

# COURSE SPECIFICATION - BA (Hons) Photography



## 1. General information

Course Title	Photography
UCAS code	W642
Course / Award Title	BA (Hons)
Awarding Institution	Leeds Arts University
Institution at which course is delivered	Leeds Arts University
Professional Accreditation (if applicable)	N/A
Relevant QAA Benchmark(s)	Art & Design 2017
Date of most recent review/approval (for new courses)	January 2019-20
Date of next review	2025-26

Awards	Credits	Duration	Mode of study
BA (Hons) Photography	360 (180 ECTS)	3 years	FT
BA Photography*	300 (150 ECTS)	3 years	FT
DipHE in Photography*	240 (120 ECTS)	2 years	FT
CertHE in Photography*	120 (60 ECTS)	1 year	FT
*Exit award only			

## 2. Course Aims

This course aims to provide you with:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A rigorous academic course of study that reflects a wide range of concerns and interests within contemporary photography and lens-based practices;</li><li>• The opportunity to develop a personal practice in photography across a range of photographic genres;</li><li>• The opportunity to develop technical knowledge and skills through the experience of using industry standard equipment and software;</li><li>• A critical and theoretical understanding of photographic images and their use within a broad range of cultural contexts;</li><li>• A diverse curriculum that engages with a range of critical perspectives on the historical, cultural and international contexts of photography;</li><li>• Opportunities to collaborate with others both internally and externally;</li><li>• The skills and knowledge to apply and extend learning within the field of photography and appropriate professional contexts;</li></ul>

- The opportunity to engage with industry practitioners to expand knowledge and understanding of professional practices and develop external links within specialist photographic industries;
- A high quality educational experience within a specialist Arts University;
- A creative community of staff and learners that is dedicated to equality in the learning environment.

### 3. Distinctive Features

#### Distinctive features of the course:

The BA (Hons) Photography course is:

- Forward thinking, dynamic and responsive to changes in contemporary photographic practice;
- Driven by a range of specialist areas of photographic practice, providing a broad knowledge to make you an informed practitioner;
- Connected to the photographic world, nationally and internationally, facilitating your engagement through competitions, visiting professionals, portfolio reviews, and experiences to enhance your learning;
- Technically driven, with a series of technical workshops that develop your skills, enabling you to realise your creative ideas;
- Committed to developing your visual language, conceptual concerns, and innovative approach to image-making, establishing skills that can be transferrable into commercial contexts;
- Critically engaged, developing your critical and conceptual understanding, enabling you to develop a synthesis between your theory and practice as you progress through the three years of the course;
- A positive community of staff and students - we celebrate the achievements of our alumni, who regularly engage with the students on the course to give lectures and critiques to impart their experiences within the photographic industry;
- Knowledgeable - we are made up of experienced educators, researchers and practitioners in the field of photography, offering a breadth of contemporary approaches relevant to your discipline;
- Outward facing, with a strong international and employability focus to support you to turn your innovative portfolio into a career;
- Collaborative - students on the course regularly work with other disciplines within and outside of the University to enhance their practice.

### 4. Course Structure

#### 4a. Module Framework

Level 4	Credit Points	ECTS	Learning Hours
LAUPH401 Making Photographs	40	20	400
LAUPH402 Retracing the Image	20	10	200
LAUPH403 The Bigger Picture	40	20	400
LAUPH404 Working the Image	20	10	200
Level 5	Credit Points	ECTS	Learning Hours
LAUPH501 Beyond Genre	40	20	400
LAUPH502 The Extended Moment	20	10	200
LAUPH503 The Informed Photographer	60	30	600

Level 6	Credit Points	ECTS	Learning Hours
LAUPH601 Photographic Revisions	60	30	600
LAUPH602 Innovative Portfolio	60	30	600

#### 4b. Course Map / Structure

Level 4		
Semester One	<b>Making Photographs (LAUPH401)</b> <i>40 credits</i>	<b>Retracing the Image (LAUPH402)</b> <i>20 credits</i>
Semester Two	<b>The Bigger Picture (LAUPH403)</b> <i>40 credits</i>	<b>Working the Image (LAUPH404)</b> <i>20 credits</i>
120 credits (60 ECTS credits)		Certificate of Higher Education (Exit Award)

Level 5		
Semester One	<b>Beyond Genre (LAUPH501)</b> <i>40 credits</i>	<b>The Extended Moment (LAUPH502)</b> <i>20 credits</i>
Semester Two	<b>The Informed Photographer (LAUPH503)</b> <i>60 Credits</i>	
120 credits (60 ECTS credits)		Diploma of Higher Education (Exit Award)

Level 6		
Semester One	<b>Photographic Revisions (LAUPH601)</b> <i>60 credits</i>	
Semester Two	<b>Innovative Portfolio (LAUPH602)</b> <i>60 credits</i>	
120 credits (60 ECTS credits)		BA (Hons) Photography (Exit Award)
*Students who fail to complete 360 credits but have accumulated no fewer than 300 credits will be awarded an Ordinary degree.		

