

## Course Information

**Award: BA (Hons) Photography**

**UCAS Code: W642**

**Location:**

Southend Campus  
South Essex College of Further and Higher Education  
Luker Road,  
Southend-on-Sea  
Essex  
SS1 1ND

**Awarding body:**

UAL (University of the Arts London).

Students who complete the course successfully will receive a degree from UAL. The agreement between South Essex College and UAL is reviewed every four years for developmental purposes and was originally validated in 2015.

**Professional body accreditation:**

None.

**Duration:**

3 years (full-time)

**Academic year:**

Full-time course: October 2019 to July 2022

**Part-time study:**

No

**Work placements:**

Work placements are encouraged throughout the duration of the course. However there is particular emphasis on this aspect during Y2 in relation to Unit PH 206 *Work Placement*. On this unit students will work towards securing a work placement for a minimum of 60 hours over the year. Some students take this in one block others over a number of weeks, both in term time and during the holiday period; this is usually negotiated with the placement provider. You will be assisted in gaining a placement, however the emphasis is on you to secure it as part of this unit. Should you not be able to secure a placement a suitable live or competition brief may be taken on to fulfil the requirements of the unit. This live brief will be negotiated with your unit Leader.

**Timetables:**

Timetables are normally available one month before registration, though we endeavour to let you know an outline as soon as possible. Please note that while we make every effort to ensure that timetables are as student-friendly as possible, scheduled teaching can take place on any day of the week. Typically year groups are expected to attend for 13 hours a week spread over two and a half days. We expect students to build on this learning through Independent Study for at least a similar period. For this time we usually have space available within the campus or at the Forum in Southend.

## **Entry Requirements:**

**Award: BA (Hons) Photography**

**UCAS Code: W642**

Entry requirements 2019-20:

You will need a minimum of 64 UCAS points from one or more of the following:

- At least two A-levels
- BTEC/UAL Level 3 Extended Diploma/Diploma/Subsidiary Diploma/Certificate [RQF]
- BTEC National Award/Certificate/Diploma [NQF]
- Access to Higher Education Diploma (minimum of 15 credits at merit or above)
- International Baccalaureate
- AQA Baccalaureate
- Progression Diploma
- Advanced Diploma

You will also need GCSE English at grade C (old specification) or Grade 4 (new specification) or above OR a Level 2 equivalent such as functional skills qualification.

To find out how many points your qualifications are awarded, [view the UCAS Tariff tables](#).

You will also be required to undertake a portfolio-based interview. Portfolios should include examples of recent project work and may reference a variety of media.

## **Exceptional Entry:**

Applications from mature students who do not possess the entry requirements as listed above, but who possess related professional experience or professional qualifications are welcome to apply. You will need to demonstrate by interview, exceptional entry portfolio (this is likely to include evidence of paid or unpaid work experience) and/or written assessment that you are suitable for the course. In the first instance we suggest you contact [HEAdmissions@southessex.ac.uk](mailto:HEAdmissions@southessex.ac.uk) to discuss your application.

## **International applicants:**

If English is not your first language you will need an IELTS score of 6.0 with a minimum score of 5.5 in each component (Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking), or an equivalent English Language qualification.

## **Additional requirements:**

### **Credit transfer and accreditation of prior learning or experience:**

If you have achieved a qualification such as a foundation degree or HND, or have gained credit another higher education institution, you may be able to enter the course at level 5 or level 6. Other qualifications and relevant work experience may also count for academic credit. Further information is available at in the Higher Education Admissions Policy for students studying on the University of Arts London Degree.

## **Course Overview:**

The programme provides graduates with a broad knowledge and experience of photography and post-production techniques across a range of genres, approaches and contexts. The photography degree is designed to provide you with the skills, knowledge and experience required to become a confident and successful image maker within photography, creative media and fine art. Photography

is an exciting creative profession that is continually undergoing changes in response to significant technological developments and the resulting demands from both established and new emerging media that enable creative content to be widely distributed and consumed by a potentially vast audience.

