

UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON
UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION
BA (Hons) Photography

This programme is only offered at: Barking & Dagenham College

Final award	<i>BA (Hons) Photography</i>
Intermediate awards available	<i>BA</i>
UCAS code	<i>W641</i>
Details of professional body accreditation	<i>N/A</i>
Relevant QAA Benchmark statements	<i>Art and Design</i>
Date specification last updated	<i>October 2014</i>

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Alternative locations for studying this programme

Location	Which elements?	Taught by UEL staff	Taught by local staff	Method of Delivery
<i>This programme is only recruiting at Barking & Dagenham College</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>

The summary - UCAS programme profile-

BANNER BOX:

This BA (Hons) Photography programme is offered as a level 6 top up to students that have successfully achieved a Foundation Degree/HND in Photography and now wish to specialise in an aspect of photography such as documentary, fashion, fine art and commercial photography.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

You must have a Foundation Degree in Photography, a BTEC HND in Photography or an equivalent HE qualification at this level in this subject.

For internal progression from Barking & Dagenham College's FdA in Photography you will be required to attend an interview to establish the suitability of progression to BA (Hons) Photography.

For external applicants you are required to hold an FdA in Photography or BTEC HND in Photography or other higher education qualification at this level and in this subject. You will be required to attend an interview at which you will present a portfolio demonstrating your creative and technical abilities. You need to demonstrate that there is a significant overlap between the programme content of your qualification with that of the FdA at Barking & Dagenham College.

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

What is Photography?

Photography has a strong history and tradition that has helped shape societies attitudes over much of the last two centuries both within the fields of contemporary art as well as design and communication. If anything the importance of the medium is becoming more crucial in all aspects of commercial and creative practice with the development of global mass communication.

Photography at Barking & Dagenham College

Your programme combines the development of practical vocational skills with independent creative work. The photographic facilities include two full size double height photographic studios, black and white darkrooms, colour darkrooms and individual printing and processes booths. Photographic equipment includes large format, medium format and 35mm cameras as well as digital studio cameras and digital SLRs, studio flash and a range of professional accessories. In addition to traditional photographic media there is an emphasis on digital photography and here equipment includes digital workshops with negative scanners and a range of printers including large format digital printing.

Programme structure

This one year programme functions as a level 6 top up to the Foundation Degree in Photography. The programme will be comprised of year long modules, with two 45 credit and one 30 credit modules. The mode of study is full time. You will be required to study for a minimum of 35 hours per week – this will be made up of a mixture of lectures, seminars, practical workshop, and independent study. Research and project work.

Learning environment

The learning approach is very student centred with the opportunity for you to pursue your own specialist pathway within the broad field of photography.

Studio Project Work; studio based work is undertaken by an individual or group of students in collaboration with project tutors. It includes an intro briefing and the development of ideas.

Professional Practice: you are encouraged to develop an understanding of professional practice through working alongside visiting professionals and through your work placement.

Self-Initiated Work: these are structured projects based on your own written proposal, agreed and discussed with your module tutor.

Seminars: these are small mixed sessions discussing a project or contextual issue and sharing views.

Lecturers: group teaching around a particular topic.

Workshops: practical demonstrations and hands on learning takes place especially in relation to your own self initiated projects. Learning Support Officers are available to support the development of your technical skills.

Study Visits: these are trips to external venues such as museums and art galleries which are arranged as part of module delivery.

Assessment

The three modules that make up this level 6 top up BA (Hons) programme have a credit value of 120 credits. The method of assessment will vary and you will be required to present work for assessment in the form of major photographic projects: portfolios of creative work: reports, dissertation.

Assessment details, marking criteria, performance indicators and mark sheets are provided to students at the beginning of the module, presented in the form of module handbooks. Module content, assessment criteria and learning outcomes are mapped directly to QAAHE, and industry benchmarks are in line with characteristics and contexts of learning expected at L6 in accordance with the QAA "Framework for Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, 2nd Edition" (2008).

To avoid unconscious bias, all work is submitted by student number, rather than student name, and in cases where student anonymity is not possible (i.e. presentations, dissertations) all work is second marked. In accordance with UEL Assessment policy at least 10% of the work from across the range of marks from each marker is second marked. A sample of all assessed work is moderated by our external examiner.

Work experience/placement opportunities

There will continue to be effective links between the college and industry professionals who will deliver lectures and facilitate visits to their companies, particularly through the Advanced Professional Contexts module. You will also have many opportunities to visit photographic and art exhibitions in the London area

Project work

Working as a photographer requires a mixture of effective group communication skills and the ability to work independently. In preparation for these working practises, you will be required to work on a variety

of photography projects linked to the opportunity to exhibit your work. The Photography 3 module will enable you to develop extensive individual and independent work. There is an emphasis in this final project on demonstrating professional working practices and you will be required to contribute or the organisation of a group exhibition at an external venue.

Added value

Barking & Dagenham College is situated within 15 miles of central London where the largest number of photographers and photographic companies in the UK have their premises. This proximity enables you to build meaningful industry links during your work placement and enables staff to organise regular visits to exhibitions, festivals and events.

Barking town centre receives regeneration funding and is within the exciting Thames Gateway development with planned expansion of the transport infrastructure, new housing and educational, employment and cultural opportunities.

IS THIS THE PROGRAMME FOR ME?

If you are interested in.....

- Photography
- Visual arts and exhibitions
- Fashion, style and image
- Popular culture
- Graphic design and publishing
- Advertising and marketing

If you enjoy....

- Taking photographs
- Developing creative ideas
- Working as an individual and in groups
- Exploring a range of techniques and processes
- Engaging with the vibrant contemporary art scene

If you want....

- To develop and apply visual skills within the field of photography
- To be equipped to join other creative practitioners within the field of photography and related cultural and creative industries
- To participate actively in group working at college and in practice
- To be able to, potentially, contribute to the growing visual culture based in London

Your future career

Career opportunities include image producers such as photographers; photographic technicians; employment in photographic laboratories; photo retail including picture libraries and agencies; graphic design, advertising and marketing; visual media; teaching; fine art photography and exhibition and photographic support services, and further study as postgraduate level.

How we support you

You will be well supported through an effective tutorial system and staff will focus on your individual needs as a learner. A range of professional services are available including: careers advice: learning support: counselling and health advice. The college library provides study skills workshops and in addition to book and non-book resources there is a quiet study area that is prioritised for higher education students. You will have excellent access to ICT equipment including a range of high quality specialist facilities in art, design and interactive media. Through the collaborative partnership students will also be able to access the support services at UEL, library and information services and access to the photography department where necessary.

Bonus factors

- Close proximity to Central London with its world class art galleries, museums, and exhibitions.
- You will have opportunities to submit work to local and national photographic exhibitions, competitions and festivals.
- Collaborative links with UEL staff and students.
- European Field Study Visits take place annually to put students in direct contact with creative practitioners operating in those cities.
- Affiliation leading Paris photography studio *Le Studio Rouchon*.
- Barking & Dagenham College/Le Studio Rouchon Scholarship is awarded annually to one BA (Hons) level 6 Top-up student to fund a two month internship at Le Studio Rouchon.
- Students engage with practitioners on a regular basis through the visiting guest speaker programme, 1:1 tutorials, workshops and seminars. These take place both internally and externally.
- Opportunities to engage with UEL staff and students through cross critiques, exhibitions and other social events.
- Opportunities to exhibit internally and externally throughout the programme.
- Your programme is delivered by both academic staff and creative practitioners operating within the cultural and creative industries.
- Small cohorts enable students to have greater accessibility to academic staff and resources.

Programme aims and learning outcomes

What is this programme designed to achieve?

This programme is designed to give you the opportunity to:

- Develop practical skills, techniques and understanding of photographic image production
- Provide a platform for students to access their imagination and develop their creative identity
- Establish key transferable and employability skills and develop a multi tasking and multi skills approach to professional practices.

What will you learn?

Knowledge

- Coursework essays, reports, evaluations, reviews, reflections and presentations
- Exercises undertaken in seminar and workshop sessions

Thinking Skills

- Coursework essays, reports, evaluations, reviews, reflections and presentations
- Exercises undertaken in seminar and workshop sessions

Practical skills

- Practical projects and reflections on production process
- Assignments demonstrating the ability to use software and hardware to produce an end product
- Demonstrating competency in workshop exercises

Skills for life and work (general skills)

- Ability to understand and meet requirements of module specification
- Quality of written work in assignments
- Strict assignment deadlines
- Involvement in and contribution to group project work

The programme structure

Introduction

All programmes are credit-rated to help you to understand the amount and level of study that is needed.

One credit is equal to 10 hours of directed study time (this includes everything you do e.g. lecture, seminar and private study).

Credits are assigned to one of 5 levels:

- 3 equivalent in standard to GCE 'A' level and is intended to prepare students for year one of an undergraduate degree programme
- 4 equivalent in standard to the first year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme
- 5 equivalent in standard to the second year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme
- 6 equivalent in standard to the third year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme
- 7 equivalent in standard to a Masters degree

Credit rating

The overall credit-rating of this programme is 360 credits – Foundation Degree (240 credits) followed by level 6 BA (Hons) Top-up (120 credits).

Typical duration

The expected duration of this programme is one year full time attendance. There are no part time pathways for this top up year.

How the teaching year is divided

The teaching year begins in September. The programme will be comprised of year long modules with two 45 credit and one 30 credit modules. A student will register for 120 credits in the academic year.

What you will study when

An honours degree student will have completed modules totalling 120 credits at level 4, modules totalling 120 credits at level 5 and modules totalling 120 credits at level 6.

It is not possible to combine modules offered at UEL with modules offered at Barking & Dagenham College. There are no option pathways and all modules are therefore core – must be taken.

