

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

### Course record information

Name and level of final award:	<b>BA (Hons) Photography</b> The BA (Hons) Photography is a BA (Hons) degree that is Bologna FQ-EHEA first cycle degree or diploma compatible.
Name and level of intermediate awards:	BA Photography Diploma of Higher Education Certificate of Higher Education
Awarding body/institution:	University of Westminster
Teaching Institution:	University of Westminster
Status of awarding body/institution:	Recognised Body
Location of delivery:	Harrow site
Language of delivery and assessment:	English
Mode, length of study and normal starting month:	Three years full time <b>or</b> four years part time day. September start.
<u>QAA subject benchmarking group(s)</u> :	<a href="#">Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies</a> with additional consideration of <a href="#">Art and Design</a>
Professional statutory or regulatory body:	ARPS status if applied for on completion.
Date of course validation/review:	March 2015
Date of programme specification approval:	July 2015
Valid for cohorts:	Three years full-time: 2016/17 level 4 & 5, 2017/18 level 4, 5 & 6 Four years part-time: 2016/17 level 4, 2018/19 level 4, 5 & 6
Course Leader	Three years full-time: Gavin Jack Four years part-time: Shirley O'Loughlin
UCAS code and URL:	W640 <a href="http://westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate">westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate</a> Four years part-time: Direct entry

## Admissions requirements

There are standard minimum [entry requirements](#) for all undergraduate courses. Students are advised to check the standard requirements for the most up-to-date information.

For most courses a decision will be made on the basis of your application form alone. However, for some courses the selection process may include an interview to demonstrate your strengths in addition to any formal entry requirements.

More information can be found here: [westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/how-to-apply](http://westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/how-to-apply)

## Aims of the course

The BA (Hons) Photography has been designed to:

- Enable you to develop creative production skills across a range of photographic and lens based media.
- Enable you to develop a critically engaged and self-reflective creative practice.
- Enhance and promote your ability to adapt to creative opportunities.
- Develop your capacity to participate in contemporary cultural debates.
- Develop your awareness of the political, ethical & aesthetic implications of your work.
- Enable you to locate yourself within changing professional media contexts & practices locally and globally.
- Enable you to develop a broad range of relevant transferable skills appropriate for work in a variety of media and cultural contexts
- Prepare you for postgraduate study in related practical and theoretical disciplines.

## What will you be expected to achieve?

Learning outcomes are statements on what successful students have achieved as the result of learning. These are threshold statements of achievement the learning outcomes broadly fall into four categories:

- The overall **knowledge and understanding** you will gain from your course (KU)
- **Professional and personal practice** learning outcomes are specific skills that you will be expected to have gained on successful completion of the course (PPP)
- **Key transferable skills** that you will be expected to have gained on successful completion of the course (KTS)
- **Graduate attributes** are characteristics that you will have developed during the duration of your course. These are mapped against the Course Learning Outcomes below, in Table 1 (in the section Employment and further study opportunities).

Course learning outcomes are delivered across levels and the core modules identified in brackets below focus the delivery of particular course learning outcomes.

We also offer a range of option modules at level 5 to expand skills and experience. Core modules offer considerable choice and opportunity for specialisation within the same learning outcomes.

Note that individual modules have module-specific learning outcomes (identified in module proformas, which are published in the Course Handbook).

The following table aligns the Course Learning Outcomes to modules.

KU = Knowledge and Understanding / PPP = Professional and Personal Practice / KTS = Key Transferable Skills