Talented and skilled photography graduates are continually sought to provide the industry and fine art sectors with fresh ideas, new perspectives and innovative approaches to creative problem solving in visual communication. The programme aim is to develop and refine distinctive aesthetics that will engage audiences who have increasingly sophisticated levels of visual literacy. Whilst on the programme you will engage with experienced lecturers who come from a wide range of creative and professional disciplines enabling you to increase your technical ability, expand your commercial, cultural and critical understanding of the photographic world and most importantly, enable you to develop your own personal ideas.

### **Year 1 for full-time students (Level 4)**

Year one offers an introduction to photography and its key concepts, themes, genres and approaches. You will receive both practical and theoretical teaching in lens-based media alongside historical and contemporary studies and cultural theory. Students will gain a wide range of skills to underpin their study, offering you the opportunity to develop an awareness of photography and its uses in contemporary media, art and society whilst acquiring additional skills in communication, presentation and problem-solving.

### **Year 2 for full-time students (Level 5)**

Year two builds upon the skills and knowledge you will acquire during the first year, with emphasis on developing a deeper understanding of ideas and concepts. This will be a time for you to work on more self-directed projects taking your practice in particular directions. You will work on 'live' projects to enable you to gain work experience and develop industry contacts, alongside entering national professional photographic competitions. You will also explore personal career development and the relationship between commercial practice and other visual arts.

### **Year 3 for full-time students (Level 6)**

Year three places particular emphasis upon independent learning and the ability to take responsibility for managing your own personal development and planning for your chosen career pathway. These skills are key to supporting your final major project and dissertation. You will complete a substantial body of photographic work that will be presented in an exhibition. You will also work on producing a professional photographic portfolio that is to be supported by a website and other marketing materials that will help you secure employment or further your studies.

A copy of the rules and regulations governing the course is available

<https://www.southessex.ac.uk/higher-education/higher-education-policies>

### **Unit Information:**

#### **Unit map**

This unit map provides a list of the units that make up your course.

Each unit is worth a specified number of credits: all are compulsory, enabling you to cover key subject knowledge while developing your own interests.

You must achieve units worth a total of 120 credits at each level of the course.

Our teaching is informed by research, and units change periodically to reflect developments in the discipline. You can always find the most up-to-date information about your units and who is teaching them through our VLE, [Canvas](#) and in the Course Handbook.

The units available on the course are as follows:

### **Year 1 for full-time students (Level 4)**

#### **PH101 Explore and experiment (15 CREDITS)**

This unit aims to introduce a diverse range of practical research and other techniques that support innovative ideas generation, visual exploration of ideas and concepts, experimental image creation (with and without a camera), and encourage students to reflect on their work regularly to refine their production and presentation techniques. These skills will be acquired through a series of practical workshops and set tasks that offer exposure to a wide range of digital and analogue materials, techniques, processes and procedures, but with the emphasis being on experimentation with the medium's qualities and exploration of the creative potential of these aspects.

#### **PH102 Historical and contextual studies (15 CREDITS)**

This unit offers a broad introduction to contemporary and media development of cultural studies and its link into more traditional art and design movements. Focusing on theoretical methodologies, students will explore areas of contemporary interest relevant to art and design, at the same time linking and comparing these with historical developments in these fields. It is not intended to provide a comprehensive review of the subject but to introduce students to sufficient themes and discourses within this area of study for them to explore areas of personal interest.

#### **PH103 Visual persuasion (30 CREDITS)**

This unit aims to introduce students to historical & contemporary critical thinking and visual practice in relation to constructed imagery. Reference will be made to a varied selection of artists, designers, advertisers, film makers, graffiti artists and others, who use visual media to communicate specific ideas and concepts in order to sell products, influence voters, campaign for, or against, a topical issue (social, political or moral), to educate, entertain, or simply express themselves.

