COURSE SPECIFICATION

BA (Hons) Photography

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Course Title	BA (Hons) Photography
Final Award	BA (Hons)
Exit Awards	CertHE, DipHE, BA
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	U1082FTC / U1082PYC / W640
Mode of study	Full time
Mode of delivery	Campus
Normal length of course	3 years, 4 years with placement
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	from September 2026 intake onwards
Awarding Body	University of Portsmouth
Teaching Institution	University of Portsmouth
Faculty	Creative and Cultural Industries
School/Department/Subject Group	School of Architecture, Art and Design
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	https://www.port.ac.uk/about-us/structure-and-governance/organisational-structure/faculty-of-creative-and-cultural-industries/school-of-architecture-art-and-design
Course webpage including entry criteria	https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/ba-hons-photography
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	N/A
Office for Students Conditions of Registration	*https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/for-providers/registering-with-the-ofs/registration-with-the-ofs-a-guide/conditions-of-registration/*
Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	Level 6

This course specification provides a summary of the main features of the course, identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the course, the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff, and the reference points used to inform the curriculum.
This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right course of study, to current students on the course and to staff teaching and administering the course.

Further detailed information on the individual modules within the course may be found in the relevant module descriptors and the Course Handbook provided to students on enrolment.

Please refer to the Course and Module Catalogue for further information on the course structure and modules.

Educational aims of the course

- To create an understanding of photographic practice in a global context, the individuals place within both historical and contemporary contexts and a knowledge of how an individuals practice relates to that of others.
- To develop technical skills and understanding that can be applied to both current and emerging photographic technology
- To produce outcomes which successfully combine conceptual, theoretical and practical elements.
- Be able to communicate clearly and effectively, in a range of forms and to different audiences.
- Be able to work in a range of environments, responding positively to new situations by being aware, flexible, adaptable and realistic in their expectations.
- Demonstrate a global perspective, fostering informed citizenship and promoting diversity and respect.
- To develop intellectual maturity, curiosity, personal innovation, risk-taking and independent enquiry.
- To encourage and prepare students to take increasing responsibility for the content and direction of their creative work, and require students to undertake significant and sustained periods of independent study.
- Be effective team players, able to provide leadership and to support the success of others
- To foster students' employability skills by developing the students' creative, intellectual, analytical and research skills.
- To develop critical and creative independence, flexibility, sensitivity to audience, and self-reflexiveness, across individual and group work, and critical and production work.
- To develop the ability to use a range of research methods within the historical, theoretical and socio-political dimensions of their and then produce logical and structured narratives and arguments supported by relevant evidence.
- Be proactive in recognising and addressing personal development needs, and able to make informed career decisions.

Course Learning Outcomes and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) sets out a national framework of qualification levels, and the associated standards of achievement are found in their Framework for Higher Education Qualifications document.

Office for Students Conditions of Registration

The Course Learning Outcomes for this course are outlined in the tables below.

A. Knowledge and understanding of:			
LO number	**Learning outcome**	**Learning and Teaching methods**	**Assessment methods**
A1	The broad critical and contextual dimensions of the student's discipline (AD)	Lectures, seminars, Tutorials, field trips	Essays, portfolios, research and development books, presentations
A2	The key production processes and professional practices relevant to photographic industries, and of ways of conceptualising creativity and authorship (CMFCS)	Lectures, group work, seminars, workshops, field trips	Essays, portfolios, research and development books, presentations
A3	The significance of the work of other practitioners in photography and relevant art and design practices. (AD)	Lectures, group work, seminars, field trips	Essays, portfolios, research and development books, presentations, formative feedback sessions
A4	Knowledge of a range of texts, genres, aesthetic forms and cultural practices, and the ability to produce close analysis of these, and to make comparisons and connections (CMFCS)	Lectures, seminars, workshops	Essays, research and development books, presentations
A5	Knowledge and understanding of the role and impact of IP within Art and Design Practice. (AD)	Lectures, seminars,	Essays, presentations

B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) skills, able to:			
LO number	**Learning outcome**	**Learning and Teaching methods**	**Assessment methods**
B1	Generate ideas, concepts, proposals, solutions or arguments independently and/or collaboratively in response to set briefs and/or as self-initiated activity (AD)	Group work, seminars, workshops, field trips, tutorials	Essays, research and development books, presentations, formative feedback sessions
B2	Carry out various forms of research for essays, projects, creative productions or dissertations involving sustained independent and critical enquiry. (CMFSC)	Seminars, workshops, field trips	Essays, research and development books, presentations, formative feedback sessions
B3	Consider and evaluate own work in a reflexive manner, with reference to academic and/or professional issues, debates and conventions. (CMFSC)	Seminars, tutorials	Essays, research and development books, presentations, formative feedback sessions
B4	Articulate, synthesise and generate knowledge and understanding, attributes and skills in effective ways in the contexts of creative practice, employability and enterprise, preparation for further study, research and personal development AD)	Seminars, workshops, field trips, simulations, work placement	Essays, presentations, formative feedback sessions, work placement reports.
B5	Apply, consolidate and extend learning in different contexts and situations, both within and beyond the field of art and design. (AD)	Seminars, workshops, simulations, work placement	Presentations, formative feedback sessions, work placement reports

