



Definitive Programme Document: BA Documentary Photography & Film
(Bachelor's with Honours)

Awarding institution	Bath Spa University
Teaching institution	Bath Spa University
School	Bath School of Art, Film & Media
Main campus	Locksbrook campus
Other sites of delivery	Newton Park campus
Other Schools involved in delivery	
Name of award(s)	BA (Hons) Documentary Photography & Film
Qualification (final award)	BA (Hons)
Intermediate awards available	CertHE, DipHE
Routes available	Single
Sandwich year	Available (optional 4 years)
Duration of award	3 years full-time 4 years full-time (with Professional Placement Year or Foundation Year)
Modes of delivery offered	Campus-based
Regulatory Scheme ¹	Undergraduate Academic Framework
Exemptions from regulations/framework ²	No
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body accreditation	N/A
Date of most recent PSRB approval (month and year)	N/A
Renewal of PSRB approval due (month and year)	N/A
UCAS code	
Route code (SITS)	
Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements (including date of publication)	Art & Design (Dec 2019)
Date of most recent approval	
Date specification last updated	

¹ This should also be read in conjunction with the University's Qualifications Framework

² See section on 'Exemptions'

Exemptions

The following exemptions are in place:

Programme/Pathway	Regulations/Framework	Brief description of variance	Approving body and date
	Eg Undergraduate Academic Framework	Eg Owing to PSRB requirements, all 120 credits at level 5 are Core or Required (ie no Options)	Programme Approval and Review Sub-committee, [date]

Programme Overview

The BA (Hons) Documentary Photography & Film course provides a student-centred learning experience that allows you to develop your own creative voice across a diverse range of photographic and moving image contexts within the creative industries. The primary ambition of the course is to equip you with a broad range of practical skills and expertise as an agile, creative Documentarian with a firm understanding of lens based narrative and ethics.

The course provides a platform to explore, actively enquire, challenge and define the role of Documentary practice. Alongside the development of technical skills and understanding of visual language, you will explore the historical and contemporary theory and the critical and ethical landscape of Documentary practice in a local and global context. You will actively participate in numerous industry-focused projects and workshops to build your skills and experience of working professionally. Our emphasis on professional and personal development will equip you with the knowledge and skills required to successfully develop a portfolio that will allow for a career in the creative field.

These practical and creative activities are fundamentally underpinned and informed by exploration of the histories and contemporary practises within this specialist field. There will be the opportunity to explore critical debates within documentary photographic practice and engage within the wider culture of photography, film and creative communities.

Programme Aims

1. To develop visual storytellers who are confident in identifying and defining complex visual solutions within a specialist lens-based practice.
2. To prepare students to work individually and collaboratively in the wider world to enable them to develop as creative professionals with personal vision.
3. To offer a distinctive education in photography and documentary filmmaking that foregrounds innovation, experimentation and professionalism.

4. To enable students to develop their capacity to exercise specialist and transferable skills in the contextualisation of documentary photography and film practice in line with professional demands of the industry.
5. To integrate theory and practice in critical and creative engagement with the subject, demonstrating curiosity and intellectual enquiry through research and reflection.
6. To develop knowledge of major theories relating to documentary practice, and a deeper awareness of social and ethical contexts.
7. To prepare graduates for professional practice and employability within a range of commercial and cultural contexts through local and international engagement.

Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

A Subject-Specific Skills and Knowledge

	Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) On Achieving Level 6	On Achieving Level 5	On Achieving Level 4
A1	Application of skill in lens based imaging, post production, sequencing and production demonstrating a complex understanding of a range of documentary contexts and the ability to synthesise creative visual solutions.	Creative application of skills in analogue and digital technologies within lens based practice. Demonstrating proficiency in post-production, editing, sequencing and production of original outputs in a range of documentary contexts.	Understanding of analogue and digital lens based technologies investigating their potential and demonstrating proficiency in technique and application to a variety of photographic contexts.
A2	Ability to demonstrate documentary practice that evidences critical enquiry and experimental methodologies across a diverse range of subject matter	Application of creative practice to targeted documentary contexts through development of specialist lens based production skills and critical enquiry.	Experimentation with methods of lens based production. Investigating the relationship between ideas, process methods and practical outcomes.

