MA Photography

Programme Specification

1. Programme title	MA Photography
	PG Dip Photography
	PG Cert Photography
2. Awarding institution	Middlesex University
3a. Teaching institution	Middlesex University
3b. Language of study	English
4a. Valid intake dates	January start
4b. Mode of study	PT/FT
	Online/on campus
5. Professional/Statutory/Regulatory body	
6. Apprenticeship Standard	
7. Final qualification(s) available	MA Photography
	PG Dip Photography
	PG Cert Photography
8. Year effective from	**2021/22**

9. Criteria for admission to the programme

-Appropriate qualifications or experience:
 a) A good honours degree in Photography or a relevant art and design subject, or a recognized equivalent professional qualification.
b) Applicants with a good honours degree in a non-art and design subject and substantial experience working within the field, or able to demonstrate an aptitude for working in art and design at this level, may be considered.
c) Applicants without the normal qualifications but who have extensive and substantial work experience in appropriate areas may be considered through accreditation of prior learning (APEL).
In all cases, admission is dependent on:
-Evidence of subject-related skills - through submission of a portfolio of work.
-Sufficient command of the English language – those applicants for whom English is not the first language must demonstrate evidence of attainment by an IELTS overall

score of 6.5 or higher (with no component achieving less than 6), or equivalent. Applicants with less than six in any component score are strongly recommended to undertake the University's pre-sessional English Language Course.

-Supportive academic/professional references.

-An appropriate personal statement which outlines in general terms an area of interest that would provide the focus of study and with reference to the following guideline headings:

i) an area of interest or a provisional title.

ii) background experience directly or indirectly relevant to the proposed area of study.

iii) consideration about how your research might be done (even though this may change later) and any possible outcome(s).

iv) an indication of the resources considered necessary to undertake a successful investigation.

 v) evidence of an initial exploration in the area of the project and reference to research and practice that has already been carried out by the applicant and/or others.

10. Aims of the programme

This MA Photography programme is built around the following guiding aims:

Research: to provide an engaging and challenging academic environment that supports an exploratory, reflective and critical approach to advanced research and photographic practice

Practice: to facilitate the attainment of industry level skills in photography and the development of strategies for the full and appropriate realisation of independent, in-depth, ethically responsible and discursive photographic projects

Collaboration: to extend individual projects through considered collaboration with others and through cross-disciplinary investigation

Communication: to facilitate students in finding their own voice and visual language, while also locating their work and disciplinary specialism within national and international professional and academic contexts

Employability: to expand individual skills appropriate to extending their practice further and pursuing a career in photography, the creative industries or high-level research and scholarship.

11. Programme outcomes*

A. Knowledge and understanding	**Teaching/learning methods**
On completion of this programme the successful student will have a systematic knowledge and comprehensive understanding of: A1. The range, social significance and history of contemporary photographic practice and the social role of the creative practitioner.	Students gain knowledge and understanding through: - technical tuition - participation in workshops, lectures, seminars, debates and tutorials - self-directed research studies - ongoing processes of thinking through and making work

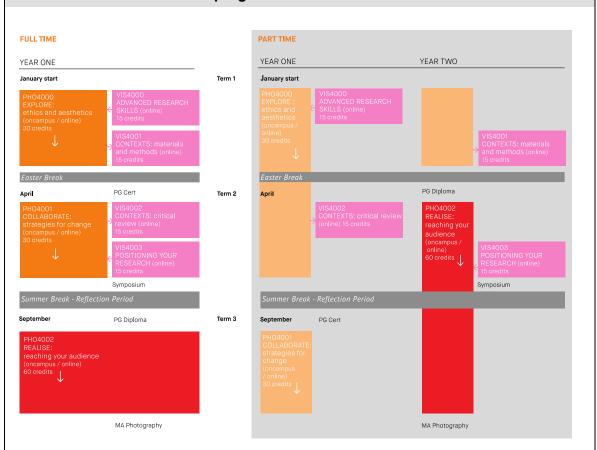|	
A2. The professional, academic and cultural contexts within which individual practice is located A3. Advanced approaches and methodologies in professional practice and research A4. Strategies for developing, managing and realising a complex research project, including in collaboration with others	**Assessment methods** Students' knowledge and understanding is assessed by: - presentation; - submission of a portfolio of coursework, including written and visual elements; - a series of finished public facing outcomes
B. Skills On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to: B1. Implement a practice of critical reflection, identifying appropriate photography research needs and considering the means and methodologies for meeting them. B2. Apply dedicated photographic conceptual and technical skills at an advanced professional level. B3. Produce a significant thesis/body of photographic work to an advanced level, appropriately contextualised and with a clear strategy for making work public B4. Position themselves professionally with a public profile and a clear sense of direction for further career development	**Teaching/learning methods** Students learn skills through - technical tuition - participation in workshops, lectures, seminars, debates and tutorials - self-directed research studies - ongoing processes of thinking through and making work **Assessment methods** Students' skills are assessed by: - presentation; - submission of a portfolio of coursework, including written and visual elements; - a series of finished public facing outcomes

