Course Specification
Part A

MA Photography
AHT055
Faculty of Arts and Humanities
Academic Year: 2021/22

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

We regularly review our course content, to make it relevant and current for the benefit of our students. For these reasons, course modules may be updated.

More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content, and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the Module Information Directory (MID), student module guide(s) and the course handbook.

The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University and may be verified by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

PART A Course Specification (Published Document) MA Photography

1. Introduction

The MA Photography course at Coventry University offers an exciting opportunity for emerging practitioners in the field of photography and its associated forms to develop their work via a series of key interrogations. In providing spaces for exploration and reflection in relation to publics, visual strategies and the contextual location of independent work, the course presents a distinctive way for students to explore the possibilities of their work alongside a longitudinal development of their core practice. The course challenges students to imagine, and work with, new audiences, processes and professional futures in order to enter into a sustainable and flexible career working with images.

Sitting within a cluster of postgraduate courses at Coventry's School of Media and Performing Arts, the curriculum will encourage and facilitate working across disciplines and with peers employing different processes, tools and techniques. The course welcomes practitioners with diverse backgrounds and adopts an approach to photography which considers practice not as isolated from associated mediums and methodologies but within an 'expanded field' (Baker, 2005). In this manner, students on the MA Photography may work with archives, produce installation pieces, publish, run collaborative projects and blur traditional genre and medium boundaries. The course has been constructed to provide essential places of experimentation and diversification of skills and knowledge, whilst also encouraging rigour in the student's practice which leads to its robust situation within social, political, and visual contexts.

As part of the School of Media and Performing Arts in the Faculty for the Arts and Humanities, the MA in Photography is supported by a range of scholars and practitioners as well as peers working across mediums and fields. Run by the photography team who built an innovate and successful BA course (3 times Guardian no 1 ranked course in the last decade), this MA is able to build upon the many established connections, visiting speakers and resources that make Coventry an ideal place to further your photographic career. The curriculum will challenge and support your existing work, and in a symbiosis of research and practice will engender a robust and rigorous way of working that can be adapted to radically reformulating landscape of photography.

As part of this course students will undertake a transnational development module which is designed to offer skills as encouraged by the Institute of Leadership and Management. This module also offers the choice to tailor professional skills from a menu focussing on leadership, transcultural communications and professional skills.

Professional Experience

During semester one, students can apply for the extended route, which offers an opportunity to reflect upon and gain professional experience through three semesters of internship or placement* with a host of different organisations. Students can also undertake or participate in supervised, campus-based University projects. The professional experience supports the development of students' personal and professional skills, such as communication, team-working, self-management, project working and critical reflection to enhance their future employability. This experience will build up on students' previous learning and experiences and encourage them to reflect on their work and skill sets prior to undertaking the final sixty credits of M level study.

Professional experience placements may be paid or unpaid, and this will depend on what is being offered and agreed with the host organisation. Internships can be international, within the UK or may be internal, within the University. Students who secure appropriate campus-based professional experience, may undertake supervised projects, related research and activities designed to offer students the opportunity to develop and integrate curriculum related skills with an understanding of professional practice.

*Internships and placements are subject to competitive application, availability and additional fees.

2 Available Award(s) and Modes of Study

Title of Award	Mode of attendance	UCAS Code	FHEQ Level

MA Photography with Professional Placement Experience MA Photography PGDip Photography PGCert Photography	FT 2 years/FT 1 year/PT 2 years		7

3 Awarding Institution/Body	Coventry University.
4 Collaboration	N/A
5 Teaching Institution and Location of delivery	Coventry University, delivered on-campus with one module delivered online
6 Internal Approval/Review Dates	Date of latest review: (06/2020) Date for next review: (Academic year 2026/2027)
7 Course Accredited by	N/A
8 Accreditation Date and Duration	N/A
9 QAA Subject Benchmark Statement(s) and/or other external factors	This document takes note of the QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for Art and Design (2017), and Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies (2019) whilst noting their applicability to undergraduate courses: Art and Design Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies This document takes note of the generic benchmark document for Masters courses: https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/master's-degree-characteristics
10 Date of Course Specification	June 2020
11 Course Director	Matt Johnston

12 Outline and Educational Aims of the Course

MA Photography will focus on exploring the creative possibilities and boundaries of photography and its expanded forms.

