

MA/MFA Photography Practice

Programme specification

1. Programme details

Item	Information
a) Programme name (incl. pathways):	MA /MFA Photography Practice
b) Programme code(s)	730033C
c) Programme credit value(s)	MA: 180 CATS / MFA: 360 CATS MA: 90 ECTS / MFA: 180 ECTS
d) Programme author(s)	Jacob Love
e) Entry requirements	<p>You should have (or expect to be awarded) an undergraduate degree of at least second class standard in a relevant/related subject as well a level of practical experience in a relevant area.</p> <p>You will also be required to provide a photographic portfolio (10-20 pictures or relevant media)</p> <p>You might also be considered for the programme if you aren't a graduate or your degree is in an unrelated field, but you have relevant experience and/or evidence of creative work and can show that you have the ability to work at postgraduate level.</p>
f) Academic year effective from	2026-27

2. Programme Aims & Overview

Aims

The MA/MFA Photography Practice is a practice-led programme where image-making is treated as both art and inquiry. We engage with photography as a contested technology, embedded in systems of representation and power, and as a force that produces, disrupts and shapes the cultures that surround it. We practice critique and making as transformational and responsible work. Across analogue, digital and emergent media, we create the conditions in which image-making practitioners encouraged to take risks, make conceptually serious work, and build a practice with the critical articulation and self-knowledge to

hold its place in varied artistic and professional contexts. The MA forms practitioners with a sustainable independent practice; the MFA extends this toward an established body of work, a clear public position, and the infrastructure to carry it forward. Throughout, we hold critical engagement with the world and self-reflection on practice as inseparable, ongoing commitments, for the practitioners we teach and for the programme itself. The programme lives in the critical traditions of media and cultural studies, an intellectual home that shapes how we think about images and what we ask art to do.

Overview

The MA/MFA Photography Practice gives practitioners the opportunity to research and develop their work within the new boundaries of image-making made possible by technological and cultural change. Through a unique combination of practice and theory, this programme is focused on developing and furthering your engagement with photography as an expanded art form. You will utilize both digital and analogue technologies to mature your practice, supported by the department's ethos of diversity, interdisciplinarity, and critical engagement with real-world issues.

The programme is offered as a two-year MFA, with a one-year MA exit award. The first year establishes the core practical and theoretical foundations of the MA. Students who successfully complete this year may exit with an MA Photography Practice. The second year is designed for students continuing to the MFA, allowing them to develop their practice with greater independence towards a final exhibition and professional resolution.

Year 1: The MA Year

The first year is a practice-driven foundation, grounded in and informed by theory. You will undertake 60 credits of practice in the 'Image Construction' module, engaging in workshops across a range of media from traditional darkroom processes to digital imaging and moving image. This practical work is supported by a 30 credit core theory module, 'The Ascent of the Image' and another 30 credits of optional modules. These can be from any of the modules on offer from the MCCS catalogue with guidance from your tutors. Most students would be encouraged to take 'Photography and After' (30 credits), which is designed to deepen your critical knowledge of visual culture. Your year culminates in the 60-credit 'Major Project', where you synthesize your learning to produce a significant body of work for exhibition. Reflective practice is integral to the programme and this is developed throughout the entire programme through sketchbooks/research dossiers, writing about your own practice from yourself and for varied audiences and an extended reflective text at the end of the year.

Year 2: The MFA Year

The second year is designed to transition you from a postgraduate student to a professional practitioner. The focus shifts to sustained, self-directed practice within the 180-credit 'MFA Independent Practice' module. Here, you are expected to resolve a substantial, conceptually coherent body of work to a professional,

exhibition-ready standard. Your independent creative practice is structured and supported by multiple formative assessment points including: auditing at least 2 theory modules which you will respond to with both reflective writing and creative practice. Creating a website for you own practice. Applying for competitions/funding and reflective writing tasks.

3. External reference

Item	Information
a) FHEQ Level of Award:	7
b) UCAS Code(s):	N/A
c) HECoS Code(s):	(100443) Media Production
d) QAA Benchmark group:	N/A

4. Awards

Item	Information
a) Awarding institution:	Goldsmiths, University of London
b) Teaching institution:	Goldsmiths, University of London
c) Home School:	MCCS If other, name here:
d) School(s) also involved in teaching of the programme:	1. None 2. None 3. None If other, name here:
e) Entry awards:	<input type="checkbox"/> Foundation Cert <input type="checkbox"/> CertHE <input type="checkbox"/> DipHE <input type="checkbox"/> PGCert <input type="checkbox"/> PGDip
f) Interim exit awards:	<input type="checkbox"/> Foundation Cert <input type="checkbox"/> CertHE <input type="checkbox"/> DipHE <input type="checkbox"/> PGCert <input type="checkbox"/> PGDip
g) Final awards:	MA/MFA