A3	Critically evaluate knowledge through active enquiry and the synthesis of complex primary and secondary research material to formulate and resolve ideas in a wide range of documentary photographic & film contexts.	Undertake critical analysis of primary and secondary research sources to formulate and evaluate ideas in the context of contemporary documentary photography and film.	Evaluate and interpret a range of primary and secondary research material to develop ideas in the context of documentary photography and film.
A4	Critically evaluate and apply project management skills, demonstrating independence and ability to operate professionally as an individual and in a group effectively. Demonstrating professionalism in a variety of documentary photograph and film contexts.	Employ organisational skills to plan and implement tasks, develop existing skills and acquire new competences in group and individual activities for a range of photographic and film contexts within documentary.	Knowledge of the concepts and principles associated with project management and collaborative practises within the photographic industries. Comprehension of different technical approaches to documentary contexts and practises.
A5	Critical and practical understanding of how skills and knowledge are applied in the professional world beyond university in documentary contexts including an ability to respond creatively and imaginatively to professional briefs.	Knowledge of professional photographic & film contexts and an ability to respond creatively and imaginatively to precise briefs.	An understanding of range of professional contexts for practice and an awareness of audiences.

B Cognitive and Intellectual Skills

	Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) On Achieving Level 6	On Achieving Level 5	On Achieving Level 4
B1	Critically evaluate visual creative thinking across diverse contexts, synthesising ideas or information to generate solutions, achieving a body of work that is coherent and resolved.	Creative development of responses to problems in a range of contexts, drawing on and developing appropriate techniques to generate solutions.	Fundamental approaches to creative thinking and ideas development for given problems.
B2	Integrate theory and practice through critical and creative engagement with documentary photography and film.	The ability to identify areas of research to inform, expand and challenge ideas developing critical insight and intellectual curiosity of documentary photography and film.	An understanding of the theoretical and historical development of photography and film within contemporary documentary practice.
B3	Apply specialist subject knowledge evidencing critical analysis and understanding of historical and cultural factors through self reflection.	Analytical skills to evaluate and speculate on one's own work and the work of others through an understanding of historical and contemporary documentary practice.	The ability to evaluate and analyse photographic film practice and apply knowledge to a range of documentary contexts.
B4	Communicate in written and oral forms, a critical understanding of debates within contemporary photographic practice demonstrating independent judgement and critique.	The ability to contribute to dialogues around photographic practice and to demonstrate knowledge effectively through oral and written presentations.	The ability to communicate in written and oral form knowledge of key historical and contemporary debates within photographic practice.

C Skills for Life and Work

	Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) On Achieving Level 6	On Achieving Level 5	On Achieving Level 4
C1	Autonomous learning ³ (including time management) that shows the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility and enables decision-making in complex and unpredictable contexts.	Autonomous learning (including time management) as would be necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and decision-making such that significant responsibility within organisations could be assumed.	Autonomous learning (including time management) as would be necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility.
C2	Team working skills necessary to flourish in the global workplace with an ability both to work in and lead teams effectively.	Team work as would be necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and decision-making for effective work with others such that significant responsibility within organisations could be assumed.	Team work as would be necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility for effective work with others.
C3	Communication skills that ensure information, ideas, problems and solutions are communicated effectively and clearly to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.	Communication skills commensurate with the effective communication of information, arguments and analysis in a variety of forms to specialist and non-specialist audiences in which key techniques of the discipline are deployed effectively.	Communication skills that demonstrate an ability to communicate outcomes accurately and reliably and with structured and coherent arguments.
C4	IT skills and digital literacy that demonstrate core competencies and are commensurate with an ability to work at the	IT skills and digital literacy that demonstrate the development of existing skills and the acquisition of new competences.	IT skills and digital literacy that provide a platform from which further training can be undertaken to enable development of new skills within a

³ i.e. the ability to review, direct and manage one's own workload

	interface of creativity and new technologies.		structured and managed environment.
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Programme content

This programme comprises the following modules

Key:

Core = C

Required = R

Required* = R*

Optional = O

Not available for this status = N/A

If a particular status is greyed out, it is not offered for this programme.

