

Course Specification

Published Date:	21-Sep-2020
Produced By:	Laura Clode
Status:	Validated

Core Information

Awarding Body / Institution:	University of Wolverhampton		
School / Institute:	Wolverhampton School of Art		
Course Code(s):	FP010T01UV	Full-time	4 Years
	FP010T31UV	Part-time	8 Years
Course Title:	BA (Hons) Photography with Foundation Year		
Hierarchy of Awards:	Bachelor of Arts with Honours Photography Bachelor of Arts Photography Diploma of Higher Education Photography Certificate of Higher Education Photography Foundation and Preparatory Studies Photography University Statement of Credit University Statement of Credit		
Language of Study:	English		
Date of DAG approval:	11/Oct/2017		
Last Review:	2017/8		
Course Specification valid from:	2017/8		
Course Specification valid to:	2023/4		

Academic Staff

Course Leader:	Dr Jane Webb
Head of Department:	Dr Jane Webb

Course Information

Location of Delivery:	University of Wolverhampton
Category of Partnership:	Not delivered in partnership
Teaching Institution:	University of Wolverhampton
Open / Closed Course:	This course is open to all suitably qualified candidates.

Entry Requirements:

Entry requirements are subject to regular review. The entry requirements applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website (and externally as appropriate e.g. UCAS)

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2017 Entry

- DD from A level
- BTEC QCF Extended Diploma grade PPP, BTEC QCF Diploma grade MP
- Pass Access to HE Diploma (Full Award)
- If you've got other qualifications or relevant experience, please contact [The Gateway](#) for further advice before applying.
- International entry requirements and application guidance can be found [here](#)

Other Requirements

Students must have studied a minimum of two years post GCSE level. However, it is expected that some applicants will be mature students with work experience, who wish to further their career development. These applicants will be processed through standard procedures, which may involve an interview as part of the process. Please see <http://wlv.ac.uk/mature> for further information.

International Students

- A pass at High School Certificate or equivalent.
- Students will need to pass a Secure English Language Test such as IELTS and achieve B2 to meet UKVI requirements. IELTS 5.5 (with 5.5 in all elements)

Guidance to International Students

<https://www.wlv.ac.uk/international/making-an-application/how-to-apply/>

Applicants who do not meet the entry requirements may be offered an alternative course.

Distinctive Features of the Course:

The course structure offers the freedom and support to explore, challenge and interrogate established photographic genres, that will allow you to engage and promote your ideas and concepts through a number of key assignments, analogue and digital materials and resources whilst examining both creative thinking and making and concept and technique that form the basis of a critically engaged practice. Simultaneously these conceptual ideas, contextual knowledge and understanding are a core experience of live industry briefs and external projects that you will engage with and create as part of your portfolio.

Studio and workshop culture is core to our courses and you will be encouraged to become part of the art and design community through time spent working in the studios, workshops and labs available to students across the week. Our contacts with galleries, curators, publishers and editors offer the opportunity for you to work on *live* projects. As a result, individual student development is enriched through valuable professional experience and the production of specialist portfolios, both necessary in the competitive and demanding

professional world.

All courses in the School of Art are now available with a professional placement (sandwich year) option. A professional placement provides an opportunity for professional development in the work place and as such, greatly enhances the student's prospects of finding rewarding and relevant employment at the end of their studies.

The BA (Hons) Photography in particular is distinctive in its approach because you will:

- Contribute to a creative student culture
- Share and collaborate your ideas and practice within an Art School
- Work with staff who are published, exhibited and knowledgeable
- Undertake contemporary and live assignments
- Publish work
- Have open access to professional darkrooms and digital facilities

Create personal and professional portfolios using our industry standard studios and equipment

Educational Aims of the Course:

BA (Hons) Photography with Foundation Year is a four year course. Photography is a dynamic, multi-disciplinary practice with many histories, identities and dimensions. At the Wolverhampton School of Art (est. 1851), we explore these diverse legacies through contemporary practice and critical theory. The BA Photography with Foundation Year philosophy is that images should be about something rather than of something and examines making images through practical assignments and a number of key photographic themes such as: identity and portraiture; place and location and narrative and performance. Following the exploratory foundation year, in which you will have the opportunity to explore the broad scope of art and design and to develop core skills and approaches that will support your progression to degree level study, the themed photography assignments and themes are developed through six modules: Level 4; Level 5 and Level 6. The modules allow you to explore the relationships for example between photography and the self-portrait; studio image and fashion; our personal image in *emotional* photography in health and memory as well as interpretative recordings of landscapes, documentary and portraiture.