C. Practical (Professional or Subject) skills, able to:			
LO number	**Learning outcome**	**Learning and Teaching methods**	**Assessment methods**
C1	Employ materials, techniques, methods, technologies and tools associated with photographic practice, with skill and imagination while observing good working practices, and professional/ legal responsibilities. (AD)	Workshops, simulations, tutorials	Portfolios, research and development books, presentations, formative feedback sessions
C2	Produce work which is informed by, and contextualise within, relevant theoretical issues and debates (CMFCS)	Seminars, tutorials, group work, workshops	Portfolios, research and development books, presentations, formative feedback sessions
C3	Experiment, as appropriate with forms, conventions, languages, techniques and practices related to photography (CMFCS)	Seminars, tutorials, group work, workshops	Portfolios, research and development books, presentations, formative feedback sessions
C4	Manage and make appropriate use of the interaction between intention, process, outcome, context, and the methods of dissemination (AD)	Seminars, tutorials, group work, workshops	Portfolios, research and development books, presentations, formative feedback sessions
C5	Select, experiment with and make appropriate use of materials, processes, technologies and environments showing understanding of quality standards and attention to detail (AD)	Seminars, tutorials, group work, workshops	Portfolios, research and development books, presentations, formative feedback sessions

D. Transferrable (Graduate and Employability) skills, able to:			
LO number	**Learning outcome**	**Learning and Teaching methods**	**Assessment methods**
D1	Study independently, set goals, manage workloads and meet deadlines (AD)	Lectures, seminars, workshops, simulations, group tutorials	Reports, research and development books, presentations, formative feedback sessions
D2	Anticipate and accommodate change, and work within the contexts of ambiguity, uncertainty and unfamiliarity. (AD)	Lectures, seminars, workshops, simulations, group tutorials	Reports, research and development books, presentations, formative feedback sessions
D3	Interact effectively in team, for example through collaboration, collective endeavour and negotiation (AD)	Workshops, simulations, group tutorials	Reports, presentations, formative feedback sessions
D4	Effectively communicate ideas and information in visual, oral and written forms (AD)	Seminars, workshops	Essays, presentations, portfolios, formative feedback sessions
D5	Identify personal strengths and needs, and reflect on personal development (AD)	Seminars, workshops, Personal Development Tutorials.	Essays, research and development books, presentations, formative feedback sessions

Academic Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth Academic Regulations: Examination & Assessment Regulations will apply to this course. Approved course exemptions can be found here.

Support for Student Learning

The University of Portsmouth provides a comprehensive range of support services for students throughout their course, details of which are available at the MyPort student portal.

In addition to these University support services this course also provides:

CCI Creative Skills: One-to-one support sessions and group tutorials in creative technology, software and skills relevant to CCI courses and future careers.

CCI Academic Skills: To support learning strategies and techniques through one-to-one tutorials or group workshops.

CCI Student Success Advisors: Each student is individually allocated a dedicated Student Support Advisor who provides personalised pastoral and practical support throughout their studies.

Specialist equipment and facilities relevant to the course.

Evaluation and Enhancement of Standards and Quality in Learning and Teaching

The University of Portsmouth undertakes comprehensive monitoring, review and evaluation of courses within clearly assigned staff responsibilities. Student feedback is a key feature in these evaluations, as represented in our Policy for Listening to and Responding to the Student Voice where you can also find further information.

Reference Points

The course and outcomes have been developed taking account of:

- University of Portsmouth Connected Curriculum
- University of Portsmouth Vision
- Office for Students Conditions of Registration
- University of Portsmouth Code of Practice for Work-based and Placement Learning
- Quality Assurance Agency UK Quality Code for Higher Education
- Quality Assurance Agency Qualification Characteristic Statements
- Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement for **Art and Design, Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies**
- Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications
- Requirements of Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Bodies: **N/A**
- Vocational and professional experience, scholarship and research expertise of the University of Portsmouth's academic members of staff
- National Occupational Standards

Changes to your course/modules

The University of Portsmouth has checked the information provided in this Course Specification and will endeavour to deliver this course in keeping with this Course Specification. However, changes to the course may sometimes be required arising from annual monitoring, student feedback, and the review and update of modules and courses.

Where this activity leads to significant changes to modules and courses there will be prior consultation with students and others, wherever possible, and the University of Portsmouth will take all reasonable steps to minimise disruption to students.

It is also possible that the University of Portsmouth may not be able to offer a module or course for reasons outside of its control, for example, due to the absence of a member of staff or low student registration numbers. Where this is the case, the University of Portsmouth will endeavour to inform applicants and students as soon as possible, and where appropriate, will facilitate the transfer of affected students to another suitable course.

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Document Details	
CSD Template date	July 2025
Author	Roel Paredaens
Date of production and version number	01/08/2018 v1.0
Date of update and version number	15/10/2025 v3.1
Minimum student registration numbers	20