Programme Specification

Course record information

Name and level of final award	- Bachelor of Arts with Honours - Photography - Bachelor of Arts with Honours - BA Photography with Professional Experience FT The award is Bologna FQ-EHEA first cycle degree or diploma compatible
Name and level of intermediate awards	- Diploma of Higher Education (Dip HE) - Photography - Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) - Photography
Awarding body/institution	University of Westminster
Teaching institution	University of Westminster
Status of awarding body/institution	Recognised Body
Location of delivery	Primary: Harrow
Language of delivery and assessment	English
QAA subject benchmarking group(s)	Art and Design
Professional statutory or regulatory body	N/A
Westminster course title, mode of attendance and standard length	- BA Photography FT, Full-time, September start - 3 years standard length with an optional year placement - BA Photography PT, Part-time day, September start - 6 years standard length with an optional year placement
Valid for cohorts	From 2022/3 Course version following revalidation in 2020

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: https://www.westminster.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/how-to-apply

Recognition of Prior Learning

Applicants with prior certificated or experiential learning at the same level of the qualification for which they wish to apply are advised to visit the following page for further information:

https://www.westminster.ac.uk/current-students/guides-and-policies/student-matters/recognition-of-prior-learning

Aims of the programme

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.
- Develop and enhance your ability to initiate and adapt to creative and professional opportunities.
- Develop your capacity to engage in critical discourse in both written and verbal forms.
- Develop your awareness of the political, ethical & aesthetic implications of your work.
- Enable you to locate yourself within a dynamic professional contexts and practices both locally and globally.
- Enable you to develop a broad range of relevant transferable skills appropriate for employment in a variety of media and cultural contexts
- Prepare you for postgraduate study in related practical and theoretical disciplines.

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.

The BA (Hons) Photography aims to create graduates who are prepared for a wide range of employment in the professions and industries concerned, with the ability to fulfil 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. Graduates go on to pursue careers as photographers, curators, magazine editors, educators and other related careers. We also prepare our students for post-graduate studies at The Royal College of Art, The Slade School of Art & Central Saint Martin's.

Employability & Work Placement opportunities
The course offers both formal and informal opportunities for work experience. You will be introduced to the professional presentation of your work and the professional use of social media sites within the core module - Photography: Enquiries and Responses at level 4, your first year of studies.

The second year includes a core Work-Based Professional Learning module in which students may undertake a short work placement and begin to develop their industry connections and awareness.

Students may also undertake an optional year-long placement between their second and third year. Students who take advantage of this option will undertake an additional year long Industry Placement Year module running parallel to their work placement, and their final degree award will be BA Honours Photography with Professional Experience.

Students also have the opportunity to undertake a semester abroad on a study abroad exchange in the second year of their course with one of a number of partner institutions around the world.

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 throughout your three years of study 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.

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)
- Graduate attributes are characteristics that you will have developed during the duration of your course (GA)
- 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)

Level 4 course learning outcomes: upon completion of Level 4 you will be able to:

- 4.1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of contemporary and historical photography practice (KU)

- 4.2 Comprehend and express concepts in photographic theory and criticism (KU)

- 4.3 Utilise research methodologies and practices (KU)

- 4.4 Understand and deploy digital and analogue photography workflows (PPP)

- 4.5 Propose, create and present work in the artform, creative practice or discipline of study (PPP)

- 4.6 Make critical and reflective judgements in response to defined themes and guidelines (PPP)

- 4.7 Communicate effectively in written, oral and audio-visual modes, meeting academic standards and professional protocols (KTS)

- 4.8 Manage study time and information, taking responsibility for your own learning, with external guidance. (KTS)

- 4.9 Negotiate collaborative working practices with other students as a member of a group, and critically evaluate your own performance and that of your peers (KTS)

Level 5 course learning outcomes: upon completion of Level 5 you will be able to:

- 5.1 Demonstrate comprehension and application of key concepts and debates within contemporary photography and visual theory, including ethical dimensions in creative practice (KU)

- 5.2 Demonstrate awareness of current and emerging professional working practices and opportunities in the photographic arts and industries (KU)

- 5.3 Identify and employ creative problem-solving methods and techniques (KU)

- 5.4 Utilise analogue and digital workflows effectively according to context, to professional and industry standards. (PPP)

- 5.5 Demonstrate creativity and proficiency in specialist and expanded photographic methods and techniques. (PPP)

- 5.6 Synthesise conceptual and practical strategies in formulating and resolving propositions in photography (PPP)

- 5.7 Work effectively with others, demonstrating an ability to participate in an exchange of ideas and methods (KTS)

- 5.8 Manage own study time, demonstrating independent learning and self-initiation of creative projects (KTS)

- 5.9 Communicate effectively in written, oral or audio-visual modes, engaging with academic standards, professional protocols and a range of audiences (KTS)

Additional Year course learning outcomes: upon completion of Additional Year you will be able to:

- 001 Demonstrate awareness of current and emerging professional working practices and opportunities in the photographic arts and industries (KU)

Level 6 course learning outcomes: upon completion of Level 6 you will be able to:

- 6.1 Demonstrate a broad and informed historical, critical and theoretical framework for future practice (KU)

- 6.2 Demonstrate awareness of external professional contexts and an ability to adapt knowledge and skills appropriately (KU)

- 6.3 Demonstrate creative and enterprising methods of problem solving and negotiation within professional production and project management (PPP)

- 6.4 Use planning strategies, practical and critical skills to produce high-quality, well-informed and critically engaged work across a variety of professional contexts (PPP)

- 6.5 Develop and communicate thorough and informed responses to self directed themes (PPP)

- 6.6 Work effectively with others as a leader or a team member, understanding the varied contributions and roles in effective collaboration (KTS)

- 6.7 Manage study time and information, taking responsibility for your own learning, and apply critical reflection to this process (KTS)

- 6.8 Communicate effectively to diverse audiences in written, oral and audio-visual modes, meeting academic standards and professional protocols as appropriate (KTS)

How will you learn?

