Template C4

Kingston University London

Programme Specification

Title of Course: *MA Photography*

Date first produced	31/05/2012
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Version number	6
Faculty	Kingston School of Art
School	School of Arts
Department	Department of Film and Photography
Delivery Institution	Kingston University

This Programme Specification is designed for prospective students, current students, academic staff and employers. It provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the intended learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes and content of each modules can be found in the course VLE site and in individual Module Descriptors.

SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

Award(s) and Title(s): *Up to 10 pathways*	MA Photography
Intermediate Awards(s) and Title(s): *There are 4 Intermediate awards for each pathway*	PG Cert. Photography PG Dip. Photography
Course Code *For each pathway and mode of delivery*	PFPHO1PHO02
UCAS code *For each pathway*	

RQF Level for the Final Award:	Masters
Awarding Institution:	Kingston University
Teaching Institution:	Kingston University
Location:	Department of Film & Photography, School of Art and Architecture, Kingston School of Art, Knights Park
Language of Delivery:	English
Modes of Delivery:	Full-time Part-time
Available as:	Full field
Minimum period of registration:	Full-time - 12 months Part-time - 24 months
Maximum period of registration:	Full-time - Part-time -
Entry Requirements:	The minimum entry qualifications for the programme are: BA (Hons) degree (or its equivalent) in a related or appropriate subject. However, each application is considered on its own merits and therefore previous experience and qualifications may be taken into account this requirement. Each student will be interviewed with a portfolio of work. A minimum IELTS score of 6.5, TOEFL 88 or equivalent is required for those for whom English is not their first language.
Programme Accredited by:	N/A
QAA Subject Benchmark Statements:	N/A

Approved Variants:	None.
Is this Higher or Degree Apprenticeship course?	

For Higher or Degree Apprenticeship proposals only	
Higher or Degree Apprenticeship standard:	N/A
Recruitment, Selection and Admission process:	N/A
End Point Assessment Organisation(s):	N/A

SECTION 2: THE COURSE

A. Aims of the Course

The overall aim of this course is to create a supportive learning environment for full-time students committed to developing their photographic practice at postgraduate level. Building upon the ongoing enhancements to the photography resources and facilities within the Department of Film & Photography, the course aims to support committed photographic practitioners to achieve his or her potential through the study and practice of photography within the context of the Faculty resources and the interdisciplinary learning environment within the School.

The course will provide students with a thorough understanding of photography and its expanded definitions and enable them to play a positive role in the continuously emerging field of photography and visual culture alongside a thorough understanding of the critical and historical frameworks within which photography and its expanded definitions work can be understood and conceptualised.

The course aims to:
- Support committed photography practitioners in developing their careers.
- Develop a professional and authoritative knowledge of a critical, historical and contemporary context of photographic practice.
- Develop independent research, critical self-awareness and personally focused learning strategies to further the development of practical and theoretical work.
- Provide a structure that will enable students to develop collaborative and interdisciplinary working strategies to extend and encourage the exchange of ideas with International practitioners, institutions and organizations.
- Develop professional skills necessary to make work public and support employment through exhibition, documentation, virtual environments and publishing.
- Give students the knowledge to prepare a portfolio and documentation that supports employment, residencies and exhibition proposals and further research
- Develop a professional and authoritative knowledge of a critical, historical and contemporary context for their practice.
- Enable students to work within and alongside a growing practice-based research culture within the Film & Photography Department and the wider Kingston School of Art.

B. Intended Learning Outcomes

The programme outcomes are referenced to the UK Quality Code for Higher Education, including the Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2014), the QAA Master's Degree Characteristics 2020, an awareness of the undergraduate subject benchmarks for Art & Design, and relate to the typical student. The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding specific to the subject, key skills and graduate attributes in the following areas.

The programme learning outcomes are the high-level learning outcomes that will have been achieved by all students receiving this award. They must align to the levels set out in the 'Sector Recognised Standards in England' (OFS 2022).