5. Delivery

Item	Information
a) Language of study:	English
b) Valid intake points in year:	<input type="checkbox"/> January <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sept/Oct <input type="checkbox"/> Other If other, specify:
c) Mode of study:	On Campus Indicate the overall balance of teaching modes in the rows below. Row d) shows total hours of directed learning, with e) and f) showing how this

Item	Information
	is broken down in in-person vs. online learning, in hours and percentages.
d) Total hours directed learning/year	MA: 240 / MFA: 60
e) In-person hours	MA: 240/ MFA: 60
f) Online hours	0
g) Pace of study:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full time <input type="checkbox"/> Part time
h) Duration of programme	Full time: MA 1 year MFA 2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> years <input type="checkbox"/> months Part time: <input type="checkbox"/> years <input type="checkbox"/> months
i) External accreditation:	N/A
j) Apprenticeship Standard:	N/A

6. Programme Learning Outcomes

Also, see the [curriculum map](#) at the end of document.

For UG exit awards, Learning Outcomes must be achieved in the level indicated below:

- CertHE = Level 4
- DipHE = Level 5

Learning outcomes are grouped in categories of:

- **Declarative learning** - knowledge, thinking & facts (D1-3)
- **Functional learning** - application of knowledge, thinking & facts (F1-3)
- **Professional and transferable skills and behaviours** (P1-3)

On successful completion of the programme, you will be able to:

	Learning Outcome - MA	Level	Graduate Attribute
D1	Identify a range of creative methodologies and technical processes, from traditional analogue to emerging digital forms.	7	Diversity of perspective
D2	Demonstrate critical awareness of current theoretical issues and debates relating to image production and consumption.	7	Collaboration

	Learning Outcome - MA	Level	Graduate Attribute
D3	Critique the methodologies of imaging techniques and practices within wider culture.	7	Diversity of perspective
F1	Systematically and creatively deal with complex issues as they arise in the development and realisation of your ideas.	7	Responsible agency
F2	Evaluate a variety of methodologies (how images are made) and contexts (how images are seen) related to image production and consumption.	7	Political in the personal
F3	Articulate reasoned expositions and critical reflection of your work and practice.	7	Diversity of perspective
P1	Demonstrate self-direction and originality in your approach to image production.	7	Responsible agency
P2	Act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks	7	Responsible agency
P3	Initiate the dynamic and appropriate application of theoretical and creative knowledge in practical and professional contexts	7	Political in the personal

	Learning Outcome- MFA	Level	Graduate Attribute
D1	Synthesise advanced theoretical issues to originate a distinct critical position that links personal inquiry to a wider public context.	7	Diversity of perspective
D2	Critically situate your resolved body of work in relation to contemporary artistic and political debates, interrogating its position within diverse cultural perspectives.	7	Political in the personal
D3	Integrate practice-led research as a core component of your creative practice to generate new insights or methodological approaches.	7	Diversity of perspective
F1	Conceive, plan, and execute a sustained, self-directed, and methodologically and ethically rigorous body of creative work.	7	Responsible agency
F2	Produce a substantial, coherent, and technically resolved body of original work to a professional standard suitable for public exhibition	7	Responsible agency
F3	Devise innovative applications of relevant processes, linking them to other media forms to resolve complex conceptual challenges.	7	Responsible agency
P1	Articulate and defend the conceptual and contextual rationale of your work to specialist and non-specialist audiences.	7	Collaboration

P2	Sustain a complex, long-term project with a high degree of professional autonomy.	7	Responsible agency
P3	Execute professional strategies for the dissemination of practice, working independently or collaboratively to manage exhibition curation, publication strategy, or grant writing.	7	Collaboration

7. Programme Structure

For Undergraduate programmes (UG), each level must amount to at least **120 CATS** (60 ECTS).

Postgraduate (PGT) programmes must amount to at least 180 CATS (90ECTS), with exception to interim exit awards.

Programmes are staged in **Phases**, where each Phase relates to an exit award.

Compulsory modules must be taken by all students.

Option modules – you must choose one or more of the options available to this programme at this level and point. The option modules available from this list may vary from year to year, depending on student numbers and staff availability. Selection takes place during your studies, not before.

Programme structure notes (where relevant):

The programme is offered as a two-year MFA, with a one-year MA exit award.

Year one (MA) there are 2 compulsory 60 credit practice modules (Image Construction and Experimental Practice and Major Project), 1 compulsory 30 credit theory module (Ascent of the Image) and one optional theory module.