<b>Level 4</b>	
<b>Course Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Developed in modules (*options)</b>
KU 4.1 Demonstrate through image making a range of photographic production skills and an understanding of visual language.	<i>The Photographic Eye; The Constructed Photograph.</i>
KU 4.2 Demonstrate awareness of the key debates in the history and theory of Photography and developments in contemporary photographic practice.	<i>All level 4 modules (including *Photography from the Cold War to the Present)</i>
KU 4.3 Demonstrate an understanding of the concepts of subjectivity, objectivity and photographic truth.	<i>All level 4 modules (including *Photography from the Cold War to the Present)</i>
PPP4.1 Creatively employ a range of contemporary photographic production practices and control analogue and digital workflows.	<i>The Photographic Eye; The Constructed Photograph.</i>
PPP 4.2 Employ methodologies for the research, analysis and the production of images and writing.	<i>All level 4 modules (including *Photography from the Cold War to the Present)</i>
PPP 4.3 Articulate, develop and communicate ideas in response to defined themes and guidelines.	<i>All level 4 modules (including *Photography from the Cold War to the Present)</i>
KTS 4.1 Communicate effectively in written, oral and audio-visual modes, acknowledging academic standards and using professional protocols.	<i>All level 4 modules (including *Photography from the Cold War to the Present)</i>
KTS 4.2 Manage study time and information, taking responsibility for your own learning, with external guidance.	<i>All level 4 modules (including *Photography from the Cold War to the Present)</i>
KTS 4.3 Negotiate collaborative working practices with other students as a member of a group, and critically evaluate your own performance and that of your peers.	<i>The Photographic Eye; The Constructed Photograph.</i>

<b>Level 5</b>	
<b>Course Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Developed in modules (* options)</b>
KU 5.1 Demonstrate fluency and depth in the key concepts and debates within contemporary visual theory.	Vision & Technology; Advanced Concepts in Photography
KU 5.2 Demonstrate awareness of current and emerging professional working practices and opportunities in the photographic arts and industries.	Beyond the Frame; Photography for Wall, Page & Screen; *Exhibition; * Professional Practice
KU 5.3 Identify a range of methods of problem solving and negotiation with both peers and external/professional bodies.	Beyond the Frame; Photography for Wall, Page & Screen; *Exhibition; * Professional Practice
PPP 5.1 Creatively and proficiently use more specialised production methods and techniques within the expanded field of photographic practice.	Beyond the Frame; Photography for Wall, Page & Screen
PPP 5.2 Employ planning strategies, conceptual development methods and critical tools, which engage with a range of photographic practices and	All level 5 modules
PPP 5.3 Identify a range of methods of problem solving and negotiation with both peers and external/professional bodies.	Beyond the Frame; Photography for Wall, Page & Screen; *Exhibition; * Professional Practice
KTS 5.1 Effectively communicate in written, oral and audio-visual modes, engaging with academic standards, professional protocols and a range of	All Level 5 modules

KTS 5.2 Manage study time and information, taking responsibility for your own learning, with limited guidance.	All Level 5 modules
KTS 5.3 Work effectively with others, demonstrating an ability to participate in an exchange of ideas and methods.	Beyond the Frame; Photography for Wall, Page & Screen; *Exhibition; * Professional Practice

<b>Level 6</b>	
<b>Course Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Developed in modules (* options)</b>
KU 6.1 Demonstrate a broad and informed historical, critical and theoretical framework for future practice.	<i>Photography Major Project 1 &amp; 2; Photography Dissertation</i>
KU 6.2 Demonstrate awareness of external professional contexts including the requirement of adaptability in the creative industries.	<i>Photography Major Project 1 &amp; 2; *Professional Futures</i>
KU 6.3 Demonstrate confidence in yourself as a critically informed practitioner making informed postgraduate career choices.	<i>Photography Major Project 1 &amp; 2; *Professional Futures</i>
PPP 6.1 Demonstrate creative and enterprising methods of problem solving and negotiation within professional production and project management.	<i>Photography Major Project 1 &amp; 2; *Professional Futures</i>
PPP 6.2 Use planning strategies, conceptual development methods and critical tools to produce work that is situated within and critically engages with contemporary professional photographic practices in diverse contexts	<i>All level 6 modules</i>
PPP 6.3 Define themes, develop a range of complex and informed responses to those themes, and select and communicate appropriate solutions.	<i>Photography Major Project 1 &amp; 2; Photography Dissertation</i>
KTS 6.1 Effectively communicate in written, oral and audio-visual modes, meeting academic standards and professional protocols, and involving a range of audiences.	<i>All Level 6 modules</i>
KTS 6.2 Manage study time and information, taking responsibility for your own learning, and apply critical reflection to this process.	<i>All Level 6 modules</i>
KTS 6.3 Work effectively with others, recognizing the varied contributions and roles that result in effective collaborative working, and offering leadership or support as appropriate.	<i>Photography Major Project 1 &amp; 2; *Professional Futures</i>