The course is taught by internationally exhibiting specialists in portraiture, performance, landscape, phototherapy, personal identities, archives - stories and narratives and the everyday. You will work alongside staff and other professionals to become self-motivated and critically-aware of the developing careers within contemporary photographic practice. Live projects and off-site shows provide additional professional experiences and networking opportunities whilst considering the audience, appropriate publication and future employment.

During the your degree, you will work in our exceptional darkrooms (black and white, colour), digital scanning and editing suites, a digital printmaking facility, and spacious, purpose-built studios that are all supported by subject-specific technical specialists. We provide all photographic equipment –from cameras to darkrooms and lighting kit - in order to facilitate the successful production of your work throughout the course.

Level 3

This part of the course provides you with the opportunity to explore the broad scope of art and design and to develop core skills and approaches that will support your progression to degree level study

Level 4

You will be introduced to the key themes and materials of the BA Photography Programme through a number of practical assignments. You will be encouraged to begin thinking independently about the selection and choice of theme, ideas and materials employed in your assignments whilst receiving instruction in the photography workshops and equipment. Assignments will allow you to produce portfolios of images about identities and place.

Level 5

You will begin to self negotiate projects and materials as you begin to define your practice as a photographer and image-maker. You will begin thinking independently about the selection and choice of theme, ideas and materials employed in your assignments whilst receiving instruction in the photography workshops and equipment. You will create work that is outward facing, has an audience and is published. Assignments will allow you to produce portfolios of images about self-identity and space.

Level 6

You will self manage projects and materials as you define your practice as a photographer and image-maker. Your independent selection and choice of theme, ideas and materials employed in your assignments will drive your practice. You will create work for an audience and its publication. Assignments will allow you to produce portfolios of images about your professional needs in contemporary formats: exhibition, promotion and publication.

Intakes:

September

Major Source of Funding:

Office for Students (OFS)

Tuition Fees:

Tuition fees are reviewed on an annual basis. The fees applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website.

Year	Status	Mode	Amount
2020/1	H	Full Time / Sandwich	£9250.00
2020/1	Overseas	Full Time / Sandwich	£12250.00
2020/1	H	Part Time	£3050.00
2020/1	Overseas	Part Time	£6125.00

PSRB:

None

Course Structure:

September (Full-time)

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 80 credits in each academic calendar year.

Year 1

Full time and Sandwich Undergraduate Honours students normally study 120 credits per academic year; 60 credits semester 1 and 60 credits semester 2.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
3VA001	Introduction to Art and Design: Core Skills	60	YEAR	Core
3VA002	Introduction to Specialist Art and Design: Contexts and Practices	60	YEAR	Core

September (Full-time)

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 80 credits in each academic calendar year.

Year 2

Full time and Sandwich Undergraduate Honours students normally study 120 credits per academic year; 60 credits semester 1 and 60 credits semester 2.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
4FP017	Media and Methods	60	YEAR	Core
4FP018	Experimentation and Dialogues	60	YEAR	Core

September (Full-time)

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 80 credits in each academic calendar year.

Year 3

Full time and Sandwich Undergraduate Honours students normally study 120 credits per academic year; 60 credits semester 1 and 60 credits semester 2.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
5FP014	Contemporary Practice and Enquiry	60	YEAR	Core
5FP015	Advanced Practice and Audience	60	YEAR	Core

September (Full-time)

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 80 credits in each academic calendar year.

Year 4

Full time and Sandwich Undergraduate Honours students normally study 120 credits per academic year; 60 credits semester 1 and 60 credits semester 2.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
6FP011	Independent Practice	60	YEAR	Core
6FP012	Professional Practice	60	YEAR	Core

Please note: Optional modules might not run every year, the course team will decide on an annual basis which options will be running, based on student demand and academic factors, to create the best learning

experience.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Academic Regulations Exemption:

AFRSC/17/6.2.3 FoA Undergraduate Arts Degree Portfolio.

Section 1.3.1 - Exemption to exceed normal module credits within the standard University Academic Framework allowing for use of all 60 credit taught modules (Level 3 to Level 6) delivered Year Long on the following programmes;

BA (Hons) Photography

BA (Hons) Fashion

BA (Hons) Fine Art

BA (Hons) Glass and Ceramics

BA (Hons) Graphic Design

BA (Hons) Illustration

BA (Hons) Painting and Printmaking

BA (Hons) Sculpture and Environmental Art

BA (Hons) Textiles and Surface Pattern

BDes (Hons) Furniture Design

BDes (Hons) Interior Design

BDes (Hons) Product Design

Effective date: September 2018.

