# THE NORTHERN SCHOOL OF ART

**Programme Specification**

**BA (Hons) Photography**

**2021/2022-2025/2026**

northernart.ac.uk

# Contents

# Programme Specification

The Programme Specification provides a summary of the main features of the BA (Hons) Photography programme, and the learning outcomes that a 'typical' student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if they pass the programme.

Further detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and learning and teaching methods of each module can be found in your module handbooks.

| Key Programme Information | |
|---|---|
| Final award | BA (Hons) |
| Programme title | BA (Hons) Photography |
| Teaching institution | The Northern School of Art |
| Awarding Institution | Arts University Bournemouth [AUB] |
| Professional accreditation | None |
| Length of programme/mode of study | 3 Years Full-Time |
| Level of final award (in FHEQ) | Level 6 |
| Subject benchmark statement(s) | Art and Design |
| UCAS code | W642 |
| Language of study | English |
| External Examiner for programme: | Dr John Hillman<br>Birmingham University |
| Please note that it is not appropriate for students to contact External Examiners directly | |
| Date of validation | April 2021 |
| Date of most recent review | April 2017 |
| Date programme specification is written/revised | April 2021 |

## Programme Introduction

The BA (Hons) Photography programme aims to provide you with the opportunity to develop the creative, intellectual, technical and problem-solving skills needed to be a successful practitioner in the contemporary markets of the photographic industry. The programme has been designed to educate, challenge, test, and prepare career-minded photographers to find their own voices and succeed as confident communicators and imaging professionals.

The programme has been developed in consultation with professional practitioners, trade bodies, online content producers and industry partners. Whilst studying on the programme, you will have the opportunity to become a student member of the Association of Photographers [AOP]. You will be able to attend professional training sessions within your programme and delivered in conjunction with Adobe and Capture One. Technical digital proficiency and creative awareness will be nurtured throughout a comprehensive learning experience that fosters your visual literacy as an artist practitioner, and enables you to develop a rewarding career.

The discipline of photography is constantly evolving, and it is widely recognised by the industry that graduates with a combination of artistic, creative, intellectual, visual, digital, technical and analytical skills have an advantage in seeking employment in this sector. As a practice-led programme, the BA (Hons) Photography philosophy aims to link practical and theoretical knowledge with the appropriate production of technically proficient and highly competent, innovative and contextualised imagery, thereby creating a deeper understanding of the function of the creative professional in the photographic industry.

The programme reflects industry requirements and expectations by placing an emphasis on exploring a range of photographic and digital practices. There is a strong industry focus, as well as an exploration of concept and experimentation to inform and enable you to shape a personal professional response and develop a specialist portfolio. You will be encouraged to develop your abilities in creative and commercial digital photographic practice with an understanding and appreciation of current technical, client and business considerations in order to be successful and sustainable as a practitioner. You will be able to respond to communicating the needs of clients in a collaborative manner that challenges conventional commercial outputs, as well as exploring your artist voice as a photographer for documentary genres through the realisation of exhibition and publication.

Within the vibrant and stimulating environment of a specialist art and design school, you will have the opportunity to engage with the social, cultural and commercial aspects of photography in a unique and visually challenging location, which is ideally suited to its reputation for producing contemporary photographers. Past students are now successful within the industry and have won awards from the Association of Photography (AOP), the British Institute of Professional Photographers (BIPP), The Royal Photographic Society [RPS] and the Portrait of Britain Awards (British Journal of Photography). Works are also held on consignment with Alamy Stock Photo Agency.

The programme complements a range of other disciplines at the School, such as film and moving image, fine art, graphic design, illustration and fashion. It is designed to promote and produce creative individuals who can explore and evolve their own photographic vision through individual and collaborative practice. Throughout the programme, you will be encouraged to acquire life-long learning skills as you mature into a critically aware and creative decision-maker, able to tackle the current demands and future challenges of the photographic imaging industry or to progress to postgraduate study.

## Programme Aims

PA1 To enable you to review, consolidate and extend your knowledge and understanding of your field of study and apply this to a range of contexts

PA2 To provide opportunities for individually-focused research and investigation that informs your creative practice and personal development

PA3 To enable you to identify, analyse, interrogate and integrate the relationship between theories and practice

PA4 To encourage independent approaches to creative practice and project management, including planning and organisation, investigation, evaluation and collaboration

PA5 To enable you to produce work to a standard appropriate to the professional context of your field of study, informed by research and experimentation

PA6 To enable you to communicate effectively in a variety of forms appropriate to a range of contexts and audiences

## Programme Outcomes

PO1 Demonstrate a systematic understanding of key areas of your field of study and its cultural, social, ethical and professional contexts

PO2 Synthesise, evaluate, reference and apply research from appropriate sources to make independent judgements and to initiate and carry out projects

PO3 Demonstrate conceptual understanding that enables you to devise and sustain arguments, solve problems, and use ideas and techniques appropriate to your field of study

PO4 Manage your own work and learning as an autonomous practitioner and collaborate with others in preparation for employment, continuing professional development and/or further study

PO5 Apply an appropriate range of practical and technical skills to produce solutions and outcomes relevant to your field of study and related professional practice

PO6   Communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions in a range of appropriate formats to specialist and non-specialist audiences, including potential employers and professional networks

## Reference Points

UK Quality Code for Higher Education, including:
- Subject Benchmark Statements: Art and Design 2019
- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications [FHEQ] 2014

AUB Undergraduate Regulatory Framework
The Northern School of Art Strategic Plan
The Northern School of Art Academic Strategy

## Learning, Teaching and Assessment

### Learning and Teaching Strategies

Your programme has been designed to give you a clear and logical learning experience, which encourages you to take an active part in the learning process. Each level of the programme has explicit learning outcomes that indicate the range of your knowledge and understanding, including intellectual, practical, professional and transferable skills.

The programme helps you to develop the ability to plan, manage and evaluate your learning, which is vital to the process of becoming an independent and professional practitioner. It also encourages you to take a more questioning approach, so that you can resolve problems with increasing confidence in your own judgements.

Formative feedback throughout modules helps you to evaluate your progress and identify your individual strengths and areas for development. Regular feedback from tutors, other students, and your own self-evaluations will measure your progress.

The programme objectives are met by deploying a wide variety of teaching and learning methods including assignments, projects, lectures, seminars, group critiques and tutorials. In consultation with the Faculty Leader, academic staff are responsible for coordinating individual modules of study, and for selecting appropriate methods of delivery according to the subject matter and the student experience.

The learning and teaching methods used will enable you to develop the skills, knowledge and critical awareness required to become a creative practitioner and promote the development of transferable skills, which are essential for employability.

The study time allocated to each module in the programme incorporates a balance of formal teaching, student support, independent and facilitated learning. The programme is structured progressively to provide increased opportunities for independent learning throughout the programme. The promotion of independent learning reflects your anticipated maturity as a student and allows you to direct your learning towards individual goals.

The integration of theory and practice is crucial in your development as a well-rounded and informed creative practitioner. This is promoted and reinforced through

a team-teaching approach in both practical and written modules. Lectures, seminars and tutorials may be delivered by academic staff, as appropriate, in the creative environment of the studio, on location, lecture theatre and seminar rooms.

### Level 4 – Foundation and Orientation

Level 4 provides you with an introduction to the concepts, skills and knowledge associated with your subject area. You can access guidance and support from tutors during teaching sessions and facilitated learning, but you are also expected to use independent study time to develop your skills further. Verbal and written formative feedback in tutorials and teaching sessions provides you with a clear indication of your progress, and you can use formative self and peer evaluation to help you to develop your critical and evaluative abilities.

### Level 5 – Development and Exploration

The learning and teaching strategies used in Level 5 encourage you to take more responsibility for your learning and personal development, underpinned by formative self and peer evaluation. You are provided with opportunities to extend your subject knowledge and associated skills, and to study specific areas in greater depth. As you progress through Level 5, you are able to focus increasingly on your individual areas of interest and specialism. This is determined through the introduction of Learning Agreements, in which you can negotiate your own routes of inquiry, including research, development and realisation, in response to module learning outcomes. Elements of work-related learning, such as live projects, enable you to develop your professional practice and experience of working in a commercial context. Throughout Level 5, you are also encouraged to seek and negotiate your own work experience, if suitable opportunities are available.

### Level 6 – Consolidation and Expertise

In Level 6, you are encouraged, within a supportive environment, to interrogate your specialism, consider your future direction and use the opportunity to effectively and meaningfully plan, prepare and move forward. Through analysing and defining your individual direction, you will develop a range of intellectually and practically challenging work that helps you to consolidate your prior experience, knowledge and skills to a higher level of expertise. Emphasis is placed on self-initiated projects and your ability to plan and manage your own learning within all modules. You are expected to work with a considerable degree of independence and to exercise effective critical analysis, evaluation and professional practice. However, specialist academic tutors will give you guidance throughout Level 6 in order to provide a structured and supportive learning environment, promoting a manageable level of student autonomy, while continuing to address any potential issues. Individual student-initiated projects are developed, negotiated and undertaken within the module framework to assist you in the realisation of your creative aspirations as an independent practitioner.

## Methods of Learning Glossary

A variety of methods are used to help you to engage with your learning, both by you as a student and by your tutors – some of these methods are described below.

**Timetabled teaching sessions**

Your student timetables indicate the teaching sessions that have been arranged for you across the modules that you are studying, and are available to you on the VLE. Within your teaching sessions, you will take part in a variety of activities that will help you to learn and develop as appropriate to each module and assignment. Specific learning and teaching strategies used in teaching sessions can include:

- Projects and assignments - covering a range of learning areas
- Tutorials - for appraisal and development as an individual or in groups
- Critiques - to provide formative feedback and to develop your presentation skills
- Lectures - formal and informal
- Flipped learning – being introduced to the learning material before class, with classroom time used to gain a deepened understanding through discussion with peers and problem-solving activities
- Seminars - discussions that develop your critical responses
- Demonstrations - practical and workshop-based activities

**Independent study**

In addition to teaching sessions, the development of your skills and knowledge requires extra individual input defined as independent study. This will appear on your timetables and is an important part of the learning hours required for each module.

During these periods, tutors are not timetabled to teach you, but creative technicians and library staff are available to help you to undertake research and the development of ideas and practical work. It is your responsibility to make good use of independent study time and the facilities available. It is essential that you access the specialist workshops during this time to develop your skills with materials, equipment and processes. The School's opening times and access to resources are intended to provide extra opportunities for you to benefit from your studies and to achieve your goals.