## How will you learn?

The course team implements a range of teaching strategies and methods that follow the University's guidelines in supporting independent learning. Our intentions are to foster and develop Graduate Attributes (as identified below in Employment and further study opportunities) that can help students become critically aware and skilled individuals and professionals.

We have created a learning environment that encourages the constructive development of critical analysis, reflective thinking and self-evaluation. Processes such as questioning, examining, problem solving, comparing, analysing, reflecting, speculating, deconstructing and experimenting are all encouraged to function within an intellectual framework of concepts, critical positioning, cultural awareness and diversity. We aim to engage you with the broader ethical and social contexts that affect us all, and ask you to become an effective communicator through diverse media for local and global audiences, whilst developing your creative and technical skills as contemporary practitioners.

Our teaching methods provide a range of skills and strategies so that you might examine and develop an understanding in critical photographic practice and image production and they are directly related to the aims and learning outcomes identified above. We have designed the course to lead you from a broader understanding of theoretical concepts and practical skills to highly developed analytical and professional skills by the end of level 6. At the point of graduation our intention is that you will be in a position to identify the professional opportunities open to you for your future careers.

To achieve these objectives we deliver modules that support and develop knowledge, understanding and technical skills across the three levels of the course and you are encouraged to integrate theory and practice throughout. Teaching includes lectures, seminars, workshops, supervised use of facilities, visiting speakers, work reviews, group or individual tutorials and independent study. You receive formative feedback through group and one-to-one tutorials and work reviews, throughout your studies and before final assessments. You can also apply to study part of level 5 abroad with one of our overseas exchange partners.

Core lectures in levels 4 & 5 address the whole module group, in contrast to workshops, which are normally limited to groups of approximately twenty students or fewer. Exhibition, Professional Practice and Professional Futures at levels 5 and 6 address skills required for career development and visiting artists, writers and professionals are invited to speak to groups from both Undergraduate and Postgraduate programmes.

Your final year Dissertation and Major Project are supported through focused one-to-one tuition and work reviews provide the most common context for the discussion and development of work in progress at level 6. These group sessions are highly constructive in enabling students to further develop skills in critical analysis, reflective thinking, self-evaluation, communication, supporting others and the presentation of ideas.

Scheduled teaching weeks in both semesters represent a proportion of study for each module, which may be 30% to 50% of the total student learning and teaching hours required. You are encouraged to take an increasing responsibility for time management, organisation of your studies, management of information and strategies for the production of your work and research and critical self-reflection of how your own practice stands in relation to current practice and the market place.

Research refers to a broad range of information gathering, synthesis and selection, which informs and enhances the development of your work in considerable depth. Research is documented through journals, workbooks and written blogs and includes the reflective and critical analysis of visual and critical references and contemporary photographic practice. Research need not only be library based and should include visiting exhibitions, galleries, museums, viewing films, attending performances, lectures, seminars etc.

The University's Virtual Learning Environment Blackboard supports all your modules by making available online material including course information, staff contacts, module documents, technical support, key references, discussion groups, blogs, and many other functions.

### **How will you be assessed?**

The course offers you a variety and range of assessment, which aims to measure the learning outcomes described above across the three levels of the course. All our modules are assessed through coursework in a variety of methods such as projects, essays, critical self-evaluations, research papers, journals, blogs, and a dissertation. Clear assessment criteria are stated in module documents, and these are linked to the module Learning Outcomes.

Projects provide a framework for problem solving tasks, which invite you to find solutions and to consider formats, critical and cultural contexts, issues of audience and consumption, proposed form, medium, presentation via proposal forms. Guidelines for essays and induction into essay writing are given at the start of the course and continuing support is offered through Study Skills Support and tutorials throughout. Guidelines and advice on the Dissertation module is given at the end of level 5 to enable students to develop research areas and topics before Semester 1 of your final year.