This course provides a unique opportunity for students to be immersed in a field of contemporary photographic practice—building their profiles as independent reflexive practitioners while they learn. Their artistic development will be nurtured through an engagement with a range of contextualising theoretical models, including public art, visual anthropology, community photography, post-digitality, post-photography and publishing. This conceptual underpinning prepares students to reflect critically on practices and frameworks relevant to their own work, while developing their own artistic practice and models making.

The educational aims for the course are in line with the University mission statement, which pertain for the School of Media and Performing Arts as a whole.

MA Photography aims enable:

- Opportunities to develop a rigorous critical understanding of current and emerging critical-contextual

frameworks and key debates relation to the student's own emerging practice.

- Engagement with a critical-creative process which evaluates and employs appropriate methods in the production of original work.

- The ability to locate their practice in relation to contemporary and historic practices as well as professional contexts.

- Opportunities to work collaboratively in response to emerging issues and debates in contemporary society and to critically reflect on the communicative properties of their responses.

- The resolution of complex and nuanced praxis for specific audiences within, and outside of, traditional presentational spaces for photography and research.

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13 Course Learning Outcomes

The course outcomes have been mapped against the 6 pillars of the Education Strategy:

a) Creativity & enterprise
b) Intercultural & international engagement
c) Community contribution and responsibility
d) Innovation & digital fluency
e) Employability
f) Research-inspired teaching

On successful completion of the course a student will be able to:

1. Identify, define and propose a creative and original body of work which is supported by advanced research and contextual understanding. (a, d, e)

2. Critically analyse photographs as well as their modes of production and display in socio-political contexts associated with a chosen field of photographic practice. (b, f)

3. Engage with a robust critical-creative process and apply advanced technical and methodological skills specific to the creation of photographic work. (a, d)

4. Experiment with, and critically evaluate, a variety of means by which photographic work can be communicated to identified audiences. (a, c, e, f)

5. Demonstrate the ability to work with, and synthesize, complex themes across written, oral and visual outputs. (a, c, e)

6. Collaborate with practitioners in associated fields to respond creatively to stimuli that relates to socio-political, technological and artistic environments. (b, c, d, e)

7. Explore and evaluate the creative, technical and business opportunities arising in the global cultural industries for their photographic practice, and integrate these into their project, business or career aims. (a, e)

14 Course Structure and Requirements, Levels, Modules, Credits and Awards

Professional Experience
During semester 1, students who have expressed an interest in undertaking a work placement or internship should begin the application process for these opportunities. Students have the responsibility for securing a placement/internship. They will be supported throughout the application process by a specialist employer engagement team. The university will work with employers to identify opportunities. Subject to securing a placement/internship, the

International Student Support team will work with international students to obtain UK study visa extensions. Visas required to work in other countries will be the responsibility of the student.

The course is structured so that students complete two semesters of taught modules and then could spend three semesters on professional experience placement. During this time students would be enrolled onto modules 7055MAPA, 7056MAPA, and 7057MAPA. The modules are zero credit and do not contribute to the classification of the award but must be passed to complete the placement. Upon completion of the work placement, students would return to Coventry to complete the final semester during which time they undertake their project module which may be informed by the learning acquired during the professional experience.

Cascade of Awards:
MA Photography with Professional Experience Placement

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MA Photography

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PGDip Photography

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PGCert Photography

Interim Awards will be offered at 60 credits (PGCert Photography) and 120 credits (PGDip Photography) alongside 180 credits (MA). These awards will be offered at early withdrawal from the MA Photography course and are not structured as programmes of study within their own right.

Modules within the course, their status (whether mandatory or options), the levels at which they are studied, and their credit value are identified in the table below.

Credit level	Module Code	Title	Credit Value	Mandatory or Optional	Course Learning Outcomes
7	7073MAPA	Photographic situations	20	M	2, 5, 6, 7
7	7074MAPA	Photography and Publics	20	M	2, 3, 4, 5
7	7075MAPA	Objects, spaces and boundaries	20	M	3, 4, 5
7	7058MAPA	Research Methods	20	M	1, 3
7	7059MAPA	Final Major Project: Research and Planning	30	M	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
7	7060MAPA	Final Major Project: Production and Sharing	30	M	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
7	7061MAPA	Collaborative Community Project	10	M	3, 6
7	7063MAPA	Collaborative Enterprise Project	10	M	3, 6
7	7062MAPA	Collaborative social challenge project	10	M	3, 6
7	7001CGE	Transnational Professional Development	10	M	7

Credit level	Module Code	Title	Credit Value	Mandatory/ Optional	Course Learning Outcomes
Subject to securing an appropriate placement opportunity and fulfilling the selection requirements, students will be transferred to the two-year course and the zero credit modules listed below are to be taken.					
7	7055MAPA	Extended Masters Professional Experience Module A	0	Optional	6, 7
7	7056MAPA	Extended Masters Professional Experience Module B	0	Optional	6, 7
7	7057MAPA	Extended Masters Professional Experience Module C	0	Optional	6, 7
The work placement is to be taken over three semesters and prior to the final dissertation/project that must be taken in the final semester of the course.					