APPROVED (by Chair's Action on 6/10/2017)

Reference Points:

Quality Code - [Part A: Setting and Maintaining Academic Standards](#). Including :

[Qualifications Frameworks](#)

[Characteristics Statements](#)

[Credit Frameworks](#)

[Subject Benchmark Statements](#)

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/SBS-Art-and-Design-17.pdf>

Quality Code - [Part B: Assuring and Enhancing Academic Quality](#)

[University Policies and Regulations](#)

Equality Act (2010)

Learning Outcomes:

Foundation Year Course Learning Outcome 1 (UCCL01)

Show experience of working with a range of materials, processes and technologies associated with art and design .

Foundation Year Course Learning Outcome 2 (UCCL02)

Investigate the underlying concepts and principles associated with your area of study, including professional practice and studentship and explore how to evaluate, interpret and demonstrate them.

Foundation Year Course Learning Outcome 3 (UCCL03)

Explore and respond to contemporary historical and cultural contexts and show the curiosity to develop personally focused artefacts or processes.

Foundation Year Course Learning Outcome 4 (UCCL04)

Evaluate the appropriateness of different approaches to solving problems related to your area(s) of study and/or work

Foundation Year Course Learning Outcome 5 (UCCL05)

Communicate the results of your study/work accurately and reliably, and with structured and coherent argument

CertHE Course Learning Outcome 1 (CHECLO1)

Demonstrate experience of working with a range of materials, processes and technologies associated with Photography.

CertHE Course Learning Outcome 2 (CHECLO2)

Be experimental and show the ability to use speculative and reflective approaches to making and designing.

CertHE Course Learning Outcome 3 (CHECLO3)

Research and respond to contemporary historical and cultural contexts and show the curiosity to develop personally focused research.

CertHE Course Learning Outcome 4 (CHECLO4)

Evaluate and reflect on your performance and that of your peer group in relation to appropriate contextual references and audiences.

CertHE Course Learning Outcome 5 (CHECLO5)

Document and communicate with others about how your ideas have evolved and explain your decision making in support of project outcomes.

DipHE Course Learning Outcome 1 (DHECLO1)

Demonstrate specialist skills, techniques, processes, technologies and material knowledge relevant and pertinent to contemporary practice in Photography.

DipHE Course Learning Outcome 2 (DHECLO2)

Explore a range of creative, speculative and research methods in your work and use the knowledge to inform the development of your practice.

DipHE Course Learning Outcome 3 (DHECLO3)

Understand the external contexts of Photography and resolve projects through informed decision making in relation to these contexts.

DipHE Course Learning Outcome 4 (DHECLO4)

Research, identify and evaluate appropriate contextual knowledge relevant to Photography through written and verbal presentations.

DipHE Course Learning Outcome 5 (DHECLO5)

Develop an engagement with external communities and audiences and use appropriate forums to discuss and reflect on your practice.

DipHE Course Learning Outcome 6 (DHECLO6)

Demonstrate a sustained commitment to discussion and engagement with your art and design community.

Ordinary Course Learning Outcome 1 (ORDCLO1)

Demonstrate a sustained and independent approach to generating ideas and production of work in response to self initiated or externally generated projects

Ordinary Course Learning Outcome 2 (ORDCLO2)

Select and employ appropriately the materials, media, techniques, methods, technologies and tools necessary to resolve your practice.

Ordinary Course Learning Outcome 3 (ORDCLO3)

Identify, understand and reflect on the connections between intention, process, outcome and context in your work.

Ordinary Course Learning Outcome 4 (ORDCLO4)

Demonstrate knowledge of the specific critical and contextual dimensions of your work and engage in the work of practitioners and theorists relevant to your final project.

Ordinary Course Learning Outcome 5 (ORDCLO5)

Critically reflect on and benefit from engagement with others and utilise personal development planning effectively to progress your practice.

Honours Course Learning Outcome 1 (DEGCLO1)

Think creatively to resolve your work to a professional standard within your discipline.

Honours Course Learning Outcome 2 (DEGCLO2)

Demonstrate knowledge of the specific critical and contextual dimensions of your practice and engage in the work of practitioners and theorists relevant to your final project.

