

BA (Hons) Photography

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Awarding institution	Bath Spa University
Teaching institution	Bath Spa University
School	School of Art
Main campus	Locksbrook Campus
Other sites of delivery	Sion Hill Campus
Other Schools involved in delivery	N/A
Name of award(s)	Photography
Qualification (final award)	BA (Hons)
Intermediate awards available	CertHE, DipHE, BA
Routes available	Single
Professional Placement Year	Available (optional 4 years)
Duration of award	3 years full-time 4 years full-time (with Professional Placement Year)
Modes of delivery offered	Blended Learning
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
UCAS code	WPQ3 WPQ4 (with Professional Placement Year)
Route code (SITS)	PHSPS PHSPS-SW
Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements (including date of publication)	Art & Design (February 2017)
Date of most recent approval	June 2018
Date specification last updated	June 2021

[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
BA (Hons) Photography	Undergraduate Academic Framework	Exemption requested to depart from Framework Paragraph 1.4	Academic Quality Standards Committee, 12 December 2018

Programme Overview

The BA (Hons) Photography course provides a student-centred, flexible learning experience that allows you to develop your own creative voice across a diverse range of photographic genres and contexts. The primary ambition of the course is to equip you with a broad range of practical skills and expertise as an original image-maker – but also with the critical and historical knowledge that will enable you to decipher, challenge and influence the complex image-world that we all inhabit.

The course offers you the opportunity to explore and experiment with a wide variety of processes, materials and technologies – from 19th Century Cyanotype printing to high-end digital capture – on location and in the studio. You are actively encouraged to engage with audiences and explore a range of potential outputs for your work, including gallery, editorial, screen and book contexts. These practical and creative explorations are fundamentally underpinned and informed by a parallel exploration of the history of photography, contemporary critical debates and an engagement with the wider culture of photography.

The BA (Hons) Photography is delivered through a variety of teaching and learning environments, including individual and group tutorials, lectures, seminars, group critiques and technical workshops, with a collaborative approach to shared, peer-to-peer learning. The course also involves external engagement through gallery visits, field trips and public exhibitions. You are encouraged and supported in building a network of connections with your contemporaries and the professional world, through work experience, visiting speakers and master classes with industry experts. Content is delivered by teams of full time and visiting photographic specialists.

Programme Aims

1. To offer a distinctive photographic education that foregrounds making, innovation and experimentation.
2. To develop photographers who are confident in identifying and defining complex visual solutions within a range of photographic contexts and audiences.
3. To enable students to develop specialist photographic knowledge and develop a distinctive area of practice.
4. To integrate theory and practice in critical and creative engagement with the subject, demonstrating curiosity and intellectual enquiry through research and reflection.
5. To develop knowledge of major theories relating to photographic practice, and a deeper awareness of social and ethical implications for the photographic industry.
6. To prepare graduates for professional practice and employability within a range of commercial and cultural contexts through local and international engagement.
7. To provide a program that fosters independence, personal interests and critical debate through intellectual and imaginative engagement with production and contexts of practice.

Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

A Subject-Specific Skills and Knowledge

	Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)	On Achieving Level 5	On Achieving Level 4
	On Achieving Level 6		
A1	A photographic practice that enables critical enquiry and experimentation with materials and processes within a diverse range of subject matter	Demonstrate photographic practice exploring material and technical process establishing practical and critical enquiry within practice.	Understanding A range of technical photographic processes and skills investigating the relationship between idea, material and form.
A2	Critical idea generation and the application of conceptual critique.	Idea generation informed by conceptual enquiry within photographic practice	The ability to identify conceptual development within a photographic practice.
A3	A critical understanding of research methods and their application to the development of photographic work and its fabrication.	A knowledge of practical and contextual research processes and of how these effectively inform the development of photographic practice.	A knowledge of practical and contextual research processes.
A4	Ability to critically employ historical and theoretical perspectives, undertake critical evaluation of the creative process, and to engage in contemporary debates in visual and material culture and wider society.	Ability to effectively employ historical and theoretical perspectives, reflect effectively on the creative process, and evaluate critically contemporary issues in visual and material culture and wider society.	Ability to investigate selected historical and theoretical connections and reflect on the creative process.
A5	Accurate application of skills in post production, editing, sequencing and production of original outputs in a range of material forms and technologies, including high-quality printing, gallery installation, multimedia, editorial and book publication contexts.	Effective creative skills in analogue and digital post-production, editing, sequencing and production of original outputs in a range of contexts.	A range of skills in analogue and digital technologies investigating their potential and demonstrating proficiency in technique.
A6	Critical and practical understanding of how skills and knowledge are applied in the professional world beyond university in both commercial and non-commercial contexts including an ability to respond creatively and imaginatively to precise briefs.	Knowledge of professional photographic 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	Integrate theory and practice in critical and creative engagement with photography	The ability to identify areas of research to inform, expand and challenge ideas developing critical insight and intellectual curiosity of photography.	An understanding of the theoretical and historical development of photography within contemporary creative practice.
B2	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 photographic practice.	The ability to evaluate and analyse photographic practice apply knowledge to a range of photographic contexts.
B3	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 practice and to 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 competences and are commensurate with an ability to work at the interface of creativity and new technologies.	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 structured and managed environment.