Learning methods

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 photography practitioners.

Teaching methods

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 practical teaching and workshops, which are normally limited to groups of approximately twenty students or fewer. Each group works with one tutor for the duration of a module although there are opportunities for receiving feedback from other staff teaching on the module. Exhibition/Live Project, 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 Research Project 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. In addition we run a series of workshops that both revise and develop technical and creative skills.

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 the university's online platform Folio 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, video tutorials, and many other functions.

Assessment methods

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/Folio, 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 form, medium, presentation via project 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.

Some modules assess learning outcomes through 'synoptic assessment', which allows you to combine elements of learning through Folio 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 the current strengths of your work.

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.

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.

Modules are described as:

- **Core** modules are compulsory and must be undertaken by all students on the course.

- **Option** modules give you a choice of modules and are normally related to your subject area.

- **Electives**: are modules from across the either the whole University or your College. Such modules allow you to broaden your academic experience. For example, where electives are indicated you may choose to commence the study of a foreign language alongside your course modules (and take this through to the final year), thereby adding further value to your degree.

- Additional information may also be included above each level for example where you must choose one of two specific modules.

Modules

Level 4

Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
4CTAD001W	Creativity and Collaboration	Core	20	10
4IMAG002W	Photography and its Origins	Core	20	10
4IMAG015W	Photography: Enquiries and Responses	Core	20	10
4IMAG013W	Photography: Identity and Place	Core	20	10
4IMAG014W	Photography: Stranger than Fiction	Core	20	10
4IMAG004W	Photography in the Post War Era	Option	20	10
		Elective	20	10

Level 5

Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
5IMAG017W	Photography: Beyond The Frame	Core	40	20
5IMAG004W	The Photographic Voice	Core	20	10
5CTAD002W	Work Based and Placement Learning	Core	20	10
5IMAG003W	Photography in Context	Option	20	10
5IMAG016W	The Critical Image	Option	20	10
		Elective	20	10

Additional Year

For students on the 4-year route leading to BA Photography with Professional Experience.

Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
6CTAD002W	Industry Placement Semester 1	Option	60	30
6CTAD003W	Industry Placement Year Semester 2	Option	60	30

Level 6

Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
6IMAG001W	Photography Major Project 1 – Enquiry & Development	Core	20	10
6IMAG003W	Photography Major Project 2 – Realisation & Refinement	Core	40	20
6CTAD001W	Research Project	Core	40	20
6IMAG004W	Professional Futures	Option	20	10
		Elective	20	10

Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year. In addition, timetabling and limited spaces may mean you cannot register for your first choice of option modules.

Professional body accreditation or other external references

N/A

Course management

The course is managed by two Course Leaders, within the Westminster School of Arts on the Harrow site. The Head of School and Assistant Head of School provide support and management at their respective levels. Year Leaders oversee course delivery at each level of study and the staff team collectively support the management of the course through responsibilities as module leaders, personal tutors, admissions tutors and theory coordinator.

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. Technical staff support the delivery of modules and technical aspects of photographic production.

As a staff team we make considerable use of the Course Representative and Committee Meetings, at least twice each year these meetings bring representatives from the student body and staff together. Students and staff can formally raise issues and comment on the course from their various perspectives and involvements.

Academic regulations

The current Handbook of Academic Regulations is available at westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations.

Course specific regulations apply to some courses.

Academic Support

Upon arrival, an induction 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 Campus Registry. You will be provided with the Course Handbook, which provides detailed information about the course. Each course has a course leader or Director of Studies. All students enrolled on a full-time course and part time students registered for more than 60 credits a year 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. Further information on Blackboard can be found at https://www.westminster.ac.uk/current-students/studies/your-student-journey/when-you-arrive/blackboard

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. Further information on the Academic Learning Development Centre can be found at westminster.ac.uk/academic-learning-development.

Learning support includes four libraries, each holding a collection of resources related to the subjects taught at that site. Students1 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 in their College. Students can also securely connect their own laptops and mobile devices to the University wireless network.

Support Services

The University of Westminster Student and Academic Services 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. Further information on the advice available to students can be found at https://www.westminster.ac.uk/student-advice

The University of Westminster Students' Union also provides a range of facilities to support students during their time at the University. Further information on UWSU can be found at https://www.westminster.ac.uk/students-union

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

The course was initially approved by a University Validation Panel. University Panels normally include internal peers from the University, academic(s) from another university. a representative from industry and a Student Advisor.

The course is also monitored each year by the College 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 evidence of student surveys, student progression and achievement and reports from external examiners, in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the course and make changes where necessary.

A Course revalidation 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 revalidation panels to provide feedback on their experiences. Student feedback from previous years 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 student engagement activities at Course/Module level, students have the opportunity to express their voice in the running of their course. Course representatives are elected to expressly represent the views of their peers. The University and the Students' Union work together to provide a full induction to the role of the course representatives.

- There are also School Representatives appointed jointly by the University and the Students' Union who meet with senior School staff to discuss wider issues affecting student experience across the School. Student representatives are also represented on key College 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.

- Final year Undergraduate students will be asked to complete the National Student Survey which helps to inform the national university league tables.

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 they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. This specification is supplemented by the Course Handbook, Module proforma and Module Handbooks provided to students. Copyright in this document belongs to the University of Westminster. All rights are reserved. This document is for personal use only and may not be reproduced or used for any other purpose, either in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of the University of Westminster. All copies of this document must incorporate this Copyright Notice – 2022©