

## BA Photography

### Programme Specification



<b>1. Programme title</b>	BA Hons Photography BA Hons Photography with Foundation Year
<b>2. Awarding institution</b>	Middlesex University
<b>3a. Teaching institution</b>	Middlesex University London
<b>3b. Language of study</b>	English
<b>4a. Valid intake dates</b>	Autumn Term
<b>4b. Mode of study</b>	Full-time or Part-time
<b>4c. Delivery method</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On-campus/Blended <input type="checkbox"/> Distance Education
<b>5. Professional / Statutory / Regulatory body</b>	n/a
<b>6. Apprenticeship Standard</b>	n/a
<b>7. Final qualifications available</b>	BA Hons Photography BA Hons Photography with Foundation Year BA Photography BA Photography with Foundation Year DipHE Photography CertHE Photography
<b>8. Year effective from</b>	2023/2024

#### 9. Criteria for admission to the programme

An assessment of an applicant's portfolio, with an option to discuss further with tutors, is the single most important criterion for admission to the programme. We provide all applicants with guidance of what we are looking for in a portfolio, including evidence of experimentation across photographic techniques, research into photographers, and contextual awareness.

Applicants usually require 112 UCAS points or relevant equivalent qualification, with passes also in three GCSE subjects, with a score of 4 or Grade C. However we also welcome applicants from Foundation, HND, or BTEC courses, with relevant experience

from industry, as well as those without evidenced work experience or formal qualifications, as long as they demonstrate an aptitude for learning and a commitment to Photography. International candidates normally require an Academic IELTS overall score of 6.0, with a minimum of 5.5 in each component.

If you have substantial work experience, specialist expertise or previous awards/qualifications, you may be able to get the learning from this experience recognised and claim university credit, through the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) process.

## **10. Aims of the programme**

The programme aims to:

- Support students in becoming highly skilled photographic practitioners, able to work with informed choice and control across a range of photographic processes.
- Create a collaborative, supportive environment in which ideas and learning can thrive and be purposefully developed, in fulfilment of students' creative and professional potential.
- Foster critical enquiry across aesthetic, ethical, political, cultural and social considerations, to enable students to be reflective, confident and responsible in their creative output.
- Promote social responsibility and an ethical orientation, in recognition of photography's potential and capacity for positive social change.
- Equip students with the knowledge, skills, experience, and resilience required to establish a sustainable practice and career in the field of photography, the wider creative industries and further education post-graduation.
- Produce well-rounded, articulate and visually literate graduates, who are technologically and intellectually agile, able to work both independently and in collaboration with others.

<b>11. Programme outcomes*</b>	
<p><b>A. Knowledge and understanding</b></p> <p>On completion of this programme the successful student will have knowledge and understanding of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How to work with and across a range of different photographic processes, techniques and materials, depending on aims, function and purpose</li> <li>2. Photography as an evolving set of technologies, practices and histories, as explored across in-depth case studies</li> <li>3. The role of photography as critique, challenge and force of social change</li> <li>4. Research processes and methodologies as an integral element of practice</li> <li>5. The value of mindfulness, reflection and documentation for enhancing practice outcomes</li> </ol>	<p><b>Teaching/learning methods</b></p> <p>Students gain knowledge and understanding through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing photographic practice and other self-directed learning (including museum, gallery, library &amp; archive research).</li> <li>• Practice and theory-based lectures and seminars.</li> <li>• Individual tutorials.</li> <li>• Group tutorials, student led presentations and critiques (peer group learning).</li> <li>• Skills based workshops, across technical areas and writing approaches</li> <li>• Set and negotiated project work.</li> <li>• Collaborative working as well as individual research and skills-based acquisition.</li> </ul> <p><b>Assessment methods</b></p> <p>Students' knowledge and understanding is assessed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sharing of their practice through presentation and/or exhibition</li> <li>• reflective documentation of practice</li> <li>• writing, including analytical writing, reflective writing, curatorial texts, project proposals and reports</li> <li>• vivas</li> <li>• continuous personal portfolio</li> <li>• evidence of industry engagement and/or employability-related activities;</li> <li>• templated, professional practice log the 'Toolkit'.</li> </ul>
<p><b>B. Skills</b></p> <p>On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Articulate complex ideas and arguments, in a range of formal and informal settings, both orally and in written form</li> <li>2. Work with confidence across a range of photographic processes, making informed choices over technical, critical and theoretical elements of their practice</li> </ol>	<p><b>Teaching/learning methods</b></p> <p>Students learn skills through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing photographic practice and other self-directed learning (including museum, gallery, library &amp; archive research).</li> <li>• Practice and theory-based lectures and seminars.</li> <li>• Individual tutorials.</li> <li>• Group tutorials, student led presentations and critiques (peer group learning).</li> </ul>

