



UNIVERSITY OF
PORTSMOUTH

COURSE SPECIFICATION

MA Photography

COURSE SPECIFICATION

Course Title	MA Photography
Final Award	MA
Exit Awards	PGCert, PGDip
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	P2659FTC P2659PTC
Mode of study	Full time, Part time
Mode of delivery	Campus
Normal length of course	1 year full time, 2 years part time
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	September 2024 intake onwards
Awarding Body	University of Portsmouth
Teaching Institution	University of Portsmouth
Faculty	Creative and Cultural Industries
School/Department/Subject Group	School of Architecture, Art and Design
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	https://www.port.ac.uk/about-us/structure-and-governance/organisational-structure/faculty-of-creative-and-cultural-industries/school-of-architecture-art-and-design
Course webpage including entry criteria	https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/postgraduate-taught/ma-photography
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	N/A
Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	Level 7

This course specification provides a summary of the main features of the course, identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the course, the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff, and the reference points used to inform the curriculum.

This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right course of study, to current students on the course and to staff teaching and administering the course.

Further detailed information on the individual modules within the course may be found in the relevant module descriptors and the Course Handbook provided to students on enrolment.

Please refer to the [Course and Module Catalogue](#) for further information on the course structure and modules.

Educational aims of the course

- To allow students to enhance and extend their scholarship, research skills, practical skills and knowledge in relation to the subject of contemporary photographic practice. This is achieved through the development of self-directed research driven study that critically engages with and challenges the subject.
- To develop students' knowledge and awareness of historical, contemporary and theoretical contextual discourses which constitute an essential role in defining and positioning engagement within the subject of contemporary photographic practice both academically and professionally.
- To provide students with an intellectually challenging study environment where they can question, reflect and respond to social, ethical and political debates within the subject specialism.
- To provide a challenging and stimulating study environment that facilitates the developing and extending of their practice and subject specific skills.
- To develop an understanding of the differences between practice-led research and theoretical research.
- To equip students with the necessary transferable skills for lifelong learning, employability and flexibility in the context of changing labour markets.
- To provide students with the skills and knowledge required to maximise career and post graduate opportunities.

Course Learning Outcomes and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies

The [Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education \(QAA\)](#) sets out a national framework of qualification levels, and the associated standards of achievement are found in their [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#) document.

The Course Learning Outcomes for this course are outlined in the tables below.

A. Knowledge and understanding of:			
LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
A1	Ideas, concepts, proposals, solutions or arguments developed at an advanced level related to the field of study (A&D).	Research seminars, group and individual tutorials, subject specific seminars, lectures and visiting speakers.	Formative: Tutorials and reviews. Summative: Critical Context Paper, Viva examination, Research and Development Report.
A2	Developing ideas through to outcomes at an advanced level, for example; images, artefacts, environments, products, systems and processes, or texts underpinned by extended self- directed study (A&D).	Self-directed research, supported by presentations to peers, and discussion with project tutors and other academic staff	Formative: Tutorials, critiques and presentations. Summative: Portfolio, Research and Development Report.
A3	Research methodologies, including data collection, analysis and synthesis in relation to the subject at an advanced level (A&D).	Self-directed research underpinned by seminars and monitored through tutorials and presentations to peers.	Formative: Tutorials, critiques and presentations. Summative: Presentation, Critical Context Paper, Viva examination, Research and Development Report
A4	Contextual dimensions of the discipline with respect to professional practice (A&D).	Seminars, workshops, studio inductions	Formative: Tutorials, critiques and presentations. Summative: Portfolio, web presence, artist statement, report.
A5	Self-management skills in planning and managing their workloads and meeting deadlines (A&D).	Monitoring self-directed research through	Formative: Tutorials, critiques and presentations.

		tutorials and presentations to peers.	Summative: Portfolio, report.
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B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) skills, able to:			
LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
B1	Critically evaluate, articulate and synthesise knowledge and understanding, attributes and skills in effective ways in the contexts of creative practice and research (A&D).	Seminars, group tutorials, presentations and critiques of practical work in progress.	Formative: Tutorials and reviews. Summative: Critical Context Paper, Viva examination, Research and Development Report.
B2	Make appropriate use of the interaction between intention, process, outcome, context and the methods of dissemination (A&D).	Seminars, group tutorials, presentations and critiques of practical work in progress.	Formative: Tutorials, critiques and presentations. Summative: Portfolio, Research and Development Report.
B3	Critically reflect upon, and formulate reasoned responses to the critical judgements of others.	Group tutorials, presentations and critiques of practical work in progress.	Formative: Tutorials, critiques and presentations. Summative: Presentation, viva examination, report. Formative: Tutorials, critiques and presentations.
B4	Employ both convergent and divergent thinking in the processes of observation, investigation, speculative enquiry, visualisation and/or making (A&D).	Group tutorials, presentations and critiques of practical work in progress, underpinned by lectures, seminars, visiting speakers	Formative: Tutorials, critiques and presentations. Summative: Presentation, viva examination, report. Formative: Tutorials, critiques and presentations.