**Assignments**

A strategy based on practical and/or written work, ranging from staff-initiated activities.

**Live assignments or live briefs**

An assignment negotiated between a tutor and a relevant external agency, providing an opportunity for you to work within the constraints of a commercial brief. Live assignments/live briefs can also include competitions and awards.

**Projects**

An activity initiated by you as a student in which the emphasis is on student-centred learning. The tutor acts as a supervisor, negotiating the choice of topic with you through the Learning Agreement (see below), and supporting you throughout the project, including ethical considerations, which will be undertaken on an individual basis and/or in groups.

**Lectures**

A structured presentation of ideas, concepts and content knowledge by academic staff and visiting lecturers to groups of students, followed by feedback, questions and answers.

**Academic tutorials**

A meeting with an academic tutor or tutors either to discuss the progress of your work on a formative basis or to give summative feedback about your achievement in individual modules or the programme in general. Academic tutorials can take place on an individual basis, or with a group of students.

**Seminars**

A group activity involving the open discussion and analysis of topics – seminars may be tutor-led or student-led and can include short presentations.

**Group critiques**

These involve students in presenting and discussing work with tutors and the peer group within modules, giving you the opportunity to evaluate and respond to feedback.

**Workshops**

Specific activities within specialist modules that provide the skills required for assignments and can be delivered by tutors and/or creative technicians. Technical and practical skills are developed in a range of techniques, processes and materials relevant to your area of study and specialism.

**Educational visits**

Educational visits to a range of external venues provide opportunities for you to broaden your field of research and knowledge related to your area of study. You will be given information about planned educational visits throughout the academic year.

**Personal Development Planning**

Personal Development Planning [PDP] are linked to all Levels of the programme through methods of reflective practice and planning which are integral to each module and help you to plan, integrate and take responsibility for your personal, academic and career development. In dialogue with tutors through formative feedback, you are encouraged to identify strengths and areas for development and

establish learning goals to improve perceived weaknesses and enhance your strengths.

## Learning Agreements

Learning agreements are a mechanism to support you in defining your individual learning in the context of the programme. Within the learning agreement, you will outline how you intend to fulfil the module aims and outcomes and how you plan to achieve this. This enables you to vary the work you produce according to your own personal and professional goals and aspirations whilst meeting the specified aims and learning outcomes of the module. The learning agreements contribute towards evidence of your PDP. The learning agreement may include an ethical approval process showing evidence of ethical awareness processes to overcome issues.

## Assessment

Each module is assessed separately, and the assessment forms part of the module. Assessment both provides a measure of your achievement and also gives you regular feedback on how your learning is developing.

At every level of your programme, you will be provided with a module handbook for each module, which contains information about the individual modules you will be studying. This includes what you are expected to learn within each module; the work that you have to submit; how it will be assessed; the deadline for submitting your work for assessment; and when you can expect to receive summative feedback.

You will receive a final mark for each module in the form of a percentage, which is recorded on your formal record of achievement (transcript). Each component of assessment is marked using a notched marking scale, whereby only certain marks are used within each banding of marks. The only marks available within any ten-point band are *2, *5 and *8 (e.g. 62, 65, 68). These marks correspond to a low, mid, and high level of achievement within each banding of marks.

**All learning outcomes must be passed to successfully complete the module.**

On successful completion of your Honours degree programme, you will be awarded a degree classification based on your module marks. For students who started their course prior to 2022-2023, the final classification is determined using all module marks at Levels 5 and 6, using two different algorithms, which are detailed in the Undergraduate Regulatory Framework and Assessment Regulations (available on the VLE). If the two algorithms produce different results, you will be awarded the higher class of degree. For students starting from 2022-23, the final classification is determined using all module marks at Levels 5 and 6 using a single algorithm. The algorithm is also outlined in full in the Regulatory Framework and Undergraduate Assessment Regulations (available on the VLE).

If you have joined level 6 either through the Accreditation of Prior Learning [APL] route or having completed a Foundation Degree [FdA], the final classification is determined using only your module marks at level 6.

For further information on progression, awards and classifications, please visit the VLE.

## Programme Structure

All students are registered for the award of BA (Hons); however, exit awards are available if you leave the programme early, having successfully completed one or two levels.  If you successfully complete a level of the programme, you will automatically be entitled to progress to the next level.

For the award of a Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE), you must have achieved a minimum of 120 credits at level 4.  This qualification may be awarded if you leave the School following successful completion of the first year of your programme.

For the award of a Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE), you must have achieved a minimum of 240 credits of which a minimum of 120 must be at level 5.  This qualification may be awarded if you leave the School following the successful completion of the second year of your programme.

For the award of a BA (Hons), you must have achieved a minimum of 360 credits of which a minimum of 240 must be at level 5 or above, of which a minimum of 120 credits must be at level 6.  This qualification will be awarded upon successful completion of your programme.

A BA without Honours may be awarded if you have achieved 300 credits, at least 180 of which are at level 5 or above, and at least 60 of which are at level 6.

## Programme Content

The programme is structured to provide you with the skills, knowledge and abilities that will help you to become increasingly independent as a creative practitioner within the contemporary photographic imaging industry, and to develop the skills required for employment, entrepreneurship, professional practice, and/or postgraduate study.

The programme's modules have been designed and organised to provide opportunities for you to develop, integrate and consolidate a wide range of knowledge and expertise. The module structure provides you with a holistic and coherent learning experience and a comprehensive framework for assessment and progression that will enable you to gain recognition for your progress and achievement.

The programme consists of three levels (4, 5 and 6), each lasting one academic year of full-time study. Each level is divided into modules, which may vary in size. A standard module represents 200 hours of study and is worth 20 credits. Depending on the complexity of the area being studied, some modules may be larger, for example, in the second half of level 4 you will study a double (40 credit) module and two double modules (40 credits) in level 5 and 6.

### Level 4

The main aim at level 4 is to explore the process of photography and discover your interests in both analogue and digital processes in the production of image making. The modules will enable you to use your camera with confidence, to operate safely on location and in the studio environment, and to start to produce competent outputs

related to industry standards. You will become competent in the areas of chemical processing, digital capture, digital single-lens reflex [DSLR] video, image processing and management, colour-management and working with natural/artificial lighting in both studio and location environments.

In level 4, you will be introduced to a range of relevant equipment and processes as well as an orientation to the School environment, the discipline of photography, and learning at an undergraduate level.

The structure of the level 4 modules will help you to manage your workload through the staggered timing of summative assessment across the academic year. Learning takes place within structured lectures, demonstrations and workshops appropriate to the module learning outcomes. Greater consideration is given to the flexible learning approaches that enhance the delivery of technical competency, supported by planned technical expertise and facilities.

The **Core Photographic Skills** module (20 credits) explores core practices and is delivered through a series of introductory workshops in which you will have the opportunity to develop  essential idea generation, experimentation, technical ability, and core skills. You will have the opportunity to work with a range of film-based processes as you creatively explore the technology of photography. You will be introduced to a variety of analogue camera formats and workflow. Emphasis will be on exploring the physical principals of output and darkroom printing.  Knowledge gained will underpin the concepts and fundamental skills associated with the practice of photography. You will be introduced to research and recording methodologies, including accessing library resources, IT communications and research journals. The module will prepare you to begin developing essential skills that form a practical foundation at the beginning of the programme.

The **Digital Workflow and Studio Lighting** module (20 credits) will continue to develop your technical competency. Through workshops, practical sessions and lectures, you will apply a range of practical and technical skills and processes relevant to commercial frameworks. Throughout this module, you will explore digital photography, industry standard technical equipment and commercial workflow. You will develop skills in relevant creative software and studio lighting for commercial photographic context, developing your digital skills and digital literacy through the creative potential of photography. The use of relevant industry-standard cameras and software applications will be explored. You will be encouraged to experiment, producing work to develop the practical skills required in order to control studio environments through a series of workshops and practical sessions.

The **Creative Thinking** module (20 credits) introduces you to key aspects of critical thinking in relation to creative practice, its chronology and history, and how creative practice is informed by cultural developments in their broader context. The module is designed to equip you with the skills necessary for effective learning and understanding of several key texts in relation to the wider meaning of creative practice.  This includes selecting and organising information and initiating research findings according to recognised protocols and presenting an essay to explain your findings and thoughts. Throughout the module, you will be expected to consider the

relevance of the social, political and cultural contexts discussed and how this applies to the development of your own creative practice.

The **Photography Genres** module (20 credits) aims to promote a deeper understanding and relationship to your practice and the creative sector. It will strengthen your skills in problem-solving through the exploration and development of your research, ideas and experiments, generating a solution in response to a set brief.  Within this module, you will be introduced to key photographic genres within the creative sector. You will be encouraged to explore conceptual outputs and early career opportunities, and self-employment. To enable you to explore and produce examples of creative photographic responses within a range of photographic genres. Your research will underpin your developing knowledge of creative photographic practice and photography genres. You will be introduced to professional practice and consider employability skills when working with clients and produce work for entry to photography competitions.

The **Medium and Message** module (40 credits) builds on the skills developed during level 4 to enable you to creatively engage with the wider world and your role as a creative practitioner and storyteller. You will recognise the importance of observation, collaboration and communication. This module enables you to generate and explore creative ideas through the culture of photographic narrative and the investigation of communicating messages through photographic content. You will be introduced to notions of constructing narratives around contemporary social, environmental or economic themes associated with styles of documentary photography. The conventions of photography with a narrative will be researched and analysed to inform your own photographic responses and outcomes. The module will provide a foundation for you to engage with social issues in a diverse and photographically challenging landscape/environment.

## Level 5

The main focus in level 5 is to enable you to develop and explore a deeper understanding of photography and an increased level of independence through negotiation and evaluation. This includes opportunities to study specific areas introduced in level 4 in greater depth, appropriate for academic, vocational and professional purposes.

As you progress through level 5, you will begin to navigate your individual pathway based on your areas of potential photographic specialism. The Learning Agreement will help you identify and negotiate your individual focus and choices within specific modules and supports the development of your personal routes of inquiry. The Learning Agreement is also used as evidence of Personal Development Planning [PDP]. An increasing emphasis is placed on self-evaluation to enable you to reflect critically on your own learning and demonstrate your ability to take more responsibility for how and what you learn, with a view towards an identified focus in level 6 and beyond.

Increasingly throughout level 5, you are expected and encouraged to develop your conceptual understanding of photography and your individual positioning as a practitioner. A professional awareness of the context of how to operate and work as

a professional photographer is embedded into all of the modules with a key emphasis on the AOP's guidance from Beyond The Lens.

During level 5, you will be encouraged to seek and negotiate work experience of up to two weeks, which should be appropriate to your individual development and areas of interest within photography. However, whilst the School can give you help and support in finding work experience, it cannot guarantee that suitable opportunities will be available. It is your responsibility to organise your work experience, which will be negotiated and approved within the framework of the HE Work Experience Release Procedure.

The **Moving Image Production** module (20 credits) extends and develops the concepts and skills learnt throughout level 4, developing advanced knowledge and technical ability. This module will introduce you to moving image production as you explore art and documentary practice as a photographer/ filmmaker. You will develop your awareness of moving image within the creative sector and be introduced to new equipment and technologies. This will enhance your digital literacy and proficiency, production for digital applications and software while also exploring efficient workflows, file management and technical skillsets. You will be encouraged to consider the multi-purposing of software for film and audio editing. The work you create will build on previous areas of creative photographic practice and consider how moving image can overlap and support your curiosity within your chosen subject located in the region. You will also explore the relationship between the audience and the photographer/filmmaker.

**The Creative Discussion** module (20 credits) extends your knowledge and awareness of issues and current debates that shape, define and influence contemporary culture and creative practice, based on a series of thematic lectures. Research seminars will enable you to relate the theories of photography.  This module is designed to extend your knowledge and understanding of the issues, to form discussions that affect visual culture and how meanings within creativity evolve. Throughout the module, you will be encouraged discuss and apply the relevance of social and visual cultural theories to your own specialist studies in photography. The content of the module involves a wide range of sources and contexts, including decolonisation and gender. You will be introduced to a number of ideas which are relevant to photography, and which underpin the production of a written essay employing appropriate academic protocols.

The **Specialist Photographic Practice** module (40 credits) further encourages you to consider and develop your specialism as a creative practitioner. Throughout this module, you will consolidate and extend your skills and knowledge within a specialist project of your choice. You will be encouraged to develop your personal style and creative identity, which will provide the foundation for employability and the production of a professional portfolio. The module provides opportunities to develop your own photography project, work with clients, engage with live briefs or work in collaboration with students from other disciplines. This module aims to promote a deeper understanding of the relationship and meaning between your creative specialism and the sector, developing employability skills and portfolio content that considers your creative voice and your professional practice.

The **Future Industries** module (40 credits) aims to enhance and extend your skills as you explore the future of the industry and start to find your place within it. Within this module you will explore emerging and existing technologies and platforms within the photographic sector as you develop and reflect the importance of an industry presence in the publication of your work. You will expand your reflective practice as you develop and manage your own learning, within your creative inquiry as a photographer. You will be challenged to consider the environmental and economic aspects of the sector on a local and global scale. You will continue to expand your knowledge of innovative approaches and sustainable ways of working, with consideration of the challenges we face in a changing world. You will also investigate opportunities of emerging technologies throughout the module. Throughout the module you will have opportunity to use selected technology to communicate, collaborate, and form partnerships with peers or colleagues as you discover and reflect upon the significance of creating an industry presence, through distribution and publication of works.

## Level 6

At level 6, you are able to consolidate and demonstrate the knowledge, understanding and skills you have gained in levels 4 and 5, and to develop increasing levels of expertise and independence in preparation for future professional practice or postgraduate study. Extended projects encourage in-depth study and sustained research towards the realisation and presentation of a substantial photography portfolio to a professional standard.

The level 6 modules have been devised to enable you to design your individual pathway through the final year, resulting in a focused package of skills which is supported by extensive critical and analytical research, and is demonstrated in your visual language.

The structure of level 6 modules is common to all undergraduate programmes at The Northern School of Art and consists of four consecutive modules that enable you to research, plan, undertake and conclude a pathway of study that is specific to your individual areas of focus and interest within your creative discipline. The common structure also provides opportunities to work collaboratively with students from other disciplines, and the potential cross-fertilisation of creative practice is intended to reflect the realities of the contemporary creative industries.

The modules are structured to promote the integration of theory and practice and to ensure that concepts are realised in a manner that will support your personal and professional development. The final module concludes with a degree show that will focus on your future intentions with relevant written and practical work. The dissertation or report will inform the work for your final portfolio and develop a self-identified written investigative study that relates directly to your creative practice.

Throughout level 6, you will be provided with a curriculum that allows for individual progression and development, and is integrated with opportunities that enhance the realisation of your own vision to enable you to graduate as a professional and informed photographic practitioner.

Level 6 modules are either 20 credits or 40 credits in value.

In the **Project Research and Preparation** module (40 credits), you will identify, initiate and negotiate a personal project that will enable you to consolidate and demonstrate your individual creative identity. This should reflect the individual focus of your creative practice and career aspirations; and be underpinned by extensive research, analysis and development work that supports the realisation and production of your creative outcomes in the Final Major Project. You will be able to research, define and develop a complex project that challenges your existing practice, and to consider potential collaborations in preparation for working in the creative industries, or for postgraduate study. The research, planning and development that you undertake during the Project Research and Preparation module will include identifying and negotiating the topic of your written investigative study for the Dissertation/Report module, which will be devised to inform and enhance your practical work.

The **Dissertation/Report** module (20 credits) provides you with the opportunity for extended research and investigation into a negotiated individual topic based on an aspect of your creative practice. The choice of either a theoretical argument (dissertation) or a factual report (for example, on an aspect of potential entrepreneurial activity) should be determined by your individual aims and aspirations after graduation. Both options will equip you with a wide range of skills that can be applied to research, information retrieval and academic writing.

