

BA (Hons) Photography

Programme specification

1. Programme details

| Item | Information |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| a) Programme name (incl. pathways): | BA (Hons) Photography |
| b) Programme code(s) | TBC |
| c) Programme credit value(s) | 360 CATS 180 ECTS |
| d) Programme author(s) | Damian Owen-Board |
| e) Entry requirements | A-level: C-C-C or equivalent Portfolio required for applicants who do not have A-levels or BTECs related to the subject. IELTS 6.0, with 6.0 in writing and no element lower than 5.5. |
| f) Academic year effective from | 2026 |

2. Programme Aims & Overview

Aims

BA Photography invites you to explore photography as a dynamic creative art form within an increasingly complex and rapidly evolving visual environment. Through a combination of practical instruction, critical engagement, and independent exploration, the programme supports the development of both technical proficiency and a distinctive personal voice.

Overview

On this programme you will gain a comprehensive grounding in analogue and digital photographic techniques. This includes hands-on experience with film processes, darkroom practice, digital editing and printing, and emerging technologies such as AI-based tools, all supported by expert staff and specialist facilities. Alongside this, the curriculum cultivates strong visual literacy. You learn to analyse images with confidence by engaging with photographic theory, history, and the ways technical and conceptual decisions influence meaning and interpretation.

The programme also encourages you to extend your practice beyond traditional photographic approaches. Through experimentation with moving image, digital manipulation, sculptural forms, alternative processes,

and archival materials, you are introduced to the expanded field of contemporary photographic practice. These explorations are enriched by an understanding of the historical and cultural contexts that shape the medium, enabling thoughtful and purposeful creative work.

At the heart of the programme is the development of your individual creative identity. Learning begins with structured projects designed to build core capabilities, before progressing toward increasingly independent work culminating in a major project and degree show at the end of your third year. Regular tutorials, critiques, and peer discussions foster reflection, growth, and the refinement of a unique artistic perspective.

Professional development is integral throughout the course. You will acquire transferable skills relevant to a wide range of creative careers and undertake a work placement that offers meaningful real-world experience. You will respond to industry set briefs giving you real world working experience. Critical inquiry also plays a central role, encouraging you to consider photography's cultural significance and its impact within wider social contexts.

The programme is founded on a commitment to inclusivity and community. Students join a diverse cohort with a broad range of experiences, interests, and ambitions, and are supported in an environment that values individuality, experimentation, and creative confidence.

3. External reference

| Item | Information |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| a) FHEQ Level of Award: | 6 |
| b) UCAS Code(s): | |
| c) HECoS Code(s): | |
| d) QAA Benchmark group: | Art & Design |

4. Awards

| Item | Information |
|--|--|
| a) Awarding institution: | University of London (Interim Exit Awards made by Goldsmiths' University) |
| b) Teaching institution: | Goldsmiths, UoL |
| c) Home School: | MCCS If other, name here: N/A |
| d) School(s) also involved in teaching of the programme: | 1. None 2. None 3. None If other, name here: N/A |
| 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> CertHE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DipHE <input type="checkbox"/> PGCert <input type="checkbox"/> PGDip |

| Item | Information |
|------------------|--|
| g) Final awards: | CertHE Photography DipHE Photography BA (Hons) Photography |

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: N/A |
| 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 is broken down in in-person vs. online learning, in hours and percentages. |
| d) Total hours directed learning/year | 240 |
| e) In-person hours | 240 100% |
| f) Online hours | 0 0% |
| g) Pace of study: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full time <input type="checkbox"/> Part time |
| h) Duration of programme | Full time: 3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> years <input type="checkbox"/> months Part time: N/A <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 | Level | Graduate Attribute |
|----|--|--------------|---------------------------|
| D1 | Communicate the key themes, methods, and concerns within photographic practice. | 4 | Diversity of perspective |
| D2 | Reflect on your knowledge of historical and contemporary contexts relevant to photography and visual culture. | 5 | Political in the personal |
| D3 | Synthesise academic knowledge and understanding with your lived experience and wider cultural contexts as evidenced in your photographic practice. | 6 | Collaboration |
| F1 | Apply appropriate materials, techniques, and processes to effectively experiment in the creation of your photographic work. | 4 | Responsible agency |
| F2 | Make critically informed decisions about the content of your work in relation to contemporary photographic and visual art practices. | 5 | Political in the personal |
| F3 | Demonstrate capabilities in using both conceptual and technical skills in the development and presentation of your photographic practice | 6 | Collaboration |
| P1 | Write about and discuss visual material critically | 4 | Diversity of perspective |
| P2 | Manage and sustain independent study and self-directed projects. | 5 | Responsible agency |
| P3 | Engage with complex concepts and articulate them with clarity and confidence to diverse audiences. | 6 | Responsible agency |

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):

Level 4 modules are all compulsory.