Programme Learning Outcomes

	Knowledge and Understanding On completion of the course students will be able to:		Intellectual Skills On completion of the course students will be able to		Subject Practical Skills On completion of the course students will be able to
A5	Show an in-depth knowledge of a wide range of professional and emergent International organisations engaged in developing new roles and strategies for contemporary photography and its expanded definitions.	B3	Make their work and research public through exhibition, publication or presentation.	C4	Demonstrate knowledge of fundraising requirements and processes towards the realisation of projects.
A4	Demonstrate skills necessary for further research in theoretical and practical fields.	B1	Research and identify the range of professional opportunities available to them, including work opportunities, exhibitions and events within a growing national and international network.	C3	Use a range of fine art resources and processes including: Photography, Film and Video, Printmaking, Animation Sound and 3D lab resources.
A3	Show an in-depth understanding of the relationship between audience and artwork.	B2	Demonstrate further knowledge using a wide range of photography resources, including (but not limited to) current journal articles; published books; organizations engaged in developing new roles and strategies for photography; photography archives and collections.	C2	Undertake library searches using both manual and electronic means.
A2	Demonstrate professional photographic practice in terms of exhibition, projects, documentation, outreach and promotion.			C1	Show self-confidence and skill in presenting their work and ideas alongside those of others.
A1	Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the practical, theoretical, and critical issues involved in contemporary			C5	Understand the importance of, and apply, health and safety through the risk assessment of

	photography practice and its expanded definitions.				their own projects and the work of their peers.
A6	Demonstrate an understanding of research culture within academic institutions.			C6	Utilise the full functionality of a virtual learning environment and blended learning resources (e.g. Canvas) and exploit other learning technologies (e.g portable digital devices).
A7	Identify, promote and negotiate collaborations, partnerships and support from outside bodies and institutions.				

In addition to the programme learning outcomes, the programme of study defined in this programme specification will allow students to develop the following range of Graduate Attributes:

1. Creative Problem Solving
2. Digital Competency
3. Enterprise
4. Questioning Mindset
5. Adaptability
6. Empathy
7. Collaboration
8. Resilience
9. Self-Awareness

C. Outline Programme Structure

The programme is made of up 3 modules, one 30 credit, one 60 credit and one 90 credit. A student must complete 180 credits over the duration of the course. The MA Photography is part of the University's Postgraduate Regulation (PR), and all students will be provided with the regulations and the Course Handbook. Full details of each module will be provided in module descriptors and student module guides.

MA Photography

Progression to Level 5

N/A

Progression to Level 6

N/A

Level 6 requires the completion of

N/A

Level 7							
MA Photography							
Core modules	**Module code**	**Credit Value**	**Level**	**Teaching Block**	**Pre-requisites**	**Full Time**	**Part Time**
Critical Theory in Photography and Visual Culture	FP7001	30	7	1 & 2			

Expanded Photography Practices	FP7005	90	7	TY13	None	1	2
Photography in Context	FP7004	60	7	TY13	None	1	1
Optional Modules							

Level 7 information

N/A

D. Principles of Teaching, Learning and Assessment

MA Photography employs a range of approaches to teaching and learning. A combination of seminars, tutorials, virtual or physical study visits, student presentations, workshops and presentation assessments engage the student in a range of teaching and learning strategies. These diverse strategies recognise and take account of the different ways students learn, and, as they progress through the programme, give students the opportunity to take more responsibility for their own learning.

The course builds on the distinctive ethos of student self-management and peer review, creating a learning atmosphere changing from year to year, and where dialogue is seen as the core creative and intellectual engine for the production of work. This makes for a distinctively shared learning experience, which encourages collaborative and group activity alongside the more traditional individualistic research, mirroring much leading edge contemporary practice in photography and its expanded definitions.

MA Photography aims to recruit students from a wide range of backgrounds who are encouraged to bring their own specific experiences to bear in discussion presentations and the development of individual work. The programme promotes equal opportunities and good relations within its structure of group activities and peer learning.

The curriculum is organised through a progression of specific modules, each focusing on and accumulating aspects of the learning outcomes: developing and discussing work within the context of photography and its expanded definitions, placing work in the public domain through exhibitions, publications and digital technology, awareness of the mechanisms of the contemporary field of photography, research skills. Each module is designed to interact with the next in a logical progression – students are encouraged to thread work across from one module moving into the next. All modules provide formative feedback and opportunities for practice-based output in the form of presentation, publication, and formal discussion designed to help students reach their full potential in summative assessment

Photography Practices will introduce and develop students' individual photographic practice through self-initiated research supported by tutorials, group seminars, critiques and informal presentations that deepen students understanding of how their work can be situated within contemporary and historical frameworks, and expanded definitions of photography. **Critical Theory in Photography and Visual Culture** enables students to develop an independent and critical approach to the expanded boundaries and definitions of photography and their own practice taking into account different critical theories and contexts. Culminating in a 5,000 word illustrated essay students consider the convergence of theory and practice, covering different theoretical approaches to photography and its inter-related media as well as engaging with a diverse range of approaches to producing, thinking and viewing photography

and its relation to the visual arts. **Advanced Photography Practices** enables students to advance their practice by building on their research enquiries that were developed in the previous modules enabling students to build a strong and sustainable artistic practice and body of work that is coherent, innovative, conceptually resolved and technically well executed for presentation and publication. Along side all the modules runs research methodologies and professional practice seminars.