At each level of the course there are opportunities for you to work collaboratively in groups in some modules. Group working enables you to develop skills in working effectively with others, giving and receiving information, being proactive in leadership, learning to compromise and negotiate with others including dealing with conflicting opinions, learning to take individual responsibility and to delegate tasks and support others. Collaboration is encouraged within the Faculty.

Some modules assess learning outcomes through 'synoptic assessment', which allows you to combine elements of learning through an electronic journal from different modules and show your accumulated knowledge and understanding of photographic practice and theory and its integration.

Formative feedback is given to you during modules in tutorials, group discussions, seminars and work reviews to inform you of areas for improvement, and to suggest how you might develop current strengths.

You receive written summative feedback from all coursework assessments, which relates directly to the assessment criteria for each module. You also have an opportunity to discuss feedback with the module team.

## Employment and further study opportunities

University of Westminster graduates will be able to demonstrate the following five Graduate Attributes:

- Critical and creative thinkers
- Literate and effective communicator
- Entrepreneurial
- Global in outlook and engaged in communities
- Social, ethically and environmentally aware

University of Westminster courses capitalise on the benefits that London as a global city and as a major creative, intellectual and technology hub has to offer for the learning environment and experience of our students.

These Graduate Attributes are oriented towards your employability after completion of the course, and are aligned to the Course Learning Outcomes as follows:

**Table 1**  
**Alignment of Graduate Attributes to Course Learning Outcomes**

Graduate Attribute	Evident in Course Learning Outcome		
Critical and creative thinker	KU 4.1	KU 5.1	<b>KU 6.1</b>
	KU 4.2	KU 5.2	<b>KU 6.2</b>
	KU 4.3	KU 5.3	<b>KU 6.3</b>
	PPP 4.1	PPP 5.1	<b>PPP 6.1</b>
	PPP 4.2	PPP 5.2	<b>PPP 6.2</b>
	PPP 4.3	PPP 5.3	<b>PPP 6.3</b>
	KTS 4.2	KTS 5.2	<b>KTS 6.2</b>

Literate and effective communicator	KU 4.1 KU 4.2 KU 4.3 PPP 4.1 PPP 4.2 PPP 4.3 KTS 4.1 KTS 4.2 KTS 4.3	KU 5.1 KU 5.2 KU 5.3 PPP 5.1 PPP 5.2 PPP 5.3 KTS 5.1 KTS 5.2 KTS 5.3	<b>KU 6.1</b> <b>KU 6.2</b> <b>KU 6.3</b> <b>PPP 6.1</b> <b>PPP 6.2</b> <b>PPP 6.3</b> <b>KTS 6.1</b> <b>KTS 6.2</b> <b>KTS 6.3</b>
Entrepreneurial	KU 4.2 PPP 4.1 PPP 4.2 PPP 4.3 KTS 4.2 KTS 4.3	KU 5.2 PPP 5.1 PPP 5.2 PPP 5.3 KTS 5.2 KTS 5.3	<b>KU 6.2</b> <b>PPP 6.1</b> <b>PPP 6.2</b> <b>PPP 6.3</b> <b>KTS 6.2</b> <b>KTS 6.3</b>
Global in outlook and engaged in communities	KU 4.3 PPP 4.2 KTS4.1 KTS 4.3	KU 5.3 PPP 5.2 KTS 5.1 KTS 5.3	<b>KU 6.1</b> <b>PPP 6.2</b> <b>KTS 6.1</b> <b>KTS 6.3</b>
Socially, ethically and environmentally aware	KU 4.3 PPP 4.1 PPP 4.2 PPP 4.3 KTS 4.1 KTS 4.3	KU 5.3 PPP 5.1 PPP 5.2 PPP 5.3 KTS 5.1 KTS 5.3	KU 6.3 PPP 6.1 PPP 6.2 PPP 6.3 KTS 6.1 KTS 6.3

Graduates from BA (Hons) Photography are prepared for a wide range of employment in the professions and industries concerned, with the ability to fulfill both traditional roles and to participate in the rapid changes and developments that characterise the field. We regularly monitor graduate career destinations, and reflect on this information in the planning of the course curriculum. In academic terms, the course provides you with a theoretical and critical understanding of photography, giving the basis both for postgraduate study and for a broad range of employment within visual and creative industries as well as postgraduate teacher training. Our location in London facilitates you in finding such employment, as this is a global hub for the media and cultural industries.

### **Employability & Work Placement opportunities**

The course offers both formal and informal opportunities for work experience. The optional Professional Practice module in level 5 requires you to secure a period of work placement, normally for a minimum of 15 days. We encourage you to ensure that this is in an aspect of the professions most appropriate to your personal career goals. The Professional Futures module at level 6 helps you prepare for employment and further study. Our aim is to foster a culture of gathering expertise, building professional networks, and expanding academic learning with the knowledge and skills gained in professional and real world environments.

All course modules incorporate Key Transferable Skills, which are also integral to the course employability strategy. Key Transferable Skills support you in seeking entry into a broad range of other professions & employment.

A further element of our employability strategy is the use of Personal Development Planning (PDP). This enables you to reflect upon personal and career goals, and the means by which these may be achieved. We build this process into the two modules already mentioned, as well as referring you to this through the Personal Tutorial system.

## Course structure

This section shows the core and option modules available as part of the course and their credit value. Full-time Undergraduate students study 120 credits per year. Course structures can be subject to change each academic year following feedback from a variety of sources.

<b>Credit Level 4</b>				
<b>Module code</b>	<b>Module title</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>UK credit</b>	<b>ECTS</b>
4IMAG001W	The Photographic Eye	Core	40	20
4IMAG002W	Photography from Invention to Mass Medium	Core	20	10
4IMAG003W	The Constructed Photograph	Core	40	20
4IMAG004W	Photography from the Cold War to the	Option	20	10
	Westminster Elective (University Option)	Option	20	10
<b>Award of Certificate of Higher Education available</b>				
<b>Credit Level 5</b>				
<b>Module code</b>	<b>Module title</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>UK credit</b>	<b>ECTS</b>
5IMAG001W	Photography Beyond the Frame	Core	20	10
5IMAG002W	Vision & Technology	Core	20	10
5IMAG016W	Advanced Research Methods	Core	20	10
5IMAG003W	Photography for Wall, Page & Screen	Core	20	10
5IMAG004W	Advanced Concepts in Photography	Core	20	10
5IMAG005W	Exhibition (Cluster Option)	Option	20	10
5IMAG006W	Professional Practice (Cluster Option)	Option	20	10
5CTAD001W	Creative Encounters (Faculty Option)	Option	20	10
	Westminster Elective (University Option)	Option	20	10
<b>Award of Diploma of Higher Education or Foundation Degree available</b>				
<b>Credit Level 6</b>				
<b>Module code</b>	<b>Module title</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>UK credit</b>	<b>ECTS</b>
6IMAG001W	Photography Major Project – Enquiry &	Core	20	10
6IMAG002W	Photography Dissertation	Core	40	20
6IMAG003W	Photography Major Project – Realisation &	Core	40	20
6IMAG004W	Professional Futures	Option	20	10
	Westminster Elective (University Option)	Option	20	10
<b>Award of BA Honours available Award of BA</b>				

Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year.

## Professional Body Accreditation or other external references

Associateship of the Royal Photographic Society is available if applied for on completion of the course.



## **Academic regulations**

The current Handbook of Academic Regulations is available at [westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations](http://westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations)

## **How will you be supported in your studies?**

### **Course Management**

The course is managed by two Course Leaders, within the Faculty of Media, Arts and Design, on the Harrow site. The Dean of Faculty and senior Faculty staff provide support and management at their respective levels. Year Leaders oversee course delivery and the staff team collectively support the management of the course through responsibilities as module leaders, personal tutors, admissions tutors and theory co-ordinator.

The professional and research practice of the staff team informs the delivery of the course to ensure that we reflect current and emerging concerns and developments. The course team participates in annual appraisal and observation of their teaching by their colleagues and staff development is encouraged and enhanced through conference attendance and research activity.

The Faculty organises away-days to identify and address ways of improving the design and delivery of its courses. Course teams undergo annual appraisal and observation of their teaching by their colleagues leading to staff development through course attendance or research activity. The staff team attend events organised by the LTQE Teaching and Learning Groups around current teaching, learning and assessment issues.

### **Academic Support**

Upon arrival, an Orientation programme will introduce you to the staff responsible for the course, the campus on which you will be studying, the Library and IT facilities, additional support available and to your Faculty Registry Office. You will be provided with the Course Handbook, which provides detailed information about the course. Each course has a course leader. All students enrolled on the BA (Hons) Photography have a personal tutor, who provides advice and guidance on academic matters. The University uses a Virtual Learning Environment called Blackboard where students access their course materials, and can communicate and collaborate with staff and other students.

### **Learning Support**

The Academic Learning Development Centre supports students in developing the skills required for higher education. As well as online resources in Blackboard, students have the opportunity to attend Study Skills workshops and one to one appointments.

Learning support includes four libraries, each holding a collection of resources related to the subjects taught at that site. Students<sup>1</sup> can search the entire library collection online through the Library Search service to find and reserve printed books, and access electronic resources (databases, e-journals, e-books). Students can choose to study in the libraries, which have areas for silent and group study, desktop computers, laptops for loan, photocopying and printing services. They can also choose from several computer rooms at each campus where desktop computers are available with the general and specialist software that supports the courses taught at their Faculty. Students can also securely connect their own laptops and mobile devices to the University wireless network.

## **Support Services**

The University of Westminster Student Affairs department provide advice and guidance on accommodation, financial and legal matters, personal counselling, health and disability issues, careers, specialist advice for international students and the chaplaincy providing multi-faith guidance. The University of Westminster Students' Union also provides a range of facilities to support students during their time at the University.

## **How do we ensure the quality of our courses and continuous improvement?**

BA (Hons) Photography was initially approved by a University Validation Panel in 1990. The panel included internal peers from the University, academic(s) from another university and a representative from industry. This helps to ensure the comparability of the course to those offered in other universities and the relevance to employers.

The course is also monitored each year by the Faculty to ensure it is running effectively and that issues which might affect the student experience have been appropriately addressed. Staff will consider evidence about the course, including the outcomes from Course Committees, evidence of student progression and achievement and the reports from external examiners, to evaluate the effectiveness of the course. Each Faculty puts in to place an action plan. This may for example include making changes on the way the module is taught, assessed or even how the course is structured in order to improve the course, in such cases an approval process is in place.

A Course review takes place periodically to ensure that the curriculum is up-to-date and that the skills gained on the course continue to be relevant to employers. Students meet with review panels to provide feedback on their experiences. Student feedback from previous years e.g. from Course Committees is also part of the evidence used to assess how the course has been running.

## **How do we act on student feedback?**

Student feedback is important to the University and student views are taken seriously. Student feedback is gathered in a variety of ways.

- Through Course Committees students have the opportunity to express their voice in the running of their course. Student representatives are elected to Committee to expressly represent the views of their peer. The University and the Students' Union work together to provide a full induction to the role of the student representatives.
- Each Faculty also has its own Faculty Student Forum with student representatives; this enables wider discussions across the Faculty. Student representatives are also represented on key Faculty and university committees.
- All students are invited to complete a questionnaire before the end of each module. The feedback from this will inform the module leader on the effectiveness of the module and highlight areas that could be enhanced.
- The University also has an annual Student Experience Survey which seeks the opinions of students about their course and University experience. Final year Undergraduate students will be asked to complete the National Student Survey which helps to inform the national university league tables.

**Please note:** This programme specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. This specification should be read in conjunction with the Course Handbook provided to students and Module Handbooks, which provide more detailed information on the specific learning outcomes, content, teaching, learning and assessment methods for each module.

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