#### **PH104 Fashion and identity (15 CREDITS)**

This unit aims to foster an understanding of the fundamental forms and characteristics of fashion and trends across a broad range of contexts. The central focus of this unit is specifically related to the image and representation of identity and social applications, e.g. portraiture, visual typologies, documentary, commercial and fine art. The theoretical, cultural, aesthetic and ethical aspects integral to genres of photography that inherently feature documentation, typology or imagery of groups of people, other individuals and self will be studied and reflected upon.

#### **PH105 Photojournalism and documentation (15 CREDITS)**

This unit will explore a genre of photography that has had an impact upon society and culture, either historically or from a more contemporary viewpoint. The unit will require students to analyse how photography influences us and how it may have informed us or changed our world view. Through a combination of textual analysis and critical review, students will be required to demonstrate an effective overview of the contribution of photography to the character of today's society.

#### **PH106 Cinema and the constructed image (30 CREDITS)**

This unit aims to introduce the concept of narrative in photographic contexts and examine the role narrative can play in single image and moving image in documentary and storytelling contexts. The cinematic image will be explored through the study of historical and contemporary paintings, films

and photographs, examining how the intended message is represented and intended meaning understood by the viewer within a diverse range of contexts. The key roles and responsibilities associated with image-makers, 'clients' and audiences is to be reflected upon.

## **Year 2 for full-time students (Level 5)**

### **PH201 Time and memory (15 CREDITS)**

This unit aims to build on the foundation of theoretical, historical & contextual study of photography from the first year of study and encourage students to adopt as good practice the routine embedding of these important aspects into their working practice in order to be able to realise critically informed creative work. It consolidates some of fundamental theoretical debates and related contextual considerations through research and study of historical and contemporary visual and textual references that are associated with still and moving image photography.

### **PH202 Sound and vision (30 CREDITS)**

The unit supports students in gaining confidence developing abilities to conceptualize and visualize, before experimenting with and then selecting the most appropriate equipment, materials, techniques and processes to realize distinctive photographic imagery. Two assignment themes are used to stretch & challenge learners in terms of how they interpret briefs, seek understanding of concepts and gain inspiration, prior to project development. The themes devised, sound & vision and the unseen photographer, are deliberately open, inviting students to be imaginative & daring encouraging a more conceptual and critically aware approach and to be more autonomous through their responses to a diverse range of non-visual stimuli.

### **PH203 Professional development project (15 CREDITS)**

The unit introduces the theoretical aspects of working as a professional photographer or as an imaging-professional, supporting image-makers or working with images in some other capacity. Students will study the methods photographers use to approach clients & pitch for work, negotiation skills, how to interpret briefs, estimate, plan and organize photography jobs, practice developing ideas for projects that consider the client's requirements for a brief, their target audience and context of final usage, as well as relating this to the photographer's vision & technical abilities. This will ensure students understand what is required of them in order to ensure professional standards are met. Students will also create images that will be submitted to student photography awards.

### **PH204 Professional studies (15 CREDITS)**

The unit will allow students to develop an insight into the vocational and professional aspects associated with photography and related arts or media sectors, with the longer-term aim of highlighting potential job roles that could be worked towards in their final year. Students will be supported in negotiating opportunities for suitable work experience, assisting, internships, or interview meetings with practitioners that are of specific relevance to them. This will provide opportunities for students to undertake primary research, gain valuable first-hand experience and insider knowledge of what it is really like to work in the industry.

### **PH205 Cultural contexts and dissertation proposal (15 CREDITS)**

The purpose of this unit is to assist students in developing appropriate research, statistical and critical methodologies to support their dissertation, and construct an appropriate proposal for their dissertation. Students will be required to engage with a range of critical and analytical methods; to consider their underlying assumptions and to assess their limitations.

**PH206 Work placement (30 CREDITS)**

This unit will provide the opportunity to develop an understanding of working as a photographer in a commercial setting. Following the delivery of relevant theory, students will work with an 'approved' client' or obtain work experience practicing their newly acquired skills on a 'live' creative brief, gaining first-hand experience of collaborative working, communication within a professional context, interpreting a professional creative brief, generating ideas and technical solutions (problem solving) and producing photographic images that are technically, conceptually and aesthetically competent, as well as being fit for the intended purpose and context.