Subject offered as single award

BA (Hons) Documentary Photography & Film				Status	
Level	Code	Title	Credits	Single	Joint
4	DPF4000-20	First Encounters: The Documentary Image	20	C	
4	PHO4001-20	Photographic Practice 2: Identity and the Camera	20	C	
4	DPF4001-20	Moving Image: Construction of Meaning	20	C	
4	DPF4002-20	Looking at Others	20	C	
4	PHO4004-20	Professional Contexts 1	20	C	
4	HAC 4000-20	Intro to Visual Material and Culture	20	C	
5	PHO-5000-20	Photographic Practice 5: Narrative Fact	20	C	
5	DPF5000-20	Alternative Strategies: Ways of Seeing	20	O	
5	DPF5001-40	Real World Documentary Practice	40	C	
5	PHO-5002-20	Professional Contexts 2	20	C	
5	HAC 5107-20	Photography: Contemporary Issues and Practice.	20	C	
5	PPY5100-12-120	Professional Placement Year	120	O	
6	PHO-6001-20	Individual Practice: Portfolio 1	20	C	

6	DPF6000-20	Documentary Practice: Portfolio 2	20	O	
6	DPF6001-40	Documentary Final Major Project	40	C	
6	PHO-6004-20	Professional Contexts 3	20	C	
6	HAC 6100-20	Visual Material and Culture: Final Study	20	C	

Assessment methods

A range of summative assessment tasks will be used to test the Intended Learning Outcomes in each module. These are indicated in the attached assessment map that illustrates which tasks and ILO's are used in specific modules. Students will be supported in their development towards summative assessment by appropriate formative exercises.

Please note: if you choose an optional module from outside this programme, you may be required to undertake a summative assessment task that does not appear in the assessment grid here in order to pass that module.

Work experience and placement opportunities

The course will provide you with opportunities to participate in external projects, such as 'live' briefs, film festivals, photography festivals, exhibitions, open studios, placements and published contexts. These opportunities contribute to the future development of your practice and facilitate your skills development in preparation for a broad range of employment possibilities within the broader creative industries.

These include: Professional Contexts modules in levels 4, 5 and 6 which assist you in finding experience with an employer or a self-initiated public platform for your practice. Staff, students, professional figures and alumni all contribute to these modules through professional lectures and practical portfolio based workshops. These Industry led lectures and workshops establish external relationships and provide valuable insight into creative networks, professional bodies, organisations and funding opportunities as well as competitions and residencies.

Industry 'live' briefs and external opportunities are explored in portfolio modules in level 6. Students engage in a collective showcase of work at the end of level 6. This is an opportunity for students to work collaboratively and showcase their practice in a public forum.

The university careers office provides access to a variety of opportunities, including starting a business, part-time employment, volunteering and placements.

You will have the opportunity to consider undertaking the Professional Placement Year (module PPY5100). This is coordinated and supported by the Careers and Enterprise team, and you will also be assigned a Professional Placement Year tutor. During the Professional

Placement Year, you would commit to working for the external organisation/s for a period of 9-13 months, between the second and third year of your course. At the start of your final year, you return to university and submit a Placement Report detailing your development on placement. By successfully completing the module, you are entitled to the addition of “with Professional Placement Year” to your degree title, evidencing your work and outcomes in respect of your placement, and demonstrating your ability to secure and sustain graduate-level employment.

Graduate Attributes

	Bath Spa Graduates...	In [subject], we enable this...
1	Will be employable: equipped with the skills necessary to flourish in the global workplace, able to work in and lead teams.	Projects and events offering opportunities for teamwork and leadership; live industry projects; active external engagement throughout the course. Professional Contexts modules promote professional practice within the field and facilitate collaborative practice
2	Will be able to understand and manage complexity, diversity and change.	Curriculum enables students to apply creative and technical skills to diverse photographic and film opportunities and problems; developing project management skills; engagement with contemporary social and cultural context.
3	Will be creative: able to innovate and to solve problems by working across disciplines as professional or artistic practitioners.	Creative problem solving through ideas and practical development; working to a wide range of audiences and documentary contexts. By providing practical and theoretical modules students are equipped with the skills and confidence to speculate, take risks and be curious through research and experimentation.
4	Will be digitally literate: able to work at the interface of creativity and technology.	Developing skills in specialist digital film and photographic processes; utilising digital software and production techniques to create innovative visual solutions.
5	Will be internationally networked: either by studying abroad for part of their	Through study abroad opportunities; international field trips; studying alongside

	programme, or studying alongside students from overseas.	overseas students; participation in networking with international graduates and international industry professionals - guest lectures.
6	Will be creative thinkers, doers and makers.	Through all practical aspects of the course.
7	Will be critical thinkers: able to express their ideas in written and oral form, and possessing information literacy.	In Historical & Critical Studies, and in the development of communication skills for a wide range of professional contexts.
8	Will be ethically aware: prepared for citizenship in a local, national and global context.	By embedding diversity, sustainability and ethics discussion and debate within film and photographic practice throughout the programme.