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Evidence innovation, experimentation and high levels of control over their image-making processes, aesthetic approaches and strategies for making public</li> <li>4. Plan, negotiate, organize and manage their own research and practice projects within defined time frames and resource constraints, both individually and in collaboration with others</li> <li>5. Evidence a capacity for continuous self-directed learning and adaptability, further developing their digital, technical, and conceptual literacy and preparedness for work</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skills based workshops, across technical areas and writing approaches</li> <li>• Set and negotiated project work.</li> <li>• Collaborative working as well as individual research and skills-based acquisition.</li> </ul> <p><b>Assessment methods</b></p> <p>Students' skills are assessed by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sharing of their practice through presentation and/or exhibition</li> <li>• reflective documentation of practice</li> <li>• writing, including analytical writing, reflective writing, curatorial texts, project proposals and reports</li> <li>• vivas</li> <li>• continuous personal portfolio</li> <li>• evidence of industry engagement and/or employability-related activities;</li> <li>• templated, professional practice log the 'Toolkit'.</li> </ul>
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## 12. Programme structure (levels, modules, credits and progression requirements)

### 12.1 Overall structure of the programme

<b><u>FULL TIME</u></b>	<b><u>PART TIME</u></b>
<p><b>YEAR 1 / LEVEL 4</b> Terms 1 &amp; 2</p> <p>PHO1130 Photography's Professional Contexts Term 1</p> <p>PHO1230 Digital Futures Term 2</p> <p>PHO1330 The Experimental Image Terms 1 &amp; 2</p> <p>PHO1430 Sightlines: What is Photography? Terms 1 &amp; 2</p> <p><b>YEAR 2 / LEVEL 5</b> Terms 1 &amp; 2</p> <p>PHO2130 Professional Alignment Term 1</p> <p>PHO2230 Photography as Collaboration Term 2</p> <p>PHO2330 Developing an Independent Practice Terms 1 &amp; 2</p> <p>PHO2430 Sightlines: Photography and Visual Culture Terms 1 &amp; 2</p> <p><b>YEAR 3 / LEVEL 6</b> Terms 1 &amp; 2</p> <p>PHO3130 Working in Photography Term 1</p> <p>PHO3230 Independent Practice Term 2</p> <p>PHO3330 Going Public Terms 1 &amp; 2</p> <p>PHO3430 Sightlines: Independent Research</p>	<p><b>YEAR 1 / LEVEL 4</b> Terms 1 &amp; 2</p> <p>PHO1130 Photography's Professional Contexts Term 1</p> <p>PHO1230 Digital Futures Term 2</p> <p>PHO1330 The Experimental Image Terms 1 &amp; 2</p> <p><b>YEAR 2 / LEVEL 4-5</b> Terms 1 &amp; 2</p> <p>PHO1430 Sightlines: What is Photography? Term 1</p> <p>PHO2230 Photography as Collaboration Term 2</p> <p>PHO2330 Developing an Independent Practice Terms 1 &amp; 2</p> <p><b>YEAR 3 / LEVEL 5</b> Terms 1 &amp; 2</p> <p>PHO2130 Professional Alignment Terms 1 &amp; 2</p> <p>PHO2430 Sightlines: Photography and Visual Culture Terms 1 &amp; 2</p> <p><b>YEAR 4 / LEVEL 6</b> Terms 1 &amp; 2</p> <p>PHO3130 Working in Photography Terms 1 &amp; 2</p> <p>PHO3430 Sightlines: Independent Research Term 1</p> <p><b>YEAR 5 / LEVEL 6</b> Term 1</p> <p>PHO3230 Independent Practice Term 2</p> <p>PHO3330 Going Public</p>

All modules are 30 credits. The suggested part-time route outlined here is based on a four-year period of study and on an even balance across the various strands; there is potential on an individual basis for alternative arrangements to be made for progression through the programme.

