

Course Specification

Course Summary Information			
1	Course Title		BA (Hons) Photography with Foundation Year
2	BCU Course Code	UCAS Code	US0790F W64F
3	Awarding Institution		Birmingham City University
4	Teaching Institution(s) (if different from point 3)		
5	Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation (if applicable)		Creative Skillset

6	Course Description
	<p>The Foundation Year</p> <p>This four-year Photography Degree with a Foundation Year has been specifically designed to allow students to undertake an additional year of study which will build stronger creative footings to ensure successful progression through their chosen degree course.</p> <p>Working in a lively and energetic environment, students will be given the freedom to expand their knowledge of practical skills, creative exploration and conceptual development, underpinned by broad critical understanding, academic writing and emerging theoretical principles.</p> <p>There will be a range of opportunities to work on collaborative and individual projects aimed to develop employability partnerships and to identify the role of developing practitioner. BA teaching staff from across both schools will work closely with students throughout the course to prepare them for progression.</p> <p>After successful completion of the foundation year, students will have the flexibility to switch (should they wish to change direction) onto a number of related undergraduate degree programmes within Birmingham School of Art or the School of Visual Communication.</p> <p>BA Photography</p> <p>On our BA (Hons) Photography course you will develop a creative, professional identity and signature style by combining technique, theory and ethical practice with experimentation.</p> <p>You will explore contemporary photographic practice, including documentary, moving image, landscape, portrait and fine art photography, gaining a rounded knowledge of these varied and exciting disciplines.</p> <p>Collaboration with other disciplines is encouraged, developing new ideas and connections with subjects such as graphic communication and film and animation. The course will show you how creative, documentary and arts-based photographers can become commercially successful in diverse careers from galleries and publishing to advertising campaigns.</p>

What's covered in the course?

You will learn through practice, by developing confidence as a contemporary photographer. Your learning will be informed by developing a deeper understanding of current photographic practice, from commercial briefs, to publishing, exhibiting, editorial and photojournalism.

You will learn from award-winning staff with international reputations and a wealth of industry experience, having worked for clients such as the BBC, the Brit Awards, Studio Wayne McGregor, British Telecom, Adidas, Channel 4, Condé Nast, The Guardian, Hyundai, Liverpool FC, Marie Claire, Microsoft, The Sunday Times Magazine, Tesco, The Daily Telegraph, the Royal Society of Arts, Tate Britain and the Royal Opera House.

There is also a dedicated technical support team and exceptional facilities situated within the City Centre Campus. These include industry-standard photographic studios, darkrooms, television studios, editing suites, a giant green screen studio and an extensive Hires and Loans department.

We will help you to collaborate both within the University (for example, with the Fashion, Conservatoire, Acting or Product Design courses) as well as externally, with live briefs for real clients. You will also have the opportunity to study abroad for part of the course, or to go on trips to destinations such as New York, Berlin and Paris.

All of this, combined with our innovative course structure, has led to us being recognised by Creative Skillset. This award recognises that we are a centre of excellence, teaching industry standards, and equipping students with the skills and knowledge that employers look for. We also have exceptional levels of external engagement, with visiting lectures given by nationally and internationally-recognised photographers, as well as having numerous links with industry, workshops, seminars, masterclasses, careers advice, portfolio reviews, mentorships and placements.

In an environment of imagination and experimentation, we will nurture your talent and help you to develop into an employable and creative photographer.

7	Course Awards		
7a	Name of Final Award	Level	Credits Awarded
	Bachelor of Arts with Honours Photography	6	480
7b	Exit Awards and Credits Awarded		
	Foundation Certificate Visual Arts and Communication	3	120
	Certificate of Higher Education Photography	4	240
	Diploma of Higher Education Photography	5	360
	Bachelor of Arts Photography	6	420

8	Derogation from the University Regulations		
	None		

9	Delivery Patterns		
Mode(s) of Study	Location	Duration of Study	Code
Full time	City Centre	4 years	US0790F

10	Entry Requirements
	The admission requirements for this course are stated on the course page of the BCU website at https://www.bcu.ac.uk/ , or may be found by searching for the course entry profile located on the UCAS website .

11	Course Learning Outcomes
1	Knowledge & Understanding
1.1	Describe and evaluate the critical, contextual and historical dimensions of photography.
1.2	Develop a high level of technical and practical skills in analogue and digital photographic image making and be able to creatively apply these.
1.3	Undertake research into photographic image making and its contexts, through the use of creative experimentation, academic rigour and critical analysis.
1.4	Develop multiple skills for employability and be working at a professional standard.
2	Cognitive & Intellectual Skills
2.1	Generate a range of potential ideas and visual developments and apply this to the production of creative work.
2.2	Confidently apply appropriate practical and technical knowledge through a wide range of materials, tools, technologies and approaches to photography.
2.3	Explore the benefits of risk-taking, iterative failure and the possibilities found within innovative forms of cross-disciplinary activities.
2.4	Synthesise theory and practice towards personal career ambitions and reflect upon their position within photography and related disciplines.
3	Practical & Professional Skills
3.1	Generate a range of potential ideas and visual developments and apply this to the production of creative work.
3.2	Confidently apply appropriate practical and technical knowledge through a wide range of materials, tools, technologies and approaches to photography.
3.3	Explore the benefits of risk-taking, iterative failure and the possibilities found within innovative forms of cross-disciplinary activities.
3.4	Synthesise theory and practice towards personal career ambitions and reflect upon their position within photography and related disciplines.
4	Key Transferable Skills
4.1	Manage own learning, including self-evaluation through reflection and take action that results in self-development.
4.2	Employ negotiation, enterprise, planning, exhibition and presentation skills to a professional standard.
4.3	Communicate ideas, information, problems and solutions in visual, written and oral forms.
4.4	Work effectively and efficiently, either autonomously or collaboratively.