Modifications

Module-level modifications

Code	Title	Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect

Programme-level modifications

Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect

Programme Structure Diagram

Level 4:

S1	First Encounters: The Documentary Image (20)	Photographic Practice 2: Identity & the Camera (20)	Professional Contexts 1 (20)
S2	Moving Image: Construction of Meaning (20)	Looking at Others (20)	Intro to Visual Material & Culture (20)

Level 5:

S1	Photographic Practice 6: Narrative Fact (20)	Alternative Strategies: Ways of Seeing (20)	Professional Contexts 2 (20)
S2	Real World Documentary Practice (40)		Photography: Contemporary Issues & Practice (20)

	Professional Placement Year (optional) (120)
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Level 6:

S1	Individual Practice: Portfolio 1 (20)	Documentary Practice: Portfolio 2 (20)	Visual Material & Culture: Final Study (20)
S2	Documentary Final Major Project (40)		Professional Contexts 3 (20)

Appendix 2: Map of Intended Learning Outcomes

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C,R,R*,O) [4]	Intended Learning Outcomes												
				Subject-Specific Skills and Knowledge					Cognitive and Intellectual Skills				Skills for Life and Work			
				A 1	A 2	A 3	A 4	A 5	B 1	B 2	B 3	B 4	C 1	C 2	C 3	C 4
4	DPF4000-20	First Encounters: The Documentary Image	C	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x
4	PHO4001-20	Photographic Practice 2: Identity and the Camera	C	x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x		x	x
4	DPF4001-20	Moving Image: Construction of Meaning	C	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x
4	DPF4002-20	Looking at Others	C	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x
4	PHO4004-20	Professional Contexts 1	C		x					x	x	x	x	x	x	x

4	HAC 4000-20	Intro to Visual Material and Culture	C		x	x			x		x			x		x	
5	PHO 5000-20	Photographic Practice 5: Narrative Fact	C	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x			x
5	DPF5000-20	Alternative Strategies: Ways of Seeing	O	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
5	DPF5001-40	Real World Documentary Practice	C	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
5	PHO500 2-20	Professional Contexts 2	C			x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x
5	HAC510 7-20	Photography: Contemporary Issues and Practice.	C		x	x					x	x		x			x
5	PPY 5100-12	Professional Placement Year	C											x	x	x	x
6	PHO600 1-20	Individual Practice: Portfolio 1	C	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x

6	DPF6000-20	Documentary Practice: Portfolio 2	O	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x
6	DPF6001-40	Documentary Final Major Project	C	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
6	PHO6004-20	Professional Contexts 3	C		x	x	x		x	x			x	x	x	x
6	HAC6100-20	Visual Material & Culture: Final Study	C		x	x			x		x		x			x

[4] C = Core; R = Required, R* = Required*; O = Optional

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Appendix 3: Map of Summative Assessment Tasks by Module

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C,R, R*,O) [5]	Assessment method														
				Coursework						Practical					Written Examination			
				Dissertation	Dossier	Essay	Journal	Portfolio	Report	Exhibition / event	Live Project	Presentation	Publication	Set exercises	Written Examination	In-class test (seen)	In-class test (unseen)	
4	DPF4000-20	First Encounters : The Documentary Image	C				X	X										
4	PHO4001-20	Photographic Practice 2: Identity and the Camera	C				X	X										
4	DPF4001-20	Moving Image:	C				X	X										

		Constructio n of Meaning															
4	DPF40 02-20	Looking at Others	C				X	X									
4	PHO40 04-20	Profession al Contexts 1	C		X						X						
4	HAC 4000- 20	Intro to Visual Material and Culture	C			X		X									
5	PHO 5000- 20	Photograp hic Practice 5: Narrative Fact	C				X	X									
5	DPF50 00-20	Alternativ e Strategies: Ways of Seeing	O				X	X									
5	DPF50 01-40	Real World Document	C				X	X									

		ary Practices															
5	PHO5002-20	Professional Contexts 2	C		X					X							
5	HAC5107-20	Photography: Contemporary Issues and Practice.	C			X			X								
6	PHO6001-20	Individual Practice: Portfolio 1	C				X	X									
6	DPF6000-20	Documentary Practice: Portfolio 2	O				X				X	X					
6	DPF6001-40	Documentary Final Major Project	C				X	X									
6	PHO6004-20	Professional Contexts 3	C		X			X									

6	HAC 6100- 20	Visual Material and Culture: Final Study	C				X	X									
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[5] C = Core; R = Required, R* = Required*, O = Optional