**Exit awards:**

BA Hons Photography (with 360 credits, i.e. upon completion of all modules listed above in either FT or PT mode) BA Hons Photography with Foundation Year (upon completion of all modules listed above, plus 120 credits from Foundation, Level 3)

BA Photography (ordinary degree, with 300-359 credits)

BA Photography with Foundation Year (as above, plus 120 credits from Foundation, Level 3)

DipHE Photography (upon completion of all Level 4 and Level 5 modules)

CertHE Photography (upon completion of all Level 4 modules)

**Pass/fail modules:**

All Level 4 modules (PHO1130, PHO1230, PHO1330 & PHO1430) are pass/fail only, to support progression and encourage experimentation during our students' transition to HE learning. Students receive qualitative feedback as well as an indication of attainment, using the bands from Middlesex grading scale.

**Note on module codes:** the first digit designates year of study in FT mode, the second digit stands for different programme strands (see below), while the last two digits represents the credit weighting, with all modules being 30 credits. In full-time and in part-time mode, practice modules are successive and are 12 weeks long; all other modules are 24 weeks long. The programme strands, with related codes, are as follows: employability (1); photography practice (2&3), visual culture (4).

<b>12.2 Levels and modules</b>		
Level 4		
COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL *	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
Students must take all of the following:  PHO1130 Photography's Professional Contexts PHO1230 Digital Futures PHO1330 The Experimental Image PHO1430 Sightlines: What is photography?	None	Attaining 120 Level 4 credits  Pass/Fail only
Level 5		
COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL *	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
Students must take all of the following:  PHO2130 Professional Alignment PHO2230 Photography as Collaboration PHO2330 Developing an Independent Practice PHO2430 Sightlines: Photography and Visual Culture	None	Attaining 120 Level 5 credits
Level 6		
COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL *	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
Students must take all of the following:  PHO3130 Working in Photography PHO3230 Independent Practice PHO3330 Going Public PHO3430 Independent Research	None	

\*Please refer to your programme page on the website re availability of option modules

<b>12.3 Non-compensatable modules</b>	
Module level	Module code
	ALL

<b>13. Information about assessment regulations</b>
<a href="https://www.mdx.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0031/623758/Regulations-2021-22-V1.12.pdf">https://www.mdx.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0031/623758/Regulations-2021-22-V1.12.pdf</a>

#### 14. Placement opportunities, requirements and support (if applicable)

Students can integrate work experience as part of their CPD input into their second or year assessment, within the modules PHO2130 Professional Alignment and PHO3130 Working in Photography.

#### 15. Future careers / progression

Employability is integrated as a strand running throughout the programme, designed around the progressive development of knowledge, skills and experience of creative, professional practice, tailored across students' fields of choice. Developmental modules offer the opportunity to develop skills in collaborating with others, research, project management, pitching, presentation and writing across different platforms. Students gain wide experience in producing a range of public-facing outcomes, in directing their own projects with strategies for their appropriate dissemination. Students are supported in establishing a clear sense and direction for their own sustained, independent practice, post-graduation, including preparing them for pursuing opportunities for publication, commissioned work, post-graduate study and/or a wide-range of future career paths in the creative industries. Recent graduates have gone on to be employed in positions including: studio assistant; photo editor; editorial portraiture; fashion photographer; working artist; studio manager; stylist; photography writer; curator; gallery assistant; photo lab technician; re-toucher; e-commerce photographer and architectural photographer.

#### 16. Particular support for learning (if applicable)

**Outstanding technical facilities** include four Photographic Studios, the Digital Darkroom (80 workstations, Hasselblad Flextight scanners, L8 A2 plus 6 large format Epson printers all colour-managed), two Black and White Darkrooms (up to 5x4 large format), Colour C-type darkroom (up to 5x4 large format) and (Colorama backdrops, full height cove, electronic flash and tungsten lighting).

**A range of workshops, facilities and expert technical staff** provide the technical input for the realization of any studio-based materials required for the research projects.

**Loan store with an extensive range of equipment:** film cameras from 35mm through medium format (645, 67) to large format (5x4), full frame digital cameras with a wide range of lenses, flashguns, location lighting kits, light modifiers etc. This is a free service.