The overall assessment requirements are consistent with the specification on assessment loading. There are clear connections and accumulative aspects to each module culminating in the 'capstone' final Advanced Photography module (FP7003), which enables students to synthesise and apply the knowledge and skills that they have acquired throughout the course, and constitutes the presentation of a body of practical work. Students are introduced to Advanced Photography in TB2. There are no scheduled learning hours during TB3, however students are expected to be engaged in independent study and will have access to the Faculty facilities (e.g. library and workshops). Teaching of Advanced Photography resumes in TB1 of Year 2 with a final teaching block and presentation of a final body of art-work, along with a record of research methodology that underpins the work.

Through the various modules, the programme offers opportunities to develop and demonstrate independent learning and thought in the form of research presentations, reflective writing and publication (digital and print). These opportunities are enabled through a combination of tutorials, seminars, visiting lectures and peer-to-peer learning.

Through each module, the students are expected to present research and connect their own work to current contemporary strategies in the photography field. The curriculum is delivered by academics who are practitioners and their professional experience and position feeds directly into the student experience developed with the module structure i.e. presentation of art works, print and digital publication, presentation of individual student work.

The students can take advantage of internships offered though the courses networks with professional bodies and within the University at the Stanley Picker Gallery. Through the each specific modules they gain skills; digital publication, presentation and organisation of ideas, putting their work in the public realm that are also directly related to the professional photography field.

Through their own personal research, the students are encouraged during Photographic Practices FP7002 and throughout the continuing modules to explore current issues of particular interest to them and connect these to the expanding field of contemporary photography practices within the public and private sector.

Throughout the course there is a focus on student engagement. Through an emphasis on the importance of peer learning and review at Master's level, each student is encouraged to engage with their peer group. Through the course they learn the importance of peer support, critique and identifying common interests and approaches. This is achieved through a combination of teaching strategies and independent study culminating in the final Advanced Photography module where they deliver with a large degree of independence a presentation of final body of work and publication.

The programme uses the virtual learning environment (VLE) Canvas, which acts as the main online location and portal for course and School information and news. Course materials such as handbooks, module guides, timetables and information on talks programmes, lectures and events are all accessible through the VLE.

The Department of Film and Photography has a research group '*The Visible Institute (VI) for research in film and photography*'. The institute's stand-alone website gives detailed information on staff research, PhD student research, thematics, staff profiles, features and partnerships. The website can be found here: www.thevisibleinstitute.org.

All courses based in the Kingston School of Art offer students free access to the online video tutorial platform LinkedIn Learning. This provides a wide range of subjects to choose from, many with downloadable exercise files, including software tutorials

covering photography, graphics, web design, audio and music, CAD and Microsoft Office software, as well as courses on Business and Management skills. Some of these are embedded in the curriculum and offer additional self-paced learning, others may be taken at will by students wishing to broaden their employability skills in other areas. The School actively encourages and supports individuals from diverse backgrounds to apply and gain places through our interview processes. Regular open days and events which showcase student work are designed to remove barriers and provide easy access for prospective applicants to staff and students and give them confidence to apply and provide a greater understanding of the aims and learning outcomes of the course.

E. Support for Students and their Learning

Teaching Structure
The teaching structure of the School is built around the principle of individual or teams of tutors who engage directly with a student or small group of students, meeting them twice a week and offering both group and individual 1:1 tutorial opportunities, as appropriate.
The course has a number of events and projects, built into the academic year, which encourage engagement between students and staff across levels:

- The Department runs a fortnightly guest lecturer programme, which is shared with BA Photography and brings together all students working with the photographic to engage with contemporary practitioners in the form of a lecture and seminar. In parallel the course runs a number of Professional Practice seminars and workshop shared with Level 6 BA Photography students. The School of Art & Architecture also offers an opportunity for students and staff to engage in talks and dialogue through The Stanley Picker Public Lecture series where high profile practitoners and theorists present their work.
- At the end of the course students present their work in the form of a presentation of a final body of work and publication.