12. Programme structure (levels, modules, credits and progression requirements)

12. 1 Overall structure of the programme

FULL TIME

YEAR ONE

January start — Term 1

PHO4000 EXPLORE: ethics and aesthetics (oncampus / online) 30 credits

VIS4000 ADVANCED RESEARCH SKILLS (online) 15 credits

VIS4001 CONTEXTS: materials and methods (online) 15 credits

Easter Break

April — PG Cert — Term 2

PHO4001 COLLABORATE: strategies for change (oncampus / online) 30 credits

VIS4002 CONTEXTS: critical review (online) 15 credits

VIS4003 POSITIONING YOUR RESEARCH (online) 15 credits

Symposium

Summer Break - Reflection Period

September — PG Diploma — Term 3

PHO4002 REALISE: reaching your audience (oncampus / online) 60 credits

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PART TIME

YEAR ONE — YEAR TWO

January start

PHO4000 EXPLORE : ethics and aesthetics (oncampus / online) 30 credits

VIS4000 ADVANCED RESEARCH SKILLS (online) 15 credits

VIS4001 CONTEXTS: materials and methods (online) 15 credits

Easter Break

April — PG Diploma

VIS4002 CONTEXTS: critical review (online) 15 credits

PHO4002 REALISE: reaching your audience (oncampus / online) 60 credits

VIS4003 POSITIONING YOUR RESEARCH (online) 15 credits

Symposium

Summer Break - Reflection Period

September — PG Cert

PHO4001 COLLABORATE: strategies for change (oncampus / online) 30 credits

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On successful completion of 60 credits (FT- PHO4000, VIS4000 & VIS4001; PT- PHO4000, VIS4000 & VIS4002) students are eligible for a Postgraduate Certificate exit Award; and on successful completion of 120 credits (FT & PT - PHO4000, PHO4001, VIS4000, VIS4001, VIS4002 & VIS4003) for a Postgraduate Diploma exit Award. Students must complete the 120 credits for the Postgraduate Diploma before commencing the final 60 credit module that leads to the MA award.

Each 30 credit module requires a total of 300 hours of study (comprising taught sessions, the guided use of campus/online resources and independent study), supplemented by contributions from visiting academics and professional practitioners. Students should expect to commit a minimum of 36 hours/week (full-time) or 18 hours/ week (part-time) to their studies. Contact teaching and input from visitors is front-loaded in the first two stages and consists of lectures, seminars, debates, workshops, group and individual tutorials. Learning in these stages leads progressively towards self- directed study in the final stage, which is supported through periodic individual and group supervision and access to campus/online resources.

All the preliminary modules are intended to provide students with the context, knowledge and skills necessary for the initiation, development and realisation of a significant self-directed project at an advanced level in the PHO4002 module.

12.2 Levels and modules		
Level 7		
COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
PHO4000 Explore: Ethics and Aesthetics VIS4000 Advanced Research Skills VIS4001 Contexts: Materials and Methods PHO4001 Collaborate: Strategies for Change VIS4002 Contexts: Critical Review VIS4003 Positioning your Research PHO4002 Realise: Reaching your Audience	No optional modules	Progression to PHO4002 is dependent on prior completion and pass of all other modules. 60 credits are required for the award of PGCert in Photography. 120 credits are required for the award of PGDip in Photography.

12.3 Non-compensatable modules	
Module level	**Module code**
7	PHO4000
7	VIS4000
7	VIS4001
7	PHO4001
7	VIS4002
7	VIS4003
7	PHO4002

13. Information about assessment regulations

The programme assessment scheme complies with the regulations set out in the University Regulations at http://www.mdx.ac.uk/. Further information on assessment is also available on the Your Study pages of UniHub at http://www.unihub.mdx.ac.uk

Attendance is a requirement throughout, for all modules. All 15 and 30 credit modules are pass/fail. The final 60 credit module is graded on the University 1–20 Marking Scale, which determines the level of the MA Award (Pass, Merit or Distinction).