**Year 3 for full-time students (Level 6)****PH301 Dissertation (30 CREDITS)**

The dissertation provides students with the opportunity to work on a sustained and self-defined piece of critical writing. Students will develop an extended line of enquiry into an area of interest which impacts on or relates to their artistic or design practice. The dissertation will test powers of research, observation, data collection, analysis, understanding, organisation and presentation. It will draw on research and analytical skills developed in previous semesters of study to produce a report of depth that demonstrates an ability to work independently.

**PH302 Refinement of photographic intentions (15 CREDITS)**

This unit will encourage students to investigate a range of new approaches to self-generated ideas, challenging individuals conceptually and refining their professional practice to develop practical skills. Throughout the unit, exploration and experimentation is essential and students will be encouraged to collaborate with peers and others to build confidence and stretch their abilities. Research methodologies and reflective skills will aid the development of a wide ranging body of works exploring personal interests with refinement for PH303 Subject Realisation.

**PH303 Subject realisation (45 CREDITS)**

This unit will provide a platform for students to produce an extended body of imagery that could well constitute a significant proportion of their professional photographic portfolio. Students will focus on professionally identifying, defining and developing their specialism, individualism and personal identity within their work. This body of work should show an advanced level of practice conceptually, aesthetically and technically. It will consolidate the learning delivered during the programme, with students implementing and synthesising a range of skills and knowledge, culminating in a sophisticated outcome reflective of the course content and the individual student's specific interests and expertise.

**PH304 Professional development and portfolio (30 CREDITS)**

This unit is designed to focus on the development of a student's personal, transferable, specialist and employability skills to meet the demands of professional practices in contemporary photographic and imaging roles. The unit provides an opportunity for the student to reflect on their learning and plan a personal career strategy. The reflective process involves critical analysis that will enable students to consolidate thoughts on their development throughout the programme of study to date and assist students in identifying potential progression routes that are viable and appropriate.

**Teaching and Learning:****Teaching:**

You are taught through a combination of lectures, seminars and workshops, which enable you to discuss and develop your understanding of the discipline of Photography.

You will use industry-standard Macs and film scanners with Creative Suite software and will have access to various facilities including Darkrooms, Printmaking & Photographic studios. You also have access to 3D applications should you decide to work with mixed media. You will be introduced to a wide range of industry standard camera and lighting equipment including:

- 35mm film cameras
- Medium format film cameras
- Large format film cameras
- Full frame DSLR cameras
- Medium format digital cameras
- Professional studio flash lighting
- Professional continuous lighting

Emphasis is upon small group delivery in lectures and seminars. A key aspect of study is the opportunity to engage in academic debate through group critiques to deconstruct student work in progress. Equipment induction and technical workshops form an integral part of the course, using our well-equipped photographic studios, black and white darkrooms and digital editing facilities. Teaching methods involve demonstration, seminar activity, problem-solving, lectures, personal enquiry, and research. One to one tutorials are conducted throughout the course and are integral to the close support network that we can provide.

#### **Independent learning:**

When not attending lectures, seminars and workshops or other timetabled sessions you will be expected to continue learning independently through self-study. Typically, this will involve reading journal articles and books, working on individual and group projects, undertaking research in the library, preparing coursework assignments and presentations. A range of excellent facilities, including the library, the Learning Resource Centre and the Forum, supports your independent learning.

#### **Overall workload:**

Your overall workload consists of class contact hours of around 13 hours per week, including assessment activity plus group critiques as well as a similar amount of independent learning, with each credit taken equating to a total study time of around 8 hours. (120 credits per year).

The following information gives an indication of how much time you will need to allocate to different activities at each level of the course.

