

Course Specification

MA Photography

September 2024 Entry



1. General information

Course Title	MA Photography		
Awarding University	Leeds Arts University		
University at which course is delivered	Leeds Arts University		
Relevant benchmark(s)	Master's Degree Characteristics (2020), Sector Recognised Standards		
Awards	Credits	Duration	Mode of study
MA Photography	180	1 year / 2 years	Full time / Part time
PGDip in Photography *	120		Full time / Part time
PGCert in Photography *	60		Full time / Part time
*Exit Award only			

2. Course Aims

This course aims to:

This course aims to encourage innovative, sustainable, independent, autonomous and experimental practices. It aims to establish effective approaches for practice research, problem analysis and self-critique and to further develop appropriate skills and qualities for employment within the creative industries including initiative and personal responsibility.

It also aims to establish ethical approaches to photographic practices in production and representation, and to further develop sound communication skills including in verbal, written and visual forms.

3. Distinctive Features of the Course

MA Photography will provide a course of study that will promote innovation and experimentation within photographic practices. There will be an important emphasis on the resolution of the work into outputs such as publications, exhibitions and digital platforms. The course will examine strategies for producing multiple outputs from a body of work and creating opportunities for dissemination through different media, emphasizing the need for work to find an audience as being integral to a sustained and successful practice. Through an in-depth examination of contemporary practices, the course aims to contextualise cultural and ethical uses of photography within areas of photographic practices such as artistic, commercial, technological, political and the archival. The course will encourage engagement with a range of audiences through the identification of appropriate platforms for dissemination. Upon completion of the course, graduates aim to complete a body of distinctive work that is produced to an industry standard for identified audiences.

4. Course Structure

4a. Module Framework

Level 7	Credit points	ECTS	Learning hours
Positioning	30	15	300
Engaging	30	15	300
Advancing	30	15	300
Research Methods	30	15	300
Professional Practice	30	15	300
The Dissertation	30	15	300

4b. Course Map / Structure

Full Time Mode				
	Trimester 1 (September - January)	Trimester 2 (January - April)	Trimester 3 (May - August)	
	Positioning (30 credits)	Engaging (30 credits)	Professional Practice (30 credits)	180 Credits
	Research Methods (30 Credits)	The Dissertation (30 Credits)	Advancing (30 credits)	
Part Time Mode				
	Trimester 1 (September - January)	Trimester 2 (January - April)	Trimester 3 (May - August)	
Y1	Positioning (30 credits)	Engaging (30 Credits)	Professional Practice (30 credits)	90 Credits
Y2	Research Methods (30 Credits)	The Dissertation (30 credits)	Advancing (30 credits)	90 Credits

5. Course Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the following learning outcomes, you will be eligible for the award of MA Photography.

CLO 1 Research	Create specialised work outputs, which are informed by current practice, research and scholarship	Positioning (30) The Dissertation (30) Engaging (30) Research Methods (30)
CLO 2 Analysis	Use, analyse, critique and evaluate a range of research methods, as you develop your specialist, subject and professional knowledge and practice.	Positioning (30) Engaging (30) Visualising Research (15) Research Methods (30)
CLO 3 Subject Knowledge and Understanding	Evidence an in-depth knowledge and understanding of your specialist, subject and professional practice, including that of contemporary critical and conceptual debate, and practical developments.	The Dissertation (30) Professional Practice (30) Advancing (30)

CLO 4 Experimentation	Experiment with techniques, ideas and approaches to advance your specialist, subject and professional practice.	Positioning (30) Engaging (30) Advancing (30)
CLO 5 Techniques and Processes	Choose, apply and evaluate a range of techniques and processes appropriate to your practice.	Positioning (30) Engaging (30)
CLO 6 Personal and Professional Development	Work with autonomy, initiative and professionalism as you evaluate, revise and disseminate your practice.	Dissertation (30) Advancing (30) Professional Practice (30)

6. Learning and Teaching Strategies

The learning and teaching methods and strategies included in this course are aligned to the descriptor for master's degrees as defined by the Office for Students in the *Sector Recognised Standards* document (November 2022). Further information is available by following this link: <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/securing-student-success-regulatory-framework-for-higher-education-in-england/>.

The *Characteristics Statement [for] Master's Degrees* (February 2020) has also informed the design of the award. In particular, the document notes the following:

... all master's degree graduates have in-depth and advanced knowledge and understanding of their subject and/or profession, informed by current practice, scholarship and research. This will include a critical awareness of current issues and developments in the subject and/or profession; critical skills; knowledge of professional responsibility, integrity and ethics; and the ability to reflect on their own progress as a learner. Further information is available here:

<https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/master-s-degree-characteristics-statement.pdf>

Therefore, the learning, teaching and assessment strategies on this course have been designed to enable the student to become effective practitioners and researchers; to develop critical and analytical skills and to develop and evidence in-depth knowledge and understanding of their subject area. They also encourage and facilitate an experimental approach to practice and research and allow the student to extend their specialist technical knowledge. They are designed to support and facilitate personal and professional development and allow the student to work with initiative and autonomy.

Teaching and Learning:

Teaching and learning strategies include the following approaches:

- Lectures and presentations
- Seminars and discussion groups
- Independent research and self-directed study
- Demonstrations including technical demonstrations and workshop inductions
- Peer group presentations and collaborative practice
- One to one tutorials
- Group tutorials and 'crits'
- Individual presentations
- Live projects

Assessment:

Assignment submissions are made in response to set briefs. The content of the submission is usually negotiated with your tutor, and related to, or derived from, your research interests.

The briefs and assignment requirements are informed by the module content and may include for example, subject specialist art-based practice work, written submissions, presentations, business and research plans, research books, sketch books and/or work books.