Self-deferral is not permitted on any module. Students seeking to defer should consult a Progression & Support Advisor and Assessment Officer.

14. Placement opportunities, requirements and support (if applicable)

n/a

15. Future careers / progression

The programme is structured around the progressive development of knowledge and skills in creative and professional practice. Developmental modules offer the opportunity to produce public outcomes, consolidated at the final stage in the form an in-depth, significant self-directed project, complete with a strategy for appropriate dissemination. These achievements could lead to further publication, commissioned work and to a wide-range of future career paths in the creative industries. The programme also develops the advanced skills necessary for progression to higher academic qualifications and doctoral research.

16. Particular support for learning (if applicable)

-**Outstanding technical facilities** include four Photographic Studios, the Digital Darkroom (80 workstations, Hasselblad Flextight scanners, L8 A2 plus 6 large format Epson printers all colour-managed), two Black and White Darkrooms (up to 5x4 large format), Colour C-type darkroom (up to 5x4 large format) and (Colorama backdrops, full height cove, electronic flash and tungsten lighting).
-**A range of workshops, facilities and expert technical staff** provide the technical input for the realization of any studio-based materials required for the research projects.
-**Loan store with an extensive range of equipment**: film cameras from 35mm through medium format (645, 67) to large format (5x4), full frame digital cameras with a wide range of lenses, flashguns, location lighting kits, light modifiers etc. This is a free service.
-**Library facilities and resources**, including specialist books, journals, videos, DVDs, slides, special collections, and computer programmes. There is a fine collection of Photography books, journals and videos/DVDs of recorded programmes on the work of Photographers. The collections and archives of **The Museum of Domestic Design & Architecture (MoDA)** are also available as resources for students.
-**MDXworks: Careers & Employability Service** support students in developing employability skills.
-**Close collaboration** takes place with Rapid Eye and Printspace. Discounts have been arranged at Metro Imaging, Rapid Eye and Printspace.

17. JACS code (or other relevant coding system)	W640
18. Relevant QAA subject benchmark(s)	Art & Design, 2019 Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies, 2019

19. Reference points

The UK Quality Code for Higher Education - Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree Awarding Bodies (FHEQ), October 2014: Level 7
QAA Qualification Characteristics Statement, 2020
Knowledge into Action, Middlesex University Strategy 2031

Middlesex University Centre for Academic Practice Enhancement (CAPE) guidance and Academic Planning Framework 2020-21
Middlesex University Regulations 2020-21
Middlesex Learning and Quality Enhancement Handbook (LQEH)

20. Other information

Please note programme specifications provide a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information about the programme can be found in the rest of your programme handbook and the university regulations.

Curriculum map for MA Photography

This section shows the highest level at which programme outcomes are to be achieved by all graduates, and maps programme learning outcomes against the modules in which they are assessed.

Programme learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding	
A1	The range, social significance and history of contemporary photographic/arts practice and the social role of the creative practitioner.
A2	The professional, academic and cultural contexts within which individual practice is located
A3	Advanced approaches and methodologies in professional practice and research
A4	Strategies for developing, managing and realising a complex research project, including in collaboration with others
Skills	
B1	Implement a practice of critical reflection, identifying appropriate photography research needs and considering the means and methodologies for meeting them.
B2	Apply dedicated photographic conceptual and technical skills at an advanced professional level.
B3	Produce a significant body of photographic work to an advanced level, appropriately contextualised and with a clear strategy for making work public
B4	Position themselves professionally with a public profile and a clear sense of direction for further career development

Programme outcomes							
A1	A2	A3	A4	B1	B2	B3	B4
Highest level achieved by all graduates							
7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7

Module Title	Module Code by Level	A1	A2	A3	A4	B1	B2	B3	B4
Explore: Ethics and Aesthetics	PHO4000	x	x			x	x		
Advanced Research Skills	VIS4000		x	x					
Contexts: Materials and Methods	VIS4001		x	x					
Collaborate: Strategies for Change	PHO4001	x			x	x	x		x
Contexts: Critical Review	VIS4002	x	x						
Positioning Your Research	VIS4003		x	x	x				x
Realise: Reaching your Audience	PHO4002		x	x	x	x	x	x	x