The **Final Major Project** module (40 credits) enables you to focus on your specialism and to apply the knowledge, skills and intellectual abilities acquired and developed throughout your programme. You will realise the conceptual, theoretical and professional inquiry identified in the Learning Agreement that you produced in the Project Research and Preparation module, in order to bring your ideas to a reasoned conclusion, based on problem-solving, decision-making and critical evaluation. Your ability to manage a complex project with an independent and professional approach is a key aspect of this module.

The **Final Show and Portfolio** module (20 credits) is a launch point for your commercial vision or progression to postgraduate study. You will present yourself and your work in a relevant professional context that highlights the progression you have made as a critical creative practitioner. The opportunity to create an outward-facing exhibition that showcases your creative practice and achievements is your chance to take the first steps into the creative industries. Working with a provided space, you will manage and deliver an individual show that promotes your final portfolio of work, supported by self-promotion and marketing tools directed at your own professional aspirations.

## Programme Modules

| Module Code | Module Title | Credit |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Level 4** | | |
| HPHF461 | Core Photographic Skills | 20 credits |
| HPHF462 | Digital Workflow and Studio Lighting | 20 credits |
| HPHF463 | Creative Thinking | 20 credits |
| HPHF464 | Photography Genres | 20 credits |
| HPHF465 | Medium and Message | 40 credits |
| **Level 5** | | |
| HPHF561 | Moving Image Production | 20 credits |
| HPHF562 | Creative Discussion | 20 credits |
| HPHF563 | Specialist Photographic Practice | 40 credits |
| HPHF564 | Future Industries | 40 credits |
| **Level 6** | | |
| HPHF661 | Project Research and Preparation | 40 credits |
| HPHF662 | Dissertation/Report | 20 credits |
| HPHF663 | Final Major Project | 40 credits |
| HPHF664 | Final Show and Portfolio | 20 credits |

## Programme Diagram

This diagram indicates the proposed start and end dates for each module and shows teaching weeks only; holiday periods are not included. Further information on the structure of each module is included in your module handbooks.

| Level 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Week Numbers** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |

| WELCOME WEEK AND INDUCTION | **Weeks 1 - 7**<br><br>HPHF461<br>**Core Photographic Skills**<br>(20 credits) | **Week 8 - 14**<br><br>HPHF462<br>**Digital Workflow and Studio Lighting**<br>(20 credits) | INTERIM | **Week 15 – 21**<br><br>HPHF4**64**<br>**Photography Genres**<br>(20 credits) | **Weeks 22 – 28**<br><br>HPHF465<br>**Medium and Message**<br>(40 credits) | WEEKS BETWEEN END OF TEACHING WEEKS AND END OF TERM: ASSESSMENT OF FINAL MODULES AND TUTORIALS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Weeks 1- 18**<br><br>HPHF463<br>**Creative Thinking**<br>(20 credits) | | | | | |

| Level 5 |
|---|

**Week Numbers**

| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

WELCOME WEEK AND INDUCTION

**Weeks 1 – 7**

HPHF561
**Moving Image Production**
(20 credits)

**Week 8 - 21**

HPHF563
**Specialist Photographic Practice**
(40 credits)

**Weeks 1- 14**

HPHF562
**Creative Discussion**
(20 credits)

INTERIM

**Week 8 – 21 (continued)**

HPHF563
**Specialist Photographic Practice**
(40 credits)

**Weeks 22 – 28**

HPHF564
**Future Industries**
(40 credits)

WEEKS BETWEEN END OF TEACHING WEEKS AND END OF TERM: ASSESSMENT OF FINAL MODULES AND TUTORIALS

| Level 6 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Week Numbers** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |

<table>
<tr>
<td rowspan="2">WELCOME WEEK AND INDUCTION</td>
<td><b>Weeks 1 – 9</b><br><br>HPHF661<br><b>Project Research and Preparation</b><br>(40 credits)</td>
<td><b>Weeks 4 – 14</b><br><br>HPHF662<br><b>Dissertation/ Report</b><br>(20 credits)</td>
<td rowspan="2">INTERIM</td>
<td><b>Weeks 15 – 23</b><br><br>HPHF663<br><b>Final Major Project</b><br>(40 credits)</td>
<td><b>Weeks 24 – 28</b><br><br>HPHF664<br><b>Final Show and Portfolio</b><br>(20 credits)</td>
<td rowspan="2">WEEKS BETWEEN END OF TEACHING WEEKS AND END OF TERM: ASSESSMENT OF FINAL MODULES AND TUTORIALS</td>
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## Mapping of Module Learning Outcomes to Level Outcomes

| Level 4 Outcomes<br><br>On successful completion of Level 4, you will be able to: | Core Photographic Skills<br><br>20 credits | Digital Workflow and Studio Lighting<br><br>20 credits | Creative Thinking<br><br>20 credits | Photography Genres<br><br>20 credits | Medium and Message<br><br>40 credits |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gather, describe and apply research that informs the development of your investigation, identifying appropriate and relevant material. | | | LO1 | | LO1 |
| Apply problem-solving skills through the research exploration and development of your ideas, generating solutions in response to a set brief | | | | LO1 | LO2 |
| Select and experiment with a range of materials, processes or environments in development of your ideas. | LO1 | | | LO2 | |
| Reflect upon and evaluate your progress in order to identify your strengths and areas for development | | LO1 | | | LO3 |
| Apply a range of practical and technical skills relevant to the development of core skills within your subject area | LO2 | LO2 | | | |
| Communicate the results of your study accurately and reliably with structured and coherent discussion and representation | | | LO2 | | LO4 |