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

Programme Content

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) Photography				Status			
Level	Code	Title	Credits	Single	Major	Joint	Minor
4	PHO4000-20	Photographic Practice 1: <i>The Photographic Image</i>	20	C			
4	PHO4001-20	Photographic Practice 2: <i>Identity and the Camera</i>	20	C			
4	PHO4002-20	Photographic Practice 3: <i>Image and Context</i>	20	C			
4	PHO4003-20	Photographic Practice 4: <i>Perception of Place</i>	20	C			
4	PHO4004-20	Professional Contexts 1	20	C			
4	HAC4000-20	Introduction to Visual and Material Culture: <i>Art and Photography</i>	20	C			
5	PHO5000-20	Photographic Practice 5 <i>Narrative: Fact</i>	20	C			
5	PHO5100-20	Photographic Practice 6 <i>Narrative: Fiction</i>	20	O			
5	PHO5001-40	Photographic Practice 7: <i>Object, Figure, Space</i>	40	C			
5	PHO5002-20	Professional Contexts 2	20	C			
5	HAC5107-20	Photography: <i>Contemporary Issues and Practice</i>	20	C			
5	PPY5100-120	Professional Placement Year	120	O			
6	PHO6001-20	Individual Practice: Portfolio 1	20	C			
6	PHO6002-20	Individual Practice: Portfolio 2	20	O			
6	PHO6003-40	Individual Practice: Major Project	40	C			
6	PHO6004-20	Professional Contexts 3	20	C			
6	HAC6100-20	Visual and Material Culture: <i>Final Study</i>	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 which shows which tasks are used in which 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 a range of opportunities to participate in external projects, such as events, exhibitions, open studios, placements and publications. 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 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
- A Professional Contexts Facebook group page which is an active blackboard for professional opportunities. Staff, students and alumni all contribute to this forum, this page is administered by the Course Leader.
- Industry led lectures and workshops establish external relationships and provide valuable insight into creative networks, professional bodies, organisations, arts funding opportunities as well as competitions and artists residencies
- Industry live briefs and external opportunities are explored in portfolio modules in level 6
- Students engage in exhibition week across all three years of the program. 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 be 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 Photography, we enable this...
Will be employable: equipped with the skills necessary to flourish in the global workplace, able to work in and lead teams	Through active external engagement throughout the course. Professional Contexts modules promote good business practice within the field and facilitate collaborative practice
Will be able to understand and manage complexity, diversity and change	The curriculum enables students to be confident in identifying and defining complex visual solutions within a range of photographic contexts and audiences
Will be creative: able to innovate and to solve problems by working across disciplines as professional or artistic practitioners	By providing practical and theoretical modules that equip students with the skills and confidence to speculate, take risks and be curious through research and experimentation. Students work across a variety of photographic disciplines, formats and contexts
Will be digitally literate: able to work at the interface of creativity and technology	Digital hardware and software is a key component of all studio modules. Students develop skills in specialist technologies and gain an understanding of how these skills and knowledge are applied in the professional world beyond university, in commercial and non-commercial sectors
Will be internationally networked: either by studying abroad for part of the their programme, or studying alongside students from overseas	Through field trips, international exchange such as Erasmus, Study Abroad as well as studying alongside international students
Will be creative thinkers, doers and makers	This is achieved through all aspects of the course
Will be critical thinkers: able to express their ideas in written and oral form, and possessing information literacy	Students develop critical insight and intellectual curiosity within studio modules and Historical and Critical Studies. The application of these skills is evident in all aspects of study from dissertation writing, to written evaluative work relating to individual practice and well as self-promotion and presentation skills.
Will be ethically aware: prepared for citizenship in a local, national and global context	Ethical, social and cultural consequences of creative practice are addressed within all aspects of course delivery. Students are equipped to apply their knowledge to a range of contemporary, global contexts.

Modifications

Module-level modifications

Code	Title	Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect
		Change to formative and summative assessment components	Approved by Curriculum Committee on 16/06/2021	2021/22
PHO4 000-20	Photographic Practice 1: <i>The Photographic Image</i>	Change to summative assessment components	Approved by Curriculum Committee on 16/06/2021	2021/22
PHO4 001-20	Photographic Practice 2: <i>Identity and the Camera</i>	Change to summative assessment components	Approved by Curriculum Committee on 16/06/2021	2021/22
PHO4 002-20	Photographic Practice 3: <i>Image and Context</i>	Change to summative assessment components	Approved by Curriculum Committee on 16/06/2021	2021/22
PHO4 003-20	Photographic Practice 4: <i>Perception of Place</i>	Change to summative assessment components	Approved by Curriculum Committee on 16/06/2021	2021/22
PHO4 004-20	Professional Contexts 1	Change to summative assessment components	Approved by Curriculum Committee on 16/06/2021	2021/22
PHO5 000-20	Photographic Practice 5 <i>Narrative: Fact</i>	Change to summative assessment components	Approved by Curriculum Committee on 16/06/2021	2021/22
PHO5 100-20	Photographic Practice 6 <i>Narrative: Fiction</i>	Change to summative assessment components	Approved by Curriculum Committee on 16/06/2021	2021/22
PHO5 001-40	Photographic Practice 7: <i>Object, Figure, Space</i>	Change to summative assessment components	Approved by Curriculum Committee on 16/06/2021	2021/22
PHO5 002-20	Professional Contexts 2	Change to summative assessment components	Approved by Curriculum Committee on 16/06/2021	2021/22
PHO6 001-20	Individual Practice: Portfolio 1	Change to summative assessment components	Approved by Curriculum Committee on 16/06/2021	2021/22

PHO6 002- 20	Individual Practice: Portfolio 2	Change to summative assessment components	Approved by Curriculum Committee on 16/06/2021	2021/22
PHO6 003- 40	Individual Practice: Major Project	Change to summative assessment components	Approved by Curriculum Committee on 16/06/2021	2021/22

Programme-level modifications

Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect
Modes of delivery	Approved by Curriculum Committee on 16/06 /2021	2021/22

Attached as appendices:

1. Programme structure diagram
2. Map of module outcomes to level/programme outcomes
3. Assessment map
4. Module descriptors

Appendix 1: Programme Structure Diagram – BA (Hons) Photography

Level 4 (Year 1)

Semester 1	Semester 2
PHO4000-20 Photographic Practice 1: <i>The Photographic Image</i> (20 Credit / Core)	PHO4002-20 Photographic Practice 3: <i>Image and Context</i> (20 Credit / Core)
PHO4001-20 Photographic Practice 2: <i>Identity and the Camera</i> (20 Credit / Core)	PHO4003-20 Photographic Practice 4: <i>Perception of Place</i> (20 Credit / Core)
PHO4004-20 Professional Contexts 1 (20 Credit / Core)	HAC4000-20 Introduction to Visual and Material Culture: <i>Art and Photography</i> (20 Credit / Core)

Level 5 (Year 2)

Semester 1	Semester 2
PHO5000-20 Photographic Practice 5: <i>Narrative - Fact</i> (20 Credit / Core)	PHO5001-40 Photographic Practice 7: <i>Object, Figure, Space</i> ³ (40 Credit / Core)
PHO5100-20 Photographic Practice 6: <i>Narrative - Fiction</i> (20 Credit / Optional)	

PHO5002-20 Professional Contexts 2 (20 Credit / Core)	HAC5107-20 Photography: <i>Contemporary Issues and Practice</i> (20 Credit / Core)
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PPY5100-120 Work Placement (120) (Optional)