Honours Course Learning Outcome 3 (DEGCLO3)

Employ models of professional presentation appropriate to the dissemination of your work.

Honours Course Learning Outcome 4 (DEGCLO4)

Demonstrate a sustained ability to reflect on your work and use the information to develop new work and an informed understanding of your practice.

Honours Course Learning Outcome 5 (DEGCLO5)

Understand and locate your work appropriately within the broad and specialist contexts of your subject and research appropriate personal and career objectives.

Overview of Assessment:

Module	Title	Course Learning Outcomes
3VA001	Introduction to Art and Design: Core Skills	UCCL01, UCCL02, UCCL03, UCCL04, UCCL05
3VA002	Introduction to Specialist Art and Design: Contexts and Practices	UCCL01, UCCL02, UCCL03, UCCL04, UCCL05
4FP017	Media and Methods	CHECLO1, CHECLO2, CHECLO3, CHECLO4, CHECLO5, CHECLO6
4FP018	Experimentation and Dialogues	CHECLO1, CHECLO2, CHECLO3, CHECLO4, CHECLO5, CHECLO6
5FP014	Contemporary Practice and Enquiry	DHECLO1, DHECLO2, DHECLO3, DHECLO4, DHECLO5, DHECLO6
5FP015	Advanced Practice and Audience	DHECLO1, DHECLO2, DHECLO3, DHECLO4, DHECLO5, DHECLO6
6FP011	Independent Practice	DEGCLO1, DEGCLO2, DEGCLO3, DEGCLO4, DEGCLO5, ORDCLO1, ORDCLO2, ORDCLO3, ORDCLO4, ORDCLO5
6FP012	Professional Practice	DEGCLO1, DEGCLO2, DEGCLO3, DEGCLO4, DEGCLO5, ORDCLO1, ORDCLO2, ORDCLO3, ORDCLO4, ORDCLO5

Teaching, Learning and Assessment:

Teaching is focussed in (though not limited to) a studio environment in which tutor-student engagement and peer-to-peer learning supports a creative, experimental, professional and independent approach to development from Level 3 onwards. Teaching, supervised practice and independent exploration also takes place in well-equipped material workshops and computer labs. Throughout the course students are encouraged to explore, develop and build material and technical competencies towards developing their own rich, challenging and distinct visual language as artists and designers.

The School of Art houses a range of purpose built studio spaces and workshops with an extensive range of professional equipment not available in schools and colleges. Students at the School of Art are taught by practicing artists and designers working in academic and technical roles. These specialist practitioners teach both fundamental skills, support experimental and speculative practice and ensure practice is underpinned by knowledge and awareness of contemporary contexts.

The course is structured over four years and each year is divided into two year-long 60 credit modules. This framework is designed to provide opportunities for full and part-time study and to allow students the time and space to develop their own specialist approach to BA (Hons) Photography over an extended time frame.

Students are assessed 100% on their coursework and are supported to progress and achieve their potential through careful tracking by staff in project feedback sessions, personal tutorials and formative assessment points. Each module has two points of formative assessment that provide key performance indicators for the student and staff teams to use in personal development planning. Assessment reviews and tutorials will be

used to assess progress, galvanise the student to understand and map their own learning journey and to use this information to improve their indicative grades and project work. The assessment strategy has been designed to provide students with a number of opportunities throughout the year to test their work against the learning outcomes and to further develop aspects of their practice before receiving a final summative grade for the module. These formative reviews will also be used by staff to trigger university and subject support mechanisms for students who are not achieving at an appropriate level before summative results start to affect progression and achievement at each level.

Summative assessment takes place at the end of each module as an event in which students evaluate their own work and select work to present in a portfolio that best demonstrates their achievement over the year.

Employability is core to the ethos of the School of Art's learning and teaching, and BA (Hons) Photography provides opportunities from Level 4 to experience and engage with professional and industrial contacts.. Level 3 provides an opportunity for you to learn core art and design skills and study skills that will support your progression at degree level. At Level 4 students are encouraged to encounter and experience all aspects of their specialist area and further embed themselves into the subject through visits and speakers. At Level 5 students will have the opportunity to experience professional practice and will work on subject-specific briefs led by external clients/organisations. At this level there will also be an emphasis on off-site/live projects/placements that offer opportunities for interdisciplinary collaborative practice. Level 5 is designed to give students the opportunity to risk take and experiment within their subjects but also to meet and network with other students across the School of Art. Level 6 emphasises self-negotiated projects and provides students with the time and support to develop their individual voices as artists and designers. There is also provision for interdisciplinary teams working together on ambitious final outcomes where appropriate, and student will be supported to maintain placement learning and external networks established at Level 5. In addition, the University offers a Career Development Week each year, which is intended to provide cross-curricula activities that enable students to extend or galvanise their skill and employability goals.