| Level 5 Outcomes<br><br>On successful completion of Level 5, you will be able to: | Moving Image Production<br><br>20 credits | Creative Discussion<br><br>20 credits | Specialist Photographic Practice<br><br>40 credits | Future Industries<br><br>40 credits |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Demonstrate knowledge and critical understanding and articulate relevant findings from research sources appropriate to your ideas and investigation | | LO1 | | LO1 |
| Apply and reflect on independent judgements, drawing on research and analysis, experimentation, , and generation of new ideas and/or solutions | LO1 | | LO1 | |
| Critically evaluate and develop your individual interests and personal strengths through critical self-evaluation and decision-making | | | LO2 | LO2 |
| Apply reflective practice and evaluation to the negotiation and management of your own learning and the identification of individual routes of inquiry | | | LO3 | LO3 |
| Select and apply appropriate practical and technical competency in a range of technical and advanced working methods in line with industry standards | LO2 | | | LO4 |
| Effectively communicate information, arguments, concepts and analysis in a variety of forms to specialist and non-specialist audiences | | LO2 | LO4 | |

| Level 6 Outcomes<br><br>On successful completion of Level 6, you will be able to: | Project Research and Preparation<br><br>40 credits | Dissertation / Report<br><br>20 credits | Final Major Project<br><br>40 credits | Final Show and Portfolio<br><br>20 credits |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Demonstrate a systematic understanding of key areas of your field of study and its cultural, ethical and professional contexts | LO1 | | LO1 | LO1 |
| Synthesise, evaluate, reference and apply research from appropriate sources to make independent judgements and to initiate and carry out projects | LO2 | LO1 | | |
| Demonstrate conceptual understanding that enables you to devise and sustain arguments, solve problems, and use ideas and techniques appropriate to your field of study | LO3 | LO2 | LO2 | |
| Manage your own work and learning as an autonomous practitioner and collaborate with others in preparation for employment, continuing professional development and/or further study | LO4 | LO3 | LO3 | |
| Apply an appropriate range of practical and technical skills to produce solutions and outcomes relevant to your field of study and related professional practice | | | LO4 | |
| Communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions in a range of appropriate formats to specialist and non-specialist audiences, including potential employers and professional networks | | LO2 | | LO2 |

# Resources

### Library

The Library provides specialist art and design resources to support the learning, research and curriculum needs of both students and staff at the School. All new students receive a library induction and a subject-specific resource guide which is followed up by information skills. Additional help is available within the Library for research.

The Library holds a variety of learning materials including books, academic journals, DVDs, and magazines. There is also a wide range of specialist electronic resources focusing on art, design and media, including online e-books and e-journals. The Library resources are catalogued onto the Heritage Library Management System, which can be accessed either within the Library or by the online version via the VLE and the School portal.

The Library is Wi-Fi enabled, and facilities include study spaces and a photocopier. The resources, and help from the knowledgeable, friendly staff, make the Library a popular space for work and study.

The Library consistently receives high scores in both the in-house and national student surveys, which are carried out annually.

### Information technology [IT] and digital learning resources

The School provides a comprehensive range of IT resources based around Apple Macintosh computers and Windows PCs using the latest in specialist hardware and software solutions. In our studio and open access facilities every computer is pre-loaded with the latest versions of Adobe Creative Cloud and Microsoft Office 365 applications. Specialist programmes demand specialist requirements and the School caters for this with IT resources utilising industry standard software and hardware solutions.

Studio and open access facilities are complemented by our 'Bring Your Own Device' system allowing access of personal hand-held devices to our wireless network and the internet.

IT resources are supported by a knowledgeable and friendly IT team that endeavours to put the student first and resolve any issues. IT support is accessible via our in-house helpdesk, which is open from 8.30am to 5.00pm Monday to Thursday and 8.30am to 4.30pm on Fridays, email: helpdesk@northernart.ac.uk.

The School provides access to a variety of programme and School related information including Programme Handbooks, Module Handbooks and online learning materials through the VLE.

## Student Support

### Academic guidance and support

Academic staff are responsible for providing you with feedback on your work and your general academic progress, and for providing academic support and guidance through the programme. This is provided through critiques and written feedback, as well as guidance on practical work and informal discussion about your progress. These sessions may be individual or, in the case of collaborative work, in small groups.

Academic tutorials are scheduled to allow you to have in-depth discussions about your work or the programme in general. You will be entitled to at least one formal recorded academic tutorial per semester with a nominated member of your Programme Team. For further information about academic tutorials, you can refer to the HE Academic Tutorial Policy, which is available on the VLE.

Support and advice are also provided on an informal basis throughout the programme, through discussions between staff and students.

The School's HE Academic Support facility provides additional taught sessions and talks for all students in areas that will support your academic studies. These sessions are scheduled to align with the curriculum and relevant module deadlines and are delivered within programme areas as requested by academic staff or students.