Level 6 (Year 3)

Semester 1	Semester 2
PHO6001-20 Individual Practice: <i>Portfolio 1</i> (20 Credit / Core)	PHO6003-40 Individual Practice: <i>Major Project</i> (40 Credit / Core)
PHO6002-20 Individual Practice: <i>Portfolio 2</i> (20 Credit / Optional)	
HAC6100-20 Visual and Material Culture: <i>Final Study</i> (20 Credit / Core)	PHO6004-20 Professional Contexts 3 (20 Credit / Core)

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				
				A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	B1	B2	B3	C1	C2	C3	C4	
4	PHO4000-20	Photographic Practice 1: <i>The Photographic Image</i>	C	X	X	X	X	X			X			X			X
4	PHO4001-20	Photographic Practice 2: <i>Identity and the Camera</i>	C	X		X	X	X				X		X			X
4	PHO4002-20	Photographic Practice 3: <i>Image and Context</i>	C	X				X			X	X			X	X	X
4	PHO4003-20	Photographic Practice 4: <i>Perception of Place</i>	C	X		X	X				X			X		X	X
4	PHO4004-20	Professional Contexts 1	C		X				X			X	X	X	X	X	X
4	HAC4000-20	Introduction to Visual and Material Culture: <i>Art and Photography</i>	C				X				X	X	X			X	
5	PHO5000-20	Photographic Practice 5 <i>Narrative: Fact</i>	C		X	X	X	X	X				X	X		X	X
5	PHO5100-20	Photographic Practice 6 <i>Narrative: Fiction</i>	O		X	X		X				X	X	X			X
5	PHO5001-40	Photographic Practice 7: <i>Object, Figure, Space</i>	C	X	X		X	X			X		X	X			X
5	PHO5002-20	Professional Contexts 2	C	X					X			X	X		X	X	X
5	HAC5107-20	Photography: <i>Contemporary Issues and Practice</i>	C				X		X		X	X	X			X	
5	PPY5100-120	Professional Placement Year	O											X	X	X	X
6	PHO6001-20	Individual Practice: Portfolio 1	C	X		X	X	X	X		X			X			X
6	PHO6002-20	Individual Practice: Portfolio 2	O	X	X		X	X			X			X	X	X	X
6	PHO6003-40	Individual Practice: Major Project	C	X	X	X	X	X			X			X	X	X	X
6	HAC6100-20	Visual and Material Culture: <i>Final Study</i>	C				X					X	X			X	

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

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	Live Project	Presentation	Publication	Set exercises	Written Examination	In-class test (seen)	In-class test (unseen)
4	PHO400 0-20	Photographic Practice 1: <i>The Photographic Image</i>	C					X									
4	PHO400 1-20	Photographic Practice 2: <i>Identity and the Camera</i>	C					X									
4	PHO400 2-20	Photographic Practice 3: <i>Image and Context</i>	C									X					
4	PHO400 3-20	Photographic Practice 4: <i>Perception of Place</i>	C									X					
4	PHO400 4-20	Professional Contexts 1	C		X					X							
4	HAC400 0-20	Introduction to Visual and Material Culture: <i>Art and Photography</i>	C			X		X									
5	PHO500 0-20	Photographic Practice 5: <i>Narrative- Fact</i>	C					X									
5	PHO510 0-40	Photographic Practice 6: <i>Narrative- Fiction</i>	O				X	X									
5	PHO500 1-20	Photographic Practice 7: <i>Object, Figure, Space</i>	C					X									
5	PHO500 2-20	Professional Contexts 2	C		X				X								
5	HAC510 7-20	Photography: <i>Contemporary Issues and Practice</i>	C			X		X									
5	PPY510 0-120	Professional Placement Year	O				X	X									
6	PHO600 1-20	Individual Practice: Portfolio 1	C					X									

6	PHO600 2-20	Individual Practice: Portfolio 2	O					X									
6	PHO600 3-40	Individual Practice: Major Project	C					X									
6	PHO600 4-20	Professional Contexts 3	C		X			X									
6	HAC610 0-20	Visual and Material Culture: <i>Final Study</i>	C			X											

^[5] C = Core; R = Required, R* = Required*, O = Optional