C. Practical (Professional or Subject) skills, able to:			
LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
C1	Generate ideas, concepts, proposals, solutions, arguments independently and/or collaboratively at an advanced level of engagement in response to set briefs and/or as self- initiated activity (A&D).	Self-directed research and proposal and practical experimentation underpinned by seminars and monitored through tutorials and presentations to peers.	Formative: Tutorials, critiques and presentations. Summative: Portfolio, Research and Development Report, Viva Examination.
C2	Select, test and make appropriate critical decisions on the use of materials, processes and environments at an advanced level (A&D).	Self-directed research and proposal and practical experimentation underpinned by seminars and monitored through tutorials and presentations to peers.	Formative: Tutorials, critiques and presentations. Summative: Portfolio, Research and Development Report, Viva Examination.
C3	Demonstrate understanding of the critical, contextual, historical, conceptual and ethical dimensions of student's discipline (photographic practice) at an advanced level (A&D).	Lectures, seminars, visiting speakers.	Formative: Tutorials, critiques and presentations. Summative: Portfolio, Research and Development Report, Viva Examination.
C4	Articulate ideas and information comprehensibly in visual, oral and written forms at an advanced level (A&D).	Monitoring of written work and articulation of research and concepts through tutorials, group discussion and student presentations	Formative: Tutorials, critiques and presentations. Summative: Portfolio, Research and Development Report, Viva Examination.
C5	Demonstrate the ability to exercise self-management skills in managing their workloads and meeting	Program of tutorials and student	Formative:

	deadlines in relation to an extended piece of independent research-based study (A&D).	presentations designed to monitor research progress at critical stages.	Tutorials, critiques and presentations. Summative: Portfolio, Research and Development Report, Viva Examination.
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D. Transferrable (Graduate and Employability) skills, able to:			
LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
D1	Communication: Communicate effectively in writing, speaking and in appropriate forms of presentation with considered sensitivity to the intended audience. (HAAD)	Seminars, workshops, tutorials and student presentations.	Formative: Tutorials, critiques and presentations. Summative: Presentation, Critical Context Paper, Viva examination, Research and Development Report
D2	Communication: Read and understand complex documents. (CMF)	Seminars, workshops, tutorials and student presentations.	Formative: Tutorials, critiques and presentations. Summative: Presentation, Critical Context Paper, Viva examination, Research and Development Report
D3	Information Technology: Explore appropriate use of IT to assist in presentations, demonstrations and communications with reference to particular audiences. (HAAD).	Workshops, studio inductions, visiting speakers, student presentations.	Formative: Tutorials, critiques and presentations. Summative: Web presence, presentation, portfolio, report.
D4	Critically reflect on and evaluate one's own learning, and to make constructive use of feedback to improve their specialism/practice. (HAAD)	Tutorials, critiques of work in progress, student presentations and associated discussion with peers and academic staff.	Formative: Tutorials, critiques and presentations. Summative: Presentation, Critical Context Paper, Viva examination, Research and Development Report

D5	Personal Skills Development: Strategically plan, successfully manage and resolve dynamically complex work. (HAAD)	Workshops, ongoing monitoring of research and practical work through tutorials.	Formative: Tutorials, critiques and presentations. Summative: Presentation, Critical Context Paper, Viva examination, Research and Development Report
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Academic Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth [Academic Regulations: Examination & Assessment Regulations](#) will apply to this course.

Support for Student Learning

The University of Portsmouth provides a comprehensive range of support services for students throughout their course, details of which are available at the [MyPort](#) student portal.

In addition to these University support services this course also provides:

CCI Creative Careers: Support to add degree-related and relevant work experience for CV building including a work placement year, summer or short internships and part-time work.

CCI Creative Skills: One to one support sessions and group tutorials in creative software and skills relevant to CCI courses and future careers.

CCI Academic Skills: Access to resources to support learning strategies and techniques through one to one tutorials or group workshops.

CCI Student Support Advisor: Help to find appropriate academic, pastoral or practical support.

Specialist equipment and facilities relevant to the course.

Evaluation and Enhancement of Standards and Quality in Learning and Teaching

The University of Portsmouth undertakes comprehensive monitoring, review and evaluation of courses within clearly assigned staff responsibilities. Student feedback is a key feature in these evaluations, as represented in our [Policy for Listening to and Responding to the Student Voice](#) where you can also find further information.

Reference Points

The course and outcomes have been developed taking account of:

- [University of Portsmouth Curriculum Framework Specification](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Vision](#)
- [Office for Students Conditions of Registration](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Code of Practice for Work-based and Placement Learning](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency UK Quality Code for Higher Education](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Qualification Characteristic Statements](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement](#) for **Art and Design (A&D), History of Art, Architecture and Design (HAAD), Communication, media, film and cultural studies (CMF)**
- [Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- Requirements of Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Bodies: **N/A**
- Vocational and professional experience, scholarship and research expertise of the University of Portsmouth's academic members of staff
- National Occupational Standards

Changes to your course/modules

The University of Portsmouth has checked the information provided in this Course Specification and will endeavour to deliver this course in keeping with this Course Specification. However, changes to the course may sometimes be required arising from annual monitoring, student feedback, and the review and update of modules and courses.

Where this activity leads to significant changes to modules and courses there will be prior consultation with students and others, wherever possible, and the University of Portsmouth will take all reasonable steps to minimise disruption to students.

It is also possible that the University of Portsmouth may not be able to offer a module or course for reasons outside of its control, for example, due to the absence of a member of staff or low student registration numbers. Where this is the case, the University of Portsmouth will endeavour to inform applicants and students as soon as possible, and where appropriate, will facilitate the transfer of affected students to another suitable course.

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