## 5. Course Learning Outcomes

Learning is assessed at each level of the course. This develops from introductory work within the specialism of the course at level 4, through development of skills and ideas at level 5, progressing to application and synthesis of skills, originality, and theory in practice at level 6 as indicated by the FHEQ qualification descriptors.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs) comprise the Level Learning Outcomes, which define what you are expected to be able to do on completion of each level. Level Learning Outcomes are achieved through successfully completing all modules at that level. Expectations for your learning are expressed within each module.

### Level 4 (CertHE)

Level Learning Outcomes	Modules
<i>By the end of Level 4, you will be expected to:</i>	
PH4.1 Demonstrate an awareness and understanding of theoretical and practical contexts of photographic practice.	LAUPH401, 402, 403 404
PH4.2 Apply knowledge and understanding of conceptual and contextual concerns within the production of practical outcomes.	LAUPH401, 402, 403
PH4.3 Analyse and evaluate creative practices and processes used for the production of final outcomes to meet requirements of briefs.	LAUPH401, 402
PH4.4 Produce a body of work using appropriate methods/practice that employs practical and theoretical research during the development of work.	LAUPH401, 402, 403, 404
PH4.5 Use appropriate communication skills to articulate practice to specific audiences.	LAUPH401, 402, 404
PH4.6 Identify personal strengths and needs, and reflect on personal development.	LAUPH401, 404

### Level 5 (DipHE)

Level Learning Outcomes	Modules
<i>By the end of Level 5, you will be expected to:</i>	
PH5.1 Appraise cultural and theoretical perspectives in relation to photographic practice.	LAUPH501, 502, 503
PH5.2 Demonstrate and contextualise an understanding of the visual language of images in relation to the communication of ideas, audience and technical production.	LAUPH502, 503
PH5.3 Apply contextual knowledge and concepts to your photographic practice.	LAUPH502, 503
PH5.4 Employ divergent thinking in the processes of generating concepts through photographic exploration, research, judgement and self-critique.	LAUPH501, 503
PH5.5 Employ a range of equipment, techniques and technologies for the production of creative solutions and outcomes with skill and imagination as applicable to professional photography contexts.	LAUPH501, 502, 503
PH5.6 Use a range of appropriate professional methods to communicate outcomes to specific audiences.	LAUPH501
PH5.7 Organise and structure the workloads to meet deadlines through successful management skills.	LAUPH501, 502, 503

PH5.8 Demonstrate an informed understanding of professional contexts of your practice within the creative industries.	LAUPH501, 503
PH5.8 Demonstrate an understanding of the benefits of working both collaboratively and independently to solve problems within the subject discipline.	LAUPH501

## Level 6 (BA Hons)

Level Learning Outcomes	Modules
<i>By the end of Level 6, you will be expected to:</i>	
PH6.1 Demonstrate an independent critical understanding, specific knowledge and specialist understanding of the professional and contextual location of your practice.	LAUPH601, 602
PH6.2 Critically employ divergent thinking in the processes of generating concepts through photographic exploration, research, independent judgement and self-critique.	LAUPH601, 602
PH6.3 Synthesise knowledge and understanding to generate effective creative solutions within photography.	LAUPH601, 602
PH6.4 Employ, critically, a high level of process, professional skills and visual sensibility in the application of materials and professional techniques within photographic outcomes.	LAUPH602
PH6.5 Establish strategies for future progression and employability through understanding of and engagement with potential career paths.	LAUPH601, 602
PH6.6 Combine information, experiences and a range of appropriate communication methods to present yourself as a professional practitioner.	LAUPH602
PH6.7 Work both collaboratively and independently to enhance creative outcomes within the subject discipline.	LAUPH602

## 6. Teaching, Learning and Assessment Strategies

Our overall approach to engagement is outlined in our statement on [Undergraduate Teaching & Learning at Leeds Arts University](#).

### 6a. Teaching and Learning

#### Level 4

Level 4 will give you the experience of working across different photographic approaches using the materials and techniques currently employed within industry. These skills will be refined to develop work at Levels 5 and 6. You will be required to work with both established film based methods of photographic image making, as well as contemporary digital methods of image construction and manipulation. You will discover how these methods inform each other and are appropriate for achieving different outcomes in a range of situations and locations. The modules have an emphasis on the production of photographs, and they are underpinned by critical studies and personal and professional development to inform ideas and intended outcomes. The history of photography will be explored in relation to briefs and project work to outline the importance of context for images made. The course approach to teaching will consider your learning experience and the transition from your previous course to help develop appropriate study skills required for Level 4 study.