At level 5 you will choose 2 option modules amounting to 30 credits (15 in Term 1 and 15 in Term 2) from a list of available modules.

At level 6 you will choose 1 option module amounting to 15 credits from a list of available modules.

Phase 1 (FT)

| Module Name | Code | Credit | Level | Type | Term | Year PT | Pathway |
|---|-----------|--------|-------|------------|------|---------|---------|
| Made & Seen | TBC | 30 | 4 | Compulsory | 1 | N/A | N/A |
| Photography: Historical & Critical Perspectives | TBC | 15 | 4 | Compulsory | 1 | N/A | N/A |
| Subjectivity, Objectivity Power | TBC | 30 | 4 | Compulsory | 2 | N/A | N/A |
| Methodologies for Practice | TBC | 15 | 4 | Compulsory | 2 | N/A | N/A |
| Media Arts | TBC | 15 | 4 | Compulsory | 2 | N/A | N/A |
| Initiating Independent Practice | MC51019 A | 15 | 4 | Compulsory | 3 | N/A | N/A |

Phase 2 (FT)

| Module Name | Module Code | Credit | Level | Module Type | Term | Year PT | Pathway |
|--------------------------------|-------------|--------|-------|-----------------|------|---------|---------|
| What is Photography? | TBC | 30 | 5 | Compulsory | 1 | N/A | N/A |
| Expanding Independent Practice | TBC | 45 | 5 | Compulsory | 2-3 | N/A | N/A |
| The Goldsmiths Project | TBC | 15 | 5 | Compulsory | 2 | N/A | N/A |
| Television & After | TBC | 15 | 5 | Option - Shared | 1 | N/A | N/A |
| Post Truth Politics | TBC | 15 | 5 | Option - Shared | 1 | N/A | N/A |
| Future of Media Work | TBC | 15 | 5 | Option - Shared | 1 | N/A | N/A |
| Understanding Advertising | TBC | 15 | 5 | Option - Shared | 2 | N/A | N/A |
| Video Games | TBC | 15 | 5 | Option - Shared | 2 | N/A | N/A |

| Module Name | Module Code | Credit | Level | Module Type | Term | Year PT | Pathway |
|-----------------------------|-------------|--------|-------|-----------------|------|---------|---------|
| Fashion, Branding & Culture | TBC | 15 | 5 | Option - Shared | 2 | N/A | N/A |

Phase 3 (FT)

| Module Name | Module Code | Credit | Level | Module Type | Term | Year PT | Pathway |
|---------------------------------|-------------|--------|-------|-----------------|-------|---------|---------|
| Major Final Project | TBC | 60 | 6 | Compulsory | 1-2-3 | N/A | N/A |
| Work Placement | TBC | 15 | 6 | Compulsory | 1 | N/A | N/A |
| You & Your Future | TBC | 15 | 6 | Compulsory | 2 | N/A | N/A |
| Immersive and Generative Arts | TBC | 15 | 6 | Option - Shared | 1 | N/A | N/A |
| Embodiment & Experience | TBC | 15 | 6 | Option - Shared | 1 | N/A | N/A |
| Queer Crip Decolonial Feminisms | TBC | 15 | 6 | Option - Shared | 1 | N/A | N/A |
| Music as Communication | TBC | 15 | 6 | Option - Shared | 1 | N/A | N/A |
| Digital Audiovisual Media | TBC | 15 | 6 | Option - Shared | 2 | N/A | N/A |
| Race & Technology | TBC | 15 | 6 | Option - Shared | 2 | N/A | N/A |
| Global Influencer Cultures | TBC | 15 | 6 | Option - Shared | 2 | N/A | N/A |

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:

Year one

Through practical modules, you will examine how power dynamics, agency, race, class, gender and location inform your image-making process. This will culminate in a five-week independent practice project where you will be able to apply these ideas to your own interests.

In your first year, theory modules aim to give you a foundational understanding of photographic and image-making histories, discourses and critical thinking.