- Academic referencing
- Academic research/reading
- Note-taking
- Essay and dissertation preparation
- Report writing
- Understanding module requirements
- Understanding summative and formative feedback
- Writing a self-evaluation
- How to complete a Learning Agreement
- Personal Development Planning [PDP]
- Time-management
- Confidence-building

In addition, HE Academic Support provides one-to-one and group support tutorials for all students throughout the academic year.

More information is available on the HE Academic Support section of the VLE.

### Career education, information and guidance

Advice and guidance for careers support and further training are offered throughout your programme to help you understand the career routes available within your chosen profession. In addition to activities on your programme that will help to guide you towards your individual career path, it is important that you do your own additional research into potential careers. The academic staff on your programme,

many of whom are creative practitioners, will be able to give you further advice about careers in your subject area. Additional support and mentoring to assist in your career planning and research is available from the School's Employability and Enterprise Centre (Folio), and there is also a careers section in the Library.

**Support for students with disabilities (including dyslexia)**

The School is committed to the principles of equality and diversity and welcomes applications from students with a disability or learning difficulty. The School aims to support all students' individual needs wherever possible to enable all students to achieve their full potential.

If you experience a disability, mental health condition, specific learning difficulty, e.g. dyslexia, Autistic Spectrum Disorder, or long-term health condition, the Student Services team will support you to access additional funding (Disabled Students Allowances - DSA), which may fund the cost of any of your support needs. A member of the Student Services team will contact you before you enrol to ask about any support you need, and put in place interim support while they are helping you to access DSA funding.

In addition, as with all students, you have the opportunity to complete a dyslexia screening test when you start your programme. This test is called LADS (Lucid Adult Dyslexia Screening), and helps to identify if you need any extra support, even if you have never accessed support before.  If you do, the team will work with you to identify what support you need and help you to access further diagnostic tests and funding. The Student Services team can also offer dyslexic thinkers one-to-one support from a specialist tutor to help develop learning skills.

**Pastoral support and guidance**

Support and advice on non-academic matters are provided through trained and qualified professional staff within the Student Services team.

The Student Services team is based at Church Square and is open 5 days a week. There is no need for an appointment, you can access support at any time, and the team are all contactable by email, Microsoft Teams, or through the online chat facility on the VLE.

The team can help with a variety of issues from practical support in areas such as finance, funding, accommodation and health-related issues, to support and advice on personal issues.

The team also has an onsite counselling service, which you can access whether or not you have seen a counsellor before. This service can help to find positive solutions to issues such as bereavement, mental health issues, and support in managing stress and anxiety. This service is entirely confidential. If the counsellor feels that they are unable to support you or that you would benefit from a different type of service, they will discuss this with you, and help you to seek the support that is appropriate for you.

You can find contact details and further information about Student Services in the Student Services section on the VLE and in various printed booklets available on the noticeboard outside the Student Services office.

## Monitoring the quality of your programme

The programme is subject to rigorous quality assurance procedures which involve subject specialist and peer review of the programme by the Arts University Bournemouth at periodic intervals, normally of 5 years.  This process ensures that the programme remains up to date, and is preparing you for a career in the creative industries while also delivering a high-quality student experience.

In addition, all programmes undertake an Annual Programme Review, which takes account of relevant information such as:

- External Examiners' Reports
- Key statistics including data on application, retention and achievement
- Results of the National Student Survey [NSS]
- Results of the internal Student Perception Survey [SPS]
- Feedback from Student Representatives, Student Assemblies and Programme Boards of Study
- Feedback from relevant employer groups
- All programmes develop an Action Plan from the Annual Programme Review process, which is monitored by the School. Your Student Representatives can keep you informed about progress against the programme Action Plan

Staff development priorities for the Programme Team as a whole are identified through the Annual Programme Review process, and for individuals through the staff Performance Management process.

## Indicators of quality and standards

All students on taught higher education programmes at the School are enrolled on a programme validated by the Arts University Bournemouth, which was granted taught degree awarding powers by the Privy Council in 2008; and University status was conferred in 2013.

In February 2016, the School underwent a Higher Education Review [HER] with the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education [QAA], which formed the following judgements about the higher education provision at The Northern School of Art [formerly, Cleveland College of Art & Design]:

- The maintenance of the academic standards of awards offered on behalf of degree-awarding bodies meets UK expectations
- The quality of student learning opportunities meets UK expectations
- The quality of the information about learning opportunities meets UK expectations
- The enhancement of student learning opportunities is commended

This was an excellent outcome, and confirms that our quality assurance mechanisms are robust, meaning that we can have full confidence in the standard of programme outcomes, and the quality of the educational experience we deliver.

More recently, in May 2022, Arts University Bournemouth conducted an Institutional Review of the School. Arts University Bournemouth were satisfied that the School was able to demonstrate full engagement with national reference points and that its application of standards was appropriate.

The Arts University Bournemouth Institutional Review Panel commended the School on:
- The confident and mature approach demonstrated during the discussions, reflecting a coherent institution that had a clear strategic vision and effective operational arrangements;
- The student-centred focus, with the student experience being at the heart of everything they did;
- The honest and open approach taken by the institution with regards to this review; and
- The articulate and responsive students, who were extremely supportive of the Institution.

More detailed information to support your study on the programme is available in the following documents, which are available on the VLE:

- Online programme information
- Module Handbooks
- Regulatory Framework and Undergraduate Assessment Regulations
- Student Charter
- School policies and procedures