#### Level 5

The technical skills covered in Level 4 will be refined through modules in Level 5 that develop project ideas in relation to a contextual awareness of practices. Level 5 will focus on developing a personal pathway. This will be achieved through the introduction of self-devised projects that will start to focus you on a specific area of photography and build an appropriate portfolio for progression into Level 6. Working methods will be identified and employed by individuals to produce work for relevant industries. You will research appropriate work experience and these external experiences will increase specialist industry knowledge. Theoretical understanding will be explored, articulated and expanded through contextual studies to prepare you for a deeper synthesis of theory and practice in Level 6.

## **Level 6**

The synthesis between theory and practice will develop at Level 6 through the negotiation of a self-directed course of study that enables the exploration of a specific subject area. Critical research undertaken can inform practice and you will be advised to select a subject that will produce both written and visual outcomes.

Identifying future career paths is essential for progression into industry and preparing an appropriate portfolio of work. Having acquired skills at Level 4 and refined your practice at Level 5, you will now begin to explore the many roles and outlets for your work in external contexts.

Communication skills and a creative network will be developed through contact with external professionals. Work experience will inform practice and visiting speakers will advise on current practices within industry. Roles and outlets for contemporary photography and lens-based media will be examined in a variety of contexts, from commercial commissions and uses to the gallery wall.

Level 6 expands on previous contextual learning through examining the role of the curator in your interpretation of photography through the juxtaposition and presentation of images for exhibition. Creating a broad understanding of images and their many uses will enable a range of related vocational pathways to be considered and explored upon graduation from the BA (Hons) Photography course.

## **6b. Assessment**

The aim of assessment is to inform you of your individual progress as you work through the course. Feedback is an essential element of assessment and explained in more detail in 6c. Assessment also ensures that you are meeting the required academic standards for the award.

Assessment reflects the teaching and learning content and is an integral part of the learning process. Specific assessment strategies and submission requirements are explained in the briefs that you will receive at the start of each module. Assessment is designed to reflect creative and academic practice and is aligned with the appropriate level of study. As far as possible assessment will be authentic in simulating professional practices.

The Leeds Arts University assessment approach regards 'performance' as the key term for the diverse creative outputs submitted in assessment across its provision. Your creative output therefore, is the performance of your learning, and will demonstrate the extent to which you have learned, developed, assimilated and mediated your knowledge, understanding and skills into appropriate forms for submission requirements. You will evidence module expectations, as expressed as 'what you are expected to learn' in module specifications.

The assessment of the modules is holistic; all material presented for assessment in each module is taken as a whole and a single mark is arrived at. Most assessment is by portfolio submission, the exact nature and content of which is determined by the subject matter, content and learning expectations for each module and is specified in your module briefs.

Your work will be assessed holistically through five assessment 'fields'. These fields remain consistent throughout each level of study and are used to evaluate your learning against the learning expectations specified for each module. Levels are clearly differentiated by learning

outcomes, module expectations, teaching and learning approaches and assessment design. The fields are:

Field	Descriptor
Presentation	That which is seen by exhibition, portfolio, transcript, performance, relevant to tasks set.
Process	Evidence of the learning journey through method in haptic, physical practice based and textual applications.
Idea	Thought, concept or aim relevant to task, student centred and with clarity of vision.
Documentation	That which evidences the student's journey in and through research, technical experimentation, and/or creative endeavour. Could include: data; reflection; analysis; planning.
Technical	Quality and/or utility of the technical features employed; demonstration of skill/competence in media relevant to task.

## 6c. Feedback

Tutors will provide written and/or oral feedback, both in support of your ongoing development, as well as in direct response to student work formally within assessment contexts.

Provision of ongoing feedback - defined as information communicated to students with the intention of improving learning - is a significant and distinctive strength of the course. It is particularly manifest within the iterative dialogue which takes place between tutor and student(s) in practical learning contexts.

Feedback is an essential element of assessment. You will partake in ongoing evaluation within the teaching and learning on the course, developing skills in reflection and dialogue and receive ongoing formative feedback from the teaching staff and peers. All the modules on this course contain formal formative feedback sessions using the assessment 'fields' where you will receive written feedback on your progress to meet this developmental aim. You will be provided with written summative feedback on your module assessment at the end of each module.

Formative
<p>You will receive formative feedback on your progress throughout the module in a number of ways. Examples of formative feedback include (without being limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peer Reviews</li> <li>• Group Tutorials</li> <li>• Individual Progress Tutorials</li> </ul>
Summative
<p>At the end of the module you will receive summative feedback represented by a grade with tutor comments on your work. This feedback will help you to understand how you performed on the module, clarify your strengths and identify areas for further consideration.</p>