#### **Level 4:**

**50% of your time is spent in timetabled teaching and learning activities**

**Teaching, learning and assessment: 390 hours**

**Independent learning: 390 hours**

#### **Level 5:**

**50% of your time is spent in timetabled teaching and learning activities**

**Teaching, learning and assessment: 390 hours**

**Independent learning: 390 hours**

**Level 6: 45% of your time is spent in timetabled teaching and learning activities**

**Teaching, learning and assessment: 330 hours**

**Independent learning: 450 hours**

#### **Assessment & Feedback:**

**Assessment:**

Coursework is assessed in a range of different ways in order to accommodate a variety of learning styles and aptitudes including portfolio and sketchbook submissions, group presentations, written essays and research folders.

There are no examinations.

**Percentage of the course assessed by coursework:****Year 1**

100% coursework: 88% Studio based with a written element 12%

**Year 2**

100% coursework: 88% Studio based with a written element 12%

**Year 3**

100% coursework: 75% Studio based with a written element 25%

**Feedback:**

You will receive formative feedback as part of your one-to-one sessions with your unit teachers. You will also receive summative feedback on all formal assessments undertaken by coursework.

Feedback is intended to help you learn and you are encouraged to discuss it with your unit leader tutor. Feedback can be given in a range of different ways in order to accommodate a variety of learning styles and aptitudes including group critiques, recorded verbal feedback and written feedback.

We aim to provide you with feedback within 20 working days of hand-in (for all formal studio based coursework assessment. For the third year Dissertation Unit you will receive feedback and grades at the same time as your Final Major Project unit.

**Academic support :**

Our Academic Support Team provides help in the following areas:

- Study skills (including reading, note-taking and presentation skills)
- Written English (including punctuation and grammatical accuracy)
- Academic writing (including how to reference)
- Research skills (in conjunction with the library)
- Critical thinking and understanding arguments
- Revision, assessment and examination skills (including time management).

Our Disability Advice and Support Service helps students with additional needs resulting from disabilities such as sensory impairment or learning difficulties such as dyslexia.

**Teaching staff:**

You will be taught by an experienced teaching team whose expertise and knowledge are closely matched to the content of the units on the course. The team includes senior academics, professional practitioners with industry experience, co-ordinators and technical officers. Our teaching is informed by the research and consultancy we undertake, and all of our lecturers have a teaching qualification.

**Course Cost:**

**Course Name:** BA (Hons) Photography

**Duration:** 3 years (full-time)

**Fees**

For the academic year 2019-20 the tuition fees for this course are £8000

## **UK/EU Overseas**

Full-time only

### **The following course-related costs are included in the fees:**

- Third Year students will show their work at an industry event such as Free Range, this will be covered by the Faculty of HE but may incur additional costs (ie: printing) depending on the work you produce.
- International trips to European cities such as Paris, Amsterdam and Budapest may be planned within your second year of study. The cost of travel and accommodation will be covered by the Faculty of HE.

### **The following course-related costs are not included in the fees:**

- Day trips are routinely arranged to support your studies, approximately one organised trip to London per-term and you will be required to fund travel costs/exhibition entry.
- You may need to purchase art/photography materials for your course, which will vary according to your solution to particular briefs. Some costs you should factor in include:
- Second year students should own a good quality portfolio case to assist when applying for work placements or attending job interviews, this will cost approximately £50 - £250.
- Additional costs for larger purchases will again vary according to the requirements of individuals (for example some may wish to purchase more photographic equipment). All students will have access to the University and Forum outside of University hours but many choose to purchase a Mac to assist their studies. Students wishing to do this will get an HE discount. You will also qualify for a discounted sign-up to Apple's Creative Suite which will give you access to Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop, etc for £20 per month (at time of writing).

### **Accommodation and living costs not included in the fees**

This information can be obtained from our Accommodation Services home page

<https://www.southessex.ac.uk/higher-education/accommodation>

### **Sources of financial support**

If you receive funding from Student Finance you may be eligible to apply for additional benefits.

Details can be obtained from our Student Services home page

<https://www.southessex.ac.uk/higher-education/fees-and-funding>