You will also complete a hybrid methodologies module aimed at empowering you to apply your theoretical and critical understandings to the making process.

Your learning will be supported by a series of technical workshops in e.g.:

- Camera
- Studio and lighting
- Alternative and traditional darkroom practices
- Digital image workflows and manipulation
- Book making

Year two

In your second year, you will continue to develop your own personal practice. In your first term, you will explore how photography interrelates to commerce, by carrying out a series of industry set briefs aimed at allowing you to translate your developing skills into real world scenarios.

You will then undertake more independent practice modules and make a substantial body of work to be presented as part of an interim exhibition in the summer term.

You will undertake further theory option modules from across the school aimed at giving you wider context for your burgeoning photographic practice

As part of your studies, you will have the opportunity to complete further technical workshops in:

- Advanced zine and book making
- Curatorial and installation practices
- Advanced digital and analogue processes
- Moving image

Year three

Your final year focuses on consolidating and developing your ability to plan, direct and manifest your own work. You will be exposed to a wide range of presentation and installation methodologies to help you expand your understanding of your audience. This will culminate in your degree show, where you will present and curate your own work in a way that builds meaningful relationships with your audience.

Throughout the year, you will be taught through a series of individual and group tutorials with tutors and visiting artists, presentations, critiques and technical workshops to aid the development of your work.

You will also be asked to reflect on the development and realisation of your work through a reflexive essay.

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:

A range of modes of assessment are used, to help you develop and showcase your skills and knowledge. These include practical, written and oral work, often collated in a portfolio. There are elements of both individual and group assessment, relevant to the subject.

Assessment diet (number of assessments for compulsory modules)

| Mode | Level 3 | Level 4 | Level 5 | Level 6 | Level 7 | Total |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-----------|---------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Coursework | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Exam | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Live | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Portfolio (multi-modal) | 0 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 7 |
| Practical / multimedia | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Written | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| TOTAL: | 0 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 12 |
| Of which... | Individual: | 11 | Group: | 1 | | |

9. Other information

| Item | Information |
|---|---|
| a) Assessment regulations | https://www.gold.ac.uk/gam/taught-programmes/assessment/ |
| b) Placement opportunities | You will complete a 2-week placement between your 2nd and 3rd year, then critically evaluate your findings in two assessments. You will learn how to conduct yourself in the workplace, and be able to observe the ethos of the image making industries and the challenges they face. |
| c) Programme-specific requirements | None |
| d) Programme specific costs and resources | None |

| Item | Information |
|---|---|
| e) Employability and potential career opportunities | Employability skills are supported and developed throughout the course, e.g. What is Photography enables you to apply your developing skills to real-world industry set briefs and scenarios. You are taught throughout by staff who are active industry practitioners and assessments are often authentic – reflecting industry practices and norms. |

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 |
|---|------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Made and Seen | TBC | Compulsory | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Photography: Historical & Critical Perspectives | TBC | Compulsory | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Subjectivity, Objectivity Power | TBC | Compulsory | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Methodologies for Practice | TBC | Compulsory | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Media Arts | TBC | Compulsory | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Initiating Independent Practice | TBC | Compulsory | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| What is Photography? | TBC | Compulsory | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Expanding Independent Practice | TBC | Compulsory | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The Goldsmiths Project | TBC | Compulsory | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Television & After | TBC | Option - Shared | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Post Truth Politics | TBC | Option - Shared | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Future of Media Work | TBC | Option - Shared | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Understanding Advertising | TBC | Option - Shared | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Video Games | TBC | Option - Shared | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Fashion, Branding & Culture | TBC | Option - Shared | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Major Final Project | TBC | Compulsory | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Work Placement | TBC | Compulsory | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| You & Your Future | TBC | Compulsory | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Immersive and Generative Arts | TBC | Option - Shared | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input 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"/> |
| Embodiment & Experience | TBC | Option - Shared | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input 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"/> |
| Queer Crip Decolonial Feminisms | TBC | Option - Shared | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input 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"/> |
| Music as Communication | TBC | Option - Shared | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input 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"/> |
| Digital Audiovisual Media | TBC | Option - Shared | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input 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"/> |

| Module name | Code | Type | D1 | D2 | D3 | F1 | F2 | F3 | P1 | P2 | P3 |
|----------------------------|------|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Race & Technology | TBC | Option - Shared | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input 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"/> |
| Global Influencer Cultures | TBC | Option - Shared | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input 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"/> |