Delivery Patterns:

The MA Photography has three possible entry points (September, January and May) and students can study in both F/T and P/T modes. Students on the programme will follow one of the delivery patterns outlined in the tables below.

Delivery Pattern	Full Time					
Starting Semester	September					
Semester 1 (Sept)	Semester 2 (Jan)	Semester 3 (May)				
Objects, Spaces and Boundaries (20)	Photography and Publics (20)	Photographic situations (20)				
Research Skills (20)	Final Major Project: Research and Planning (30)	Final Major Project: Production and Sharing (30)				
Transnational Professional Development (10)	Collaborative Community Project (10)	Collaborative Enterprise Project (10)				
Collaborative Social Challenge Project (10)						
Delivery Pattern	Full Time					
Starting Semester	January					
Semester 1 (Jan)	Semester 2 (May)	Semester 3 (Sept)				
Photography and Publics (20)	Photographic Situations (20)	Objects, Spaces and Boundaries (20)				
Research Skills (20)	Final Major Project: Research and Planning (30)	Final Major Project: Production and Sharing (30)				

Transnational Professional Development (10)	Collaborative Enterprise Project (10)	Collaborative Social Challenge Project (10)
Collaborative Community Project (10)		

Delivery Pattern	**Full Time**
Starting Semester	**May**

Semester 1 (May)	Semester 2 (Sept)	Semester 3 (Jan)
Photographic Situations (20)	Objects, Spaces and Boundaries (20)	Photography and Publics (20)
Research Skills (20)	Final Major Project: Research and Planning (30)	Final Major Project: Production and Sharing (30)
Transnational Professional Development (10)	Collaborative Social Challenge Project (10)	Collaborative Community Project (10)
Collaborative Enterprise Project (10)		

Delivery Pattern	**Part Time**
Starting Semester	**September**

Semester 1 (Sept)	Semester 2 (Jan)	Semester 3 (May)	Semester 1 (Y2) (Sept)	Semester 2 (Y2) (Jan)	Semester 3 (Y2) (May)
Research Skills (20)	Objects, Spaces and Boundaries (20)	Photographic Situations (20)	Photographic Situations (20)	Final Major Project: Research and Planning (30)	Final Major Project (Production and Sharing) (30)
Collaborative Social Challenge Project (10)	Collaborative Community Project (10)	Collaborative Enterprise Project (10)	Transnational Professional Development (10)		

Delivery Pattern	**Part Time**
Starting Semester	**January**

Semester 1 (Jan)	Semester 2 (May)	Semester 3 (Sept)	Semester 1 (Y2) (Jan)	Semester 2 (Y2) (May)	Semester 3 (Y2) (Sept)
Research Skills (20)	Photographic Situations (20)	Objects, Spaces and Boundaries (20)	Photography and Publics (20)	Final Major Project: Research and Planning (30)	Final Major Project: Production and Sharing (30)

Collaborative Community Project (10)	Collaborative Enterprise Project (10)	Collaborative Social Challenge Project (10)	Transnational Professional Development (10)		
Delivery Pattern	**Part Time**				
Starting Semester	**May**				
Semester 1 (May)	Semester 2 (Sept)	Semester 3 (Jan)	Semester 1 (Y2) (May)	Semester 2 (Y2) (Sept)	Semester 3 (Y2) (Jan)
Research Skills (20)	Objects, Spaces and Boundaries (20)	Photography and Publics (20)	Photographic Situations (20)	Final Major Project: Research and Planning (30)	Final Major Project: Production and Sharing (30)
Collaborative Social Challenge Project (10)	Collaborative Community Project (10)	Collaborative Enterprise Project (10)	Transnational Professional Development (10)		

15 Criteria for Admission and Selection Procedure

General requirements are in line with University Policy. Specific entry requirements can be found via the 'Entry Requirements' tab on the course web page. Successful applicants are usually expected to hold a good honours degree, or equivalent.