LEVEL	UEL	TITLE	SKILLS	CREDITS	STATUS
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	Module Code		MODULES (Insert Y where appropriate)		SINGLE
6	AD6300	Photography 3	N	45	Core
6	AD6340	Advanced Professional Contexts	N	45	Core
6	AD6666	Art & Design Dissertation	N	30	Core

Requirements for gaining an award

In order to gain an honours degree you will need to obtain 360 credits including:

- A minimum of 120 credits at level four or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level five or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level six or higher

In order to gain an ordinary degree you will need to obtain a minimum of 300 credits including:

- A minimum of 120 credits at level four or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level five or higher
- A minimum of 60 credits at level six or higher

Degree Classification

Where a student is eligible for an Honours degree by passing a valid combination of module to comprise an award and has gained the minimum of 240 UEL credits at level 5 or level 6 on the current enrolment for the programme, including a minimum of 120 UEL credits at level 6, the award classification is determined by calculating;

$$\text{The arithmetic mean of the best 90 credits at level 6} \times 0.8 + \text{The arithmetic mean of the next best 90 credits at levels 5 and/or 6} \times 0.2$$

and applying the mark obtained as a percentage, with all decimal points rounded up to the nearest whole number, to the following classification

70% - 100%	First Class Honours
60% - 69%	Second Class Honours, First Division
50% - 59%	Second Class Honours, Second Division
40% - 49%	Third Class Honours

0% - 39%

Not passed

Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching and learning

Knowledge is developed through

- Workshops and demonstrations
- Lectures, tutorials and seminars
- Professional practice talks
- Personal research and independent study
- Exhibitions and gallery visits
- Screenings of films
- Using learning resources and the internet

Thinking skills are developed through

- Tutorials and seminars
- Independent creative practice
- Project work

Practical skills are developed through

- Practical workshops
- Working to project briefs
- Professional practice talks
- Study visits
- Use of computers

Skills for life and work (general skills) are developed through

- Professional practice talks
- Work placements
- Group projects
- Personal and team presentations

Assessment

Knowledge is assessed by

- Oral presentation of ideas during seminars, tutorials and at the end of each module
- Essays, reports and research folders at the end of each module
- Breadth and depth of research work

Thinking skills are assessed by

- Oral presentation of ideas during seminars, tutorials and at the end of each module
- Essays, reports and research folders at the end of each module
- Innovation and lateral thinking displayed in realisation of work in relation to project briefs

Practical skills are assessed by

- Continuous monitoring of workshop progress
- Presentation of portfolio at the end of the module

Skills for life and work (general skills) are assessed by

- Participation in workshops, seminars, tutorials and meetings
- Time management in relation to meeting project deadlines
- Engagement in professional practice components of the programme, work placement, and group activities

How we assure the quality of this programme

Before this programme started

Before this programme started, the following was checked:

- there would be enough qualified staff to teach the programme;
- adequate resources would be in place;
- the overall aims and objectives were appropriate;
- the content of the programme met national benchmark requirements;
- the programme met any professional/statutory body requirements;
- the proposal met other internal quality criteria covering a range of issues such as admissions policy, teaching, learning and assessment strategy and student support mechanisms.

This is done through a process of programme approval which involves consulting academic experts including some subject specialists from other institutions.

How we monitor the quality of this programme

The quality of this programme is monitored each year through evaluating:

- external examiner reports (considering quality and standards);
- statistical information (considering issues such as the pass rate);
- student feedback.

Drawing on this and other information, programme teams undertake the annual Review and Enhancement Process which is co-ordinated at School level and includes student participation. The process is monitored by the Quality and Standards Committee.

Once every six years an in-depth review of the whole field is undertaken by a panel that includes at least two external subject specialists. The panel considers documents, looks at student work, speaks to current and former students and speaks to staff before drawing its conclusions. The result is a report highlighting good practice and identifying areas where action is needed.

The role of the programme committee

This programme has a programme committee comprising all relevant teaching staff, student representatives and others who make a contribution towards the effective operation of the programme (e.g. library/technician staff). The committee has responsibilities for the quality of the programme. It provides input into the operation of the Review and Enhancement Process and proposes changes to improve quality. The programme committee plays a critical role in the quality assurance procedures.

The role of external examiners

The standard of this programme is monitored by at least one external examiner. External examiners have two primary responsibilities:

- To ensure the standard of the programme;
- To ensure that justice is done to individual students.

External examiners fulfil these responsibilities in a variety of ways including:

- Approving exam papers/assignments;
- Attending assessment boards;
- Reviewing samples of student work and moderating marks;
- Ensuring that regulations are followed;
- Providing feedback through an annual report that enables us to make improvements for the future.

Listening to the views of students

The following methods for gaining student feedback are used on this programme:

- Module evaluations
- Student representation on programme committees

Students are notified of the action taken through:

- Circulating the minutes of the programme committee

Listening to the views of others

The following methods are used for gaining the views of other interested parties:

- *Annual student satisfaction questionnaire*
- *Industrial links including employer questionnaire*

Further information

Where you can find further information

Further information about this programme is available from:

- The UEL web site (<http://www.uel.ac.uk>)
- The programme handbook available on the VLE
- Module study guides (*on e-campus*)
- UEL Manual of General Regulations <http://www.uel.ac.uk/ga/>
- UEL Quality Manual <http://www.uel.ac.uk/ga/>
- Regulations for the Academic Framework <http://www.uel.ac.uk/academicframework/>
- UEL Guide to Undergraduate Programmes
- www.bdc.ac.uk