The modules embed theoretical and contextual practice within studio-based teaching. We have an extensive and specialist library collection, supported by a subject librarian with whom staff and students work closely. At Level 3 you will get a broad introduction to core contextual ideas and approaches with an emphasis on developing your research and analytical skills. Level 4 provides opportunities for exploring these resources and is structured around a range of contextual learning opportunities from traditional lectures to creative thinking workshops, mirroring the breadth offered in studio practice. Levels 5 and 6 provide opportunities for students to develop their own trajectories in a way that reflects their practice in the studio through a choice of theoretical and theory-practice combined projects. External visiting speakers and staff research projects and practice contribute to a thriving contextual diet; Students can experience staff working, and gain additional insight into the importance of ideas, research and conceptual experimentation to creative production.

In addition the School of Art provides many opportunities throughout the year for students to join study visits to UK and European destinations. These visits underpin student learning by providing an opportunity for students to see professional practice in their field, engage with new ideas, materials, sites and scale, consider display and presentation strategies and explore other roles associated with art and design such as curation, marketing, education. The visits also provide opportunities for students to spend time in an expanded community of their own peers to support interdisciplinary and cross year support and collaboration.

Assessment Methods:

At the University of Wolverhampton, a variety of modes of assessment will be used to support and test your learning and progress and to help you develop capabilities that are valued beyond your University studies and into your working life. Your course may include a variety of assessment activities:

Written examinations (including online examinations, open and closed book examinations and quizzes)
Coursework (for example, essays, reports, portfolios, project proposals and briefs, CVs, poster presentation)
Practical (for example, oral and video presentations, laboratory work, performances, practical skills assessment)

In the final year of your undergraduate degree, and at the end of your postgraduate degree, you are likely to be expected to write an extended piece of work or research, such as a dissertation or a practice-based piece of research.

Student Support:

General University support:

The university has an extensive range of support options for students. For Art and Design students this begins with Arts Support Central, an online resource through which academic study support, careers and enterprise, counselling, enabling services, Chaplaincy services, nursery and carer support, financial services and distance learning can all be accessed. Students can access student advisors and mentors and there is support and representation also offered by the Students' Union and can also find support based on whether they are International students, TNE students, research students, mature students or students with families.

Course Specific Support

The course has a personal tutor system in which students see a tutor assigned to them regularly throughout the year and this provides them with pastoral support outside of their immediate academic studies on specific modules. Our core aim is to build upon a creative student culture that is open and ambitious, with relevant resources and staff that are both available and approachable.

There is a specialist Art and Design librarian who works closely with the staff team to support the subject-specific research and writing skills of students at all levels. This support is situated within the library, which has an extensive and long-standing collection of printed materials and monographs that can be accessed 24 hours a day in term time. Students can also access a range of texts and journals electronically both on campus and at home.

Employability in the Curriculum:

The Photography course provides you with all the necessary skills that enable you to thrive in the exciting and fast-moving creative industries. Typical employment for our alumni includes work as magazine editors, exhibiting photographers, artists and curators, freelance studio and fashion photographers, editorial and documentary photographers including sport and those who work in the broader industries of publishing, museums and galleries, community artists, curators and educators. These diverse career paths are introduced to you through a number of 'live'/professional projects giving invaluable professional experiences and real assignments during study. A number of our students opt for further study either at Masters level or study for a PGCE and these individuals are seeking to develop their skills in practices such as arts and health, art curatorial practices and other Masters degrees by research.

All of our students have the opportunity to engage with an additional 'Employability Award' associated with their degree, and a high percentage of our students achieve the gold standard.

All courses in the School of Art are now available with a professional placement option (Sandwich Year). A professional placement provides an opportunity for professional development in the work place and as such, greatly enhances the students' prospects of finding rewarding and relevant employment at the end of their studies. The school assists students in securing work placements, undertaking live briefs, engaging directly with employers and developing key employability skills. The School is committed to raising student awareness of the opportunities that exist post-graduation.

International students will need to apply for BA (Hons) Photography with professional placement before joining the course to ensure visa requirements are met.