12	Course Requirements																																																												
12a	<p>Level 3:</p> <p><i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 120 credits):</i></p> <table><tr><th>Module Code</th><th>Module Name</th><th>Credit Value</th></tr><tr><td>VIS3000</td><td>Understanding Context</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>VIS3001</td><td>Creative Development & Production</td><td>40</td></tr><tr><td>VIS3002</td><td>Perspectives on Practice</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>VIS3003</td><td>Creative Realisation</td><td>40</td></tr></table> <p>Level 4:</p> <p><i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 100 credits):</i></p> <table><tr><th>Module Code</th><th>Module Name</th><th>Credit Value</th></tr><tr><td>VIS4025</td><td>Introduction to Visual Communication</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>VIS4047</td><td>Principles and Practice of Photography</td><td>40</td></tr><tr><td>VIS4046</td><td>Enterprise of Photography</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>VIS4041</td><td>Discourse</td><td>20</td></tr></table> <p><i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete at least 20 credits from the following list of OPTIONAL modules:</i></p> <table><tr><th>Module Code</th><th>Module Name</th><th>Credit Value</th></tr><tr><td>VIS4038</td><td>Narrative (Space and Place)</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>VIS4040</td><td>Narrative (Time and Sequence)</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>VIS4037</td><td>Narrative (Sound and Movement)</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>VIS4039</td><td>Narrative (Text and Image)</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>VIS4036</td><td>Narrative (People and Identity)</td><td>20</td></tr></table> <p>Level 5:</p> <p><i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 100 credits):</i></p> <table><tr><th>Module Code</th><th>Module Name</th><th>Credit Value</th></tr><tr><td>VIS5039</td><td>Context of Photography</td><td>40</td></tr><tr><td>VIS5041</td><td>Identifying Direction</td><td>40</td></tr><tr><td>ADM5006</td><td>Collaborative Practice</td><td>20</td></tr></table>	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	VIS3000	Understanding Context	20	VIS3001	Creative Development & Production	40	VIS3002	Perspectives on Practice	20	VIS3003	Creative Realisation	40	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	VIS4025	Introduction to Visual Communication	20	VIS4047	Principles and Practice of Photography	40	VIS4046	Enterprise of Photography	20	VIS4041	Discourse	20	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	VIS4038	Narrative (Space and Place)	20	VIS4040	Narrative (Time and Sequence)	20	VIS4037	Narrative (Sound and Movement)	20	VIS4039	Narrative (Text and Image)	20	VIS4036	Narrative (People and Identity)	20	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	VIS5039	Context of Photography	40	VIS5041	Identifying Direction	40	ADM5006	Collaborative Practice	20
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In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete at least 20 credits from the following list of OPTIONAL modules.

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
ADM5000	Work Placement	20
ADM5001	Live Project	20

Level 6:

In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 120 credits):

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
VIS6037	Critical Practice	60
VIS6006	Major Project	60

12b Structure Diagram

Please note list of optional modules is indicative only. Students' choice will not be guaranteed for optional modules but a fair and transparent process will be adopted and shared with students.

Level 3

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Core <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding Context (20 credits) • Creative Development and Production (40 credits) 	Core <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perspective on Practice (20 credits) • Creative Realisation (40 credits)

Level 4

Core <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Visual Communication (20 credits) • Principles and Practice of Photography (40 credits) 	Core <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enterprise of Photography (20 credits) • Discourse (20 credits)
Optional <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Optional Modules this Semester 	Optional <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrative (Space and Place) (20 credits) • Narrative (Time and Sequence) (20 credits) • Narrative (Sound and Movement) (20 credits) • Narrative (Text and Image) (20 credits) • Narrative (People and Identity) (20 credits)

Level 5

Core <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Context of Photography (40 credits) • Live Brief (20 credits) 	Core <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying Direction (40 credits)
Optional <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Optional Modules this Semester 	Optional <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative Practice (20 credits) • Work Placement (20 credits)

Level 6

Core <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Critical Practice (20 credits)	Core <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Major Project (20 credits)
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13 Overall Student Workload and Balance of Assessment

Overall student *workload* consists of class contact hours, independent learning and assessment activity, with each credit taken equating to a total study time of around 10 hours. While actual contact hours may depend on the optional modules selected, the following information gives an indication of how much time students will need to allocate to different activities at each level of the course.

- *Scheduled Learning* includes lectures, practical classes and workshops, contact time specified in timetable
- *Directed Learning* includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning
- *Private Study* includes preparation for exams

The *balance of assessment* by mode of assessment (e.g. coursework, exam and in-person) depends to some extent on the optional modules chosen by students. The approximate percentage of the course assessed by coursework, exam and in-person is shown below.

Level 3

Workload

% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	480
Directed Learning	480
Private Study	240
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	100%
Exam	0
In-Person	0

Level 4

Workload

% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	257
Directed Learning	703
Private Study	240
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	100%
Exam	0
In-Person	0

Level 5

Workload

% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	201
Directed Learning	759
Private Study	240
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	66%
Exam	0
In-Person	34%

Level 6

Workload

% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	89.5
Directed Learning	870.5
Private Study	240
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	100%
Exam	0
In-Person	0