Year two (MFA) is one 180 credit practice module (Independent Practice)

Phase 1 (FT)

Module Name	Code	Credit	Level	Type	Term	Year PT	Pathway
Image Construction Experimental Practice	MC71119 D	60	7	Compulsory	1-2	N/A	MA/MFA Photography Practice

Module Name	Code	Credit	Level	Type	Term	Year PT	Pathway
Ascent of the Image	MC71175 A	30	7	Compulsory	1	N/A	MA/MFA Photography Practice MA/MFA Photography Practice
Embodiment & Experience	MC71051 C	30	7	Option - Shared	2	N/A	MA/MFA Photography Practice MA/MFA Photography Practice
Gender Sexuality & Affect	MC71156 B	30	7	Option - Shared	2	N/A	MA/MFA Photography Practice
Experimental Media	MC71153 B	30	7	Option - Shared	2	N/A	MA/MFA Photography Practice
Contemporary Feminist Media Cultures	MC71235 B	30	7	Option - Shared	2	N/A	MA/MFA Photography Practice
After Images	MC71230 A	30	7	Option - Shared	2	N/A	MA/MFA Photography Practice
Race & Technology	MC71242 A	30	7	Option - Shared	2	N/A	MA/MFA Photography Practice
Spirituality in Media Cultures	MC71268 A	30	7	Option - Shared	2	N/A	MA/MFA Photography Practice
Major Project	MC71048 D	60	7	Compulsory	2-3 2-3	N/A N/A	MA/MFA Photography Practice

Phase 2 (FT)

Module Name	Module Code	Credit	Level	Module Type	Term	Year PT	Pathway
MFA Independent Practice – 180 credits	MC7XXX A	180	7	Compulsory	1-2-3	N/A	MFA Photography Practice

8. Learning, Teaching & Assessment

Learning & Teaching methods

Teaching will be via a range of formats to be as relevant as possible to the topic and learning outcomes. This may be through workshops, practical labs, lectures and seminars. It may have a mix of in-person and online activities, designed to give you the best learning experience and to make the most out of your learning experience. You are expected to attend all of your timetabled learning activities.

Specifically, this programme will be taught in the following ways:

Lectures, seminars, group critiques, individual tutorials, technical workshops, field trips and organising, curating, and critiquing exhibitions.

Assessment modes and approaches

You will be assessed in a range of ways throughout your course. These will be both Formative (for feedback and development), and Summative (required to pass and progress to the next level). Summative assessments are compulsory.

Feedback is a crucial part of your learning and development in this programme. You will receive feedback both on your Formative (work in progress) tasks/assessments, and your Summative (graded) assessments. This feedback will help the assessment to be a part of your learning, not just a test. It may be verbal, written or video based. Please engage with this feedback to improve your future work.

Specifically, this programme will be assessed in the following ways:

Module	Assessment Type	Submission	Learning Outcomes	Credits
Major project	Coursework	Major Practice Project	all	60

Image Construction & Experimental Practice	Coursework	Portfolio of creative work and reflective writing	all	60
Ascent of the Image	Essay and Creative Project	3,000 words and zine or video	all	30
Optional Module	Essay/Project	Various theory & practice depending on module chosen		30
MFA – Independent Practice	coursework	Independent Project and research as practice documentation	all	180

Assessment diet (number of assessments for compulsory modules)

Mode	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	
Coursework	0	0	0	0	3	3
Exam	0	0	0	0	0	
Live	0	0	0	0	0	
Portfolio (multi-modal)	0	0	0	0		
Practical / multimedia	0	0	0	0	0	
Written	0	0	0	0	2	2
TOTAL:	0	0	0	0	5	5
Of which...	Individual:	5	Group:	0		

9. Other information

Item	Information
a) Assessment regulations	https://www.gold.ac.uk/gam/taught-programmes/assessment/
b) Placement opportunities	N/A
c) Programme-specific requirements	N/A
d) Programme specific costs and resources	N/A
e) Employability and potential career opportunities	N/A

10. Academic support

There is a range of support available to you to give you the best possible chance of success in this programme.

Please see your tutors and student portal/VLE for details of what's available and how to access this support.

11. Curriculum map

Programme Learning Outcomes assessed by each module:

Module name	Code	Type	D1	D2	D3	F1	F2	F3	P1	P2	P3
Image Construction Experimental Practice	MC71119 D	Compulsory	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ascent of the Image	MC71175 A	Compulsory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major Project	MC71048 D	Compulsory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Embodiment & Experience	MC71051 C	Option - Shared	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender Sexuality & Affect	MC71156 B	Option - Shared	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Experimental Media	MC71153 B	Option - Shared	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contemporary Feminist Media Cultures	MC71235 B	Option - Shared	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Images	MC71230 A	Option - Shared	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race & Technology		Option - Shared	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spirituality in Media Cultures	MC71268 A	Option - Shared	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MFA Independent Practice	MC7XXX XA	Compulsory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>