Applicants to this Masters degree should normally possess a good honours degree (2:1 or equivalent). If the degree is in an unrelated subject, applicants need to demonstrate relevant industry knowledge and experience to be documented in their application statement, as per below. Candidates with professional/industrial experience, and/or other relevant training and experience may be admitted with lower qualifications. Non-traditional entry students are welcome: applicants without formal qualifications but professional/industrial experience may be admitted on the basis of interview and submission of supporting material (see below).

Students whose first language is not English must demonstrate proficiency in the English language equivalent to IELTS
6.5.

Each application will be required to include a 'statement of intent' (500), and applicants may be required to provide other supporting material, e.g. full marks/results records, or examples of their practical, professional or academic work. Eligible applicants will be interviewed by videoconferencing.

For students entering with advanced standing, the course conforms to the standard university RP(E)L procedure

Further information can be found via the Postgraduate Study page: https://www.coventry.ac.uk/study-atcoventry/postgraduate-study/

16 Academic Regulations and Regulations of Assessment

This Course conforms to the standard University Academic Regulations Postgraduate Mode R.

17 Indicators of Quality Enhancement

The MA Photography is managed by the School of Media and Performing Art's Board of Study of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities. The Course and its constituent modules are quality assured by the Board of Study (BoS).

The Progression and Awards Board (PAB) within the Faculty of Arts and Humanities is responsible for considering the progress of all students and making awards in accordance with both University and course-specific regulations.

The assurance of the quality of modules is the responsibility of the Boards of Study which contribute modules to the course.

External Examiners have the opportunity to moderate all assessment tasks and a sample of assessed work for each module. They will report annually on the course and/or constituent modules and their views are considered as part of the Course Quality Enhancement Monitoring (CQEM). Details of the CQEM process can be found on the Registry's web site.

Students are represented on the Student Forum, Board of Study and Faculty Board, all of which normally meet two or three times per year.

Student views are also sought through module and course evaluation questionnaires and the Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES).

Student career or project trajectories throughout the course should mirror those in industry, freelance or art world contexts. The flexible structure has been designed to accommodate technical and creative developments.

- The course has been designed in accordance with the QAA benchmark statements for Art and Design 2017 and Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies 2019.
- The School has a strong portfolio of practice and academic research, and 71% of the REF 2014 submission was ranked 3 or 4* in the Art and Design: History, Practice and Theory category
- The BA (Hons) Photography course has ranked 1st in the Guardian League Tables 3 times in the last ten years and has remained in the top 10 for X years
- The University was awarded a gold rating for teaching excellence in the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) 2017
- The University was rated Top 4 for Student Experience and Teaching Quality in The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2017
- The University has been rated in the top 15 for five years running in the Guardian University Guide (20162020)
- Coventry has been awarded *University of the Year for Student Experience* (The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2019)
- Coventry University has received an overall 5-star rating from QS.

All courses are subject to a major review involving subject experts external to the University, normally on a three-year cycle. At these reviews the views of current and former students and employers are sought where appropriate.

Staff development follows the School of Media and Performing Arts strategy. Members of the School have undertaken the University's PGCert in Higher Education, are members of external academic and professional bodies, and participate in internal staff development activities.

Members of the BA course team who shall contribute to this MA course are internationally regarded, working professionally in a range of industries as artists, writers, editors, cultural producers, and photographers. They have worked for diverse clients such as Harley Davidson, The Sunday Times Magazine, Channel 4 and Comic Relief as well contributing to the reviewing of national and international awards like the Google and Saatchi image competition and several photobook prizes. Members of the team has exhibited work at the New Art Gallery, Wallsall, IC Visual Lab, Bristol, Artvilnius, Lithuania and the Jaipur Photography Festival, India, all of which is symbiotic with research profiles that position them as experts in particular areas of photographic practice – spanning family photography and the role of the studio, through photobooks and their readers, to photography as a participatory practice and the materiality of the archive. All members of the Course Team hold qualifications in teaching and learning in higher education and have extensive pedagogical experience having worked at, and with, a number of UK. The team holds a number of accolades and positions in relation to their pedagogical practice – from external examiner proles at five UK universities to guest lectures internationally, keynote speeches, the hosting of the annual APHE (Photographers in Higher Education) conference (2019), and a National Teaching Fellowship.

18 Additional Information

Enrolled students have access to additional, key sources of information about the course and student support including:
- Student Handbook
- Module Guides
- Module Information Directory
- Faculty of Arts and Humanities Handbook
- Study Support information is accessible from student services home page