**Library facilities and resources**, including specialist books, journals, videos, DVDs, slides, special collections, and computer programmes. There is a fine collection of Photography books, journals and videos/DVDs of recorded programmes on the work of Photographers. The collections and archives of **The Museum of Domestic Design & Architecture (MoDA)** are also available as resources for students. The **Learning Enhancement Team** and the **Subject Librarian** in the Sheppard Library support students with different aspects of academic study and research to develop essential skills in these areas.



Students are also given 24/7 access to **MyLearning**, a robust online learning support platform containing a raft of communication and assessment tools, and supported by an accessible learning technology unit within the University's **Centre for Academic Practice Enhancement**. This ensures students can access the latest learning technologies and platforms, to support and advance academic practice, teaching and assessment.

**MDXworks: Careers & Employability Service** support students in developing employability skills

**Close collaboration** takes place with Rapid Eye and Printspace. Discounts have been arranged at Metro Imaging, Rapid Eye and Printspace.

**17. HECos code(s)**

100063

**18. Relevant QAA subject benchmark(s)**

Art and Design (December 2019)

### 19. Reference points

QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for Art and Design,  
[https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/sbs-art-and-design-17.pdf?sfvrsn=71eef781\\_16](https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/sbs-art-and-design-17.pdf?sfvrsn=71eef781_16)

Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications,  
<file:///C:/Users/My%20PC.000/Downloads/qualifications-frameworks.pdf>

Middlesex University Regulations,  
[https://www.mdx.ac.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0031/623758/Regulations-2021-22-V1.12.pdf](https://www.mdx.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0031/623758/Regulations-2021-22-V1.12.pdf)

[Knowledge into Action, Middlesex University Strategy 2031](#)

Middlesex University Centre for Academic Practice Enhancement (CAPE) guidance and  
[Academic Planning Framework 2020-21](#)  
[Middlesex University Regulations 2020-21](#)  
[Middlesex Learning and Quality Enhancement Handbook \(LQEH\)](#)

### 20. Other information

Please note programme specifications provide a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information about the programme can be found in the rest of your programme handbook and the university regulations.

## 21. Curriculum map for BA Photography

This section shows the highest level at which programme outcomes are to be achieved by all graduates, and maps programme learning outcomes against the modules in which they are assessed.

### Programme learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding	
A1	How to work with and across a range of different photographic processes, techniques and materials, depending on aims, function and purpose
A2	Photography as an evolving set of technologies, practices and histories, as explored across in-depth case studies
A3	The role of photography as critique, challenge and force of social change
A4	Research processes and methodologies as an integral element of practice
A5	The value of mindfulness, reflection and documentation for enhancing practice outcomes
Skills	
B1	Articulate and communicate complex ideas and arguments, in a range of formal and informal settings, both orally and in written form
B2	Integrate aesthetic, critical and theoretical consideration into own practice and decision-making;
B3	Evidence innovation, experimentation and high levels of control over their image-making processes, aesthetic approaches and strategies for making public;
B4	Plan, negotiate, organize and manage their own research and practice projects within defined time frames and resource constraints, both individually and in collaboration with others
B5	Evidence a capacity for continuous self-directed learning and adaptability, further developing their digital, technical, and conceptual literacy and preparedness for work

Programme outcomes									
A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5
Highest level achieved by all graduates									
6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6

Module Title	Module Code by Level	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5
		Photography's Professional Contexts	PHO1130		x	x		x	x		
Digital Futures	PHO1230	x			x			x	x		
The Experimental Image	PHO1330	x				x		x	x		
Sightlines: What is photography?	PHO1430		x	x	x		x			x	
Professional Alignment	PHO2130					x	x				x
Photography as Collaboration	PHO2230	x		x	x		x	x	x	x	
Developing an Independent Practice	PHO2330	x			x	x		x	x	x	x
Sightlines: Photography and Visual Culture	PHO2430		x	x	x		x				
Working in Photography	PHO3130					x	x				x
Independent Practice	PHO3230	x	x		x	x		x	x	x	x
Going Public	PHO3330	x					x	x	x	x	
Sightlines: Independent Research	PHO3430		x	x	x		x	x		x	x