the Academic Regulations ([www.anglia.ac.uk/academicregs](http://www.anglia.ac.uk/academicregs)).

## Optional Modules

*(Subject to availability)*

### **Year 2: Introduction to Photographic Studio Practice**

This module provides an introduction to using continuous and available light sources for different photographic genres. Through a series of lectures and workshops you will develop your understanding of the effect of light on different surfaces and how to model light to emphasise texture, shape and form. Working in groups you will use continuous light to explore the creative potential of specialist still life studio equipment, and experiment with low and high-key lighting in portraiture. An exploration of historical and contemporary studio photography will complement and enrich your practical work, including study visits to museums and art galleries to explore the use of lighting in art historical sources. You will have access to technical resources during timetabled taught and self-guided sessions.

Formative assessment will take place at specified points throughout the module. Your research and progress will be evaluated through a combination of tutorials, self-assessment and peer group reviews, which provide an arena for critical exchange and feedback.

This module must be taken by all students, except in the specific circumstances where an international student may be required to take an additional English for Study module instead, in order to improve their English Language level.

### **Year 2: English for Study 1**

This is the first in a series of English for Study modules. It aims to support those students who are at or below IELTS 6.0, or equivalent, in their academic writing/discussion abilities. It develops both students' grammatical accuracy and their ability to extract key points from a variety of spoken texts. It further requires students to demonstrate increasing awareness of essay planning and the importance of summary writing and referencing skills in academic essays. Discussion skills are also developed to ensure students are able to contribute in both seminar and tutorial discussions. The module, taught over two hours per week will consist of a variety of activities including group debates, and discussions, presentations, listening and comprehension exercises from authentic audio, and audio-visual material of academic lectures. Students will also be guided in independent learning, via the Language Centre and Library and the Language Laboratories through a wide range of media resources including newspapers and academic journals, videos, and internet.

### **Year 3: Identities**

How do we define ourselves? How do we define others? How do images perpetuate stereotypes and how do artists and film makers unpick these and explore alternatives? These questions are at the root of this module. There is an opportunity to explore identity formation from psychoanalytic or sociological or philosophical perspectives. How fluid, open and multiple are our identities? You may select the image of the artist or film maker as a topic to consider. Notions of body-image and role-play can be explored. The interconnections between memory and history are important in how we see ourselves. Gender, sexuality, ethnicity, nationhood, class are all important aspects of identity to consider. Feminist theories and 'postcolonial' studies are a major contribution to the explanations of and debates about identities. How have artists and film makers explored these issues? This is an opportunity for you to decide on a focus of study that may well link into your own interests in the studio.

### **Year 3: Business for the Creative Arts**

This module introduces you to the practical tools you will need to set yourself up in business in the creative arts, either as a

company, a partnership, a freelancer or an employee. It also asks you to explore, imaginatively and creatively, a sector of the creative industries, and your own potential opportunities within it. The outcome of the module is a basic business plan or employment strategy developed from your ideas. Emphasis is placed on self-reflection, innovative thinking and communication skills.

Subjects covered include: the Creative Industries; analysing business ideas; types of business model; assessing your market; ideas behind marketing; basic accounts; tax and legal issues; and planning for start-up. You will be asked to translate these into practice by applying them to your own ideas, which will then become part of your own business plan or employment strategy.

The module is delivered by lectures, seminars, student presentations, critiques and workshops.

### **Year 3: Text and Image**

This module is specifically designed to encourage you to explore interactions between text and images, alongside the development of a range of creative outcomes.

Harnessing writing as a purposeful act relevant to your own practice, the indicative content is addressed through a series of seminars and workshops. As well as developing a specific visual project, you will have the opportunity to engage in experimental writing approaches, which are intended to provide you with starting points for your creative practice.

In the contemporary world of art and design, the practitioner is often called upon to accompany creative outcomes with a variety of textual elements, and this module will help you enhance these creative and critical writing skills.

Assessment involves the development of a visual project combining text and image, which may be relevant to your studio specialism. In addition to this, you will write of a critical rationale, relating to the text and image interactions evidenced in your visual project, as well as shorter pieces of experimental writing developed alongside the visual project.

### **Year 3: Site-Specific Work**

This module consists of a project geared towards researching a specific site and finding ways and means of interacting with that site which will be shared by all those opting for the module. Many of the issues that may have been experimented with already (for example other Level 5 Fine Art modules such as Installation Practice) may well be brought to bear upon it in but these are not pre-requisites. The given site will most likely be the grounds of the Institute of Astronomy, University of Cambridge, and you will be encouraged to think of ways of relating and researching ideas relevant to the site. This might include reflecting upon the physical locations within the grounds, or thinking more obliquely about the kinds of practice and research that takes place within the Institute itself, and the corresponding issues of 'space' and 'place' in connection with these issues. Tutorial guidance will be focussed upon advising about ideas and research towards a practical outcome or intervention within the site. Critiques of projected pieces at earlier stages will also take place.

### **Year 3: Printmaking: Photographic Processes**

Photographic and digital processes now form a major element of contemporary print practice enabling artists and designers to explore a wide range of creative possibilities. Integration of digital media to such processes continues to offer potential for further innovation, particularly in combination with media such as screen-print and photo etching. The programme of study will encourage you to explore photographic print processes appropriate to your specialist discipline and individual research interests. Learning is primarily acquired through studio research in which you tests and develop your proposed ideas. You will be encouraged to explore experimental strategies towards a range of media as a means of articulating visual themes and ideas informed by practice and theory. Risk taking, through speculative and experimental investigation of print media will therefore play a significant role in the formulation of your learning. Access to workshop resources will be made available outside of specified taught hours through allocated 'open access' slots.

### **Year 3: Contemporary Digital Approaches**

This module is designed to advance your skills and knowledge of digital imaging practice. The course will illustrate how, through a more integrated approach in the use of digital imaging software in conjunction with fieldwork and research, you can articulate ideas and statements and explore new possibilities in image creation. You will be expected to have, at least, a basic knowledge and level of skill in Photoshop at the outset. You will also be expected to generate all your own source images through fieldwork and/or photography studio practice. The emphasis throughout the course will be on the integration of technique and practice to

explore ideas and concepts. By examining the imaging workflow, from capture through to output, you will experiment with different aspects of image construction to enable a clearer understanding of the processes and skills involved. There will be assignments and technical workshops to illustrate these points. You will be expected to complete assignments and to conduct contextual research to support your work. You will be expected to share your assignment outcomes and research with the rest of the class through participation in class crits. Tutorial guidance will be given to help develop your practice and research.

#### **Year 4: Research Project**

The Research Project is intended to foster your independent study with the guidance of a tutor. You will devise your own project which will reflect on /co-ordinate with / enhance your own studio work and interests. Self-reflexivity and a critical distance will be encouraged. The seminars provide a forum for students to learn from each other's research. There will be opportunities for individual tutorials with a member of staff. The Research Project may include a variety of relevant topics, including reporting on work experience. It may be illustrated with photographs, drawings, video. The approach is to be discussed with the tutor concerned.

#### **Year 4: Research Assignment**

The Research Assignment is intended to foster your independent study with the guidance of a Supervisor. On the Research Assignment module, you will devise your own project which will reflect on / co-ordinate with / enhance your own studio work and interests. Self-reflexivity and a critical distance will be encouraged. The classes provide a forum for students to learn from each other's research. There will be opportunities for individual tutorials with a member of staff. The Research Assignment may include a variety of relevant topics, and the topic will be negotiated with your supervisor. It may be illustrated with photographs, drawings, video. The approach is to be discussed with the supervisor concerned.

#### **Year 4: Working in the Creative Industries**

Gaining work experience enhances employability, and work based learning offers you the chance to gain industry knowledge, skills, contacts and networking opportunities.

This module is designed to give you the opportunity to explore a working environment in the industry that they have identified as relevant to their present or future needs. The module will encourage self-managed learning, and serves to increase employability by developing personal organisation, team-working, and networking skills - thereby increasing self-reliance and confidence. The experience can be used as a basis for directing and focussing your career plans, and can influence your final year projects.

You are required to identify, negotiate and agree with an employer (or employers) the terms of the placement in association with a module tutor, to ensure that the module learning outcomes can be achieved. You will create a reflective report on your work experience. This will include: the application procedure you have conducted (CV, letter and portfolio); market and background information on the employer; your role(s) on the placement(s); academic and vocational analysis; skills and experiences (opportunities, advantages, constraints, aptitudes and interests). You will also be asked to include a workplace diary that logs activity and supports an analysis of the learning achieved. The employer will be asked to complete a Student Feedback package on completion of the placement. The work placements may be carried out in a variety of settings depending upon your requirements, areas of interest and availability of opportunities. The minimum period will be 100 hours, and you can undertake more than one placement for the module.