The Course Director has a student-facing role and is a senior staff member within the Department of Film & Photography and within the School Management Structure. The role provides a visible point of contact for students from their initial application, through the years of their postgraduate degree, to their ongoing contact with the School as Alumni. The Course Director is responsible for the coordinated delivery and management of all aspects of student experience beyond the academic course. These include:

- Up to date knowledge of relevant University systems and procedures
- Mentoring Scheme
- Recognition of Prior Certificated Learning (RPCL) / Recognition of Prior Experiential Learning (RPEL) processes
- Student Staff Consultative Committee
- Information on Scholarships and Bursaries
- Alumni and Graduate Experience
- Coordinating Personal Tutor Scheme

The Personal Tutor Scheme
Each student is allocated a personal tutor who will maintain regular contact and encourage students to keep in touch and alert students to future contacts from the University. Tutors will act as the default referee for their tutees (although students may ask other members of staff). Students are further supported by a variety of means:

- A Module Leader for each module;
- A Student Achievement Officer who provides pastoral support;
- A student administration team including a dedicated Course Administrator
- An induction programme and study skills sessions at the start of every academic year;

- An Academic Success Centre that provides academic skills support for UG and PG students;
- The VLE – a versatile online interactive intranet and learning environment accessible both on and off-site;
- Staff Student Consultative Committees and regular open meetings at School and Faculty levels;
- A University Careers and Employability Services with responsibility for employability and employer liaison;
- Comprehensive University support systems including the provision of advice on finance, regulations, legal matters, accommodation, international student support, disability and equality support;
- English Language support for international students;
- The Union of Kingston Students
- Course Handbook;
- An academic team who seek to maintain as far as practicable an open door policy in the spirit of supporting students;
- The Visible Institute (IV) for Research in Film and Photography

F. Ensuring and Enhancing the Quality of the Course

The University has several methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of its provision. These include:
- External Examiners
- Boards of Study with student representation
- Annual Monitoring and Enhancement
- Periodic review undertaken at the subject level
- Student evaluation including MEQs (Module Evaluation Questionnaires) and a Postgraduate Survey
- Moderation policies
- Feedback from employers

A clear strand of research and practice-led teaching across the department is embedded within all programmes through The Visible Institute for research in film and photography, one of the University's areas of research excellence. The VI is a critical mass of senior research staff, established and emerging researchers from the department and a substantial body of research students engaged in cross-disciplinary, individual and collaborative research within contemporary film and photography. This represents a guarantee of subject authority to support and give credibility to the backbone of formative, summative and diagnostic assessment, and the analytical and speculative learning and teaching strategies within the course.

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G. Employability and work-based learning

The School has an established reputation within the international community and graduates go on to careers in many areas of the industry from Exhibitions and Curation through film and photography to publishing and assisting established practitioners to teaching and further study at Postgraduate Research level.

Photography postgraduates will be well placed to be effective in all sectors of a knowledge based society through their capacity for creativity and through the courses emphasis on

learning to be independent, creative thinkers. Through the course experience they will be well equipped to become professional artists contributing to the wider Photography sector. Graduates will be well placed to get a job in most fields that involve some form of creativity. They may work part time as a practitioner whilst simultaneously fulfilling management and academic roles. Commonly graduates will become self-employed and/or be in occupations involving project work and short-term contracts. They are typically found in fine art, media, arts administration or arts education.

Postgraduate Photography students have gone on to further study and taken up teaching opportunities elsewhere. They have established themselves professionally with the wider field of photography transferring the skills gained through the programme.

Work-based learning, including sandwich courses and higher or degree apprenticeships

Work placements are actively encouraged, although it is the responsibility of individual students to source and secure such placements. This allows students to reflect upon their own personal experience of working in an applied setting, to focus on aspects of this experience that they can clearly relate to theoretical concepts and to evaluate the relationship between theory and practice.

H. Other sources of information that you may wish to consult

QAA Master's Degree Characteristics 2015
http://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/master's-degree-characteristics-statement.pdf?sfvrsn=6ca2f981_10
Course Page
http://www.kingston.ac.uk/postgraduate-course/photography-ma/

I. Development of Course Learning Outcomes in Modules

This table maps where course learning outcomes are **summatively** assessed across the modules for this course. It provides an aid to academic staff in understanding how individual modules contribute to the course aims, a means to help students monitor their own learning, personal and professional development as the course progresses and a checklist for quality assurance purposes.

Module Code		Level 7		
		FP7001	FP7004	FP7005
Knowledge & Understanding	A5			
	A4	S		
	A3			
	A2			

	A1	S		
	A6	S		
	A7			
Intellectual Skills	B3			
	B1	S		
	B2	S		
Practical Skills	C4			
	C3			
	C2	S		
	C1	S		
	C5			
	C6	S		

Students will be provided with formative assessment opportunities throughout the course to practise and develop their proficiency in the range of assessment methods utilised.