

Nottingham Trent University Course Specification

Basic Course Information		
1.	Awarding Institution:	Nottingham Trent University
2.	School/Campus:	School of Art and Design/City Campus
3.	Final Award, Course Title and Modes of Study:	MA Photography Full-time
4.	Normal Duration:	One year
5.	UCAS Code:	N/A

6.	Overview and general educational aims of the course
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This practice-based course aims for you to explore the creative and intellectual possibilities of photography through practice and research to support your development as an artist, photographer, researcher.

It takes a critical and discursive approach that will expect you to evaluate your practice in relation to photographic discourse and the wider contexts and implications of contemporary image culture. You will be introduced to high-level production workshops that will extend your own photographic skillset and support the development of your practice.

You will produce a project proposal known as a Learning Agreement through which you will establish your research objectives and practice ambition.

Your learning is supported and evidenced in your 'reflective journal', which records, analyses and evaluates your ideas and considers ways in which your project might progress. Your project concludes with a public exhibition at the end of the course.

The course supports and fosters experimental approaches to the subject and you will be encouraged to explore photographic image making, still and/or moving, in relation to other fields of visual and cultural practice.

You will be encouraged and enabled to work collaboratively with students from different subject areas, for example; fine art, graphic design, film and fashion within the postgraduate community in the School of Art and Design.

Advanced production workshops will build on your pre-existing photography skills and reflect the requirements of your projects. These workshops are central to the course, and may include high end digital capture and workflow, alternative processes and studio photography amongst others.

Workshops aim to improve your production skills with a view to future employability, practice and professional development.

You will be encouraged to research and critically evaluate your ideas and undertake visual work in full awareness of the ethical implications they may give rise to. Through the development of sound research methodologies, you will discover opportunities to extend your knowledge and skills as a practitioner, researcher and scholar. You will be encouraged to explore the relationship between theory and practice and wider contexts that help establish lifelong learning skills. The course aims to prepare and equip you with the necessary skills to progress on to a research degree in the future as well as enter the creative industries. The course enables the development of professional practice and the school employability team supports access to work placement opportunity. Students may take up opportunities for collaboration and placement with external arts and photographic bodies throughout the course.

In addition to your personally devised learning aims as part of your Learning Agreement, the key objectives of the course are to enhance your personal and professional ambitions through the practice of photography. Support is available, through flexible and responsive teaching and learning methods, to enable you to explore and challenge the established parameters of photography and the boundaries within which it operates. The course encourages and explores the cross cultural exchange of ideas and knowledge determined by the critical breadth of the subject and photography's inherent international discourse and contexts of purpose.

There are two module options to select from on the course;

Option A – 'Photography'. This is a year-long 180 credit module.

Option B – 'Photography (option B)'. This is a year-long 160 credit module plus the 20 credit '**Advanced Art and Design Research**' module (total 180 credit points).

Everyone will begin on the 180 credit module during the first part of the year and you will then decide in November, with your tutors, if you are going to continue on this module, or elect to take the 160 credit module alongside a 20 credit module in 'Advanced Art and Design Research.' (Option B).

This 20 credit module has been devised for students who are interested in further postgraduate study, or research roles following master's study, and taking this module would support applications for further research study, such as MPhil or PhD, which you may be interested in pursuing in the future.

It is designed to support your understanding of how your advanced practice can be a valid component of a research process that makes a contribution to

<p>knowledge, giving you skills which enable you to design a research enquiry as well as to carry it out systematically while giving you an overview of the traditions of research on which your creative practice may draw.</p> <p>The teaching and learning methods for this module include lectures, written assignments, discussions and presentations.</p>
<p>7. Course outcomes Course outcomes describe what you should know and be able to do by the end of your course if you take advantage of the opportunities for learning that we provide.</p>
<p>Knowledge and understanding By the end of the course you should be able to:</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilise a specialist knowledge of photography, that meets the creative and intellectual ambitions of your learning agreement. • Evidence advanced research and critical reflection on both historical and contemporary photographic practices, situating your work appropriately. • Critically reflect on the current debates within visual culture and apply them to your work. • Deploy an advanced research methodology in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in photography. • Conceptualise your own photography to advance, and define, your professional practice. • Utilise an advanced knowledge and understanding of ethical standards appropriate to your practice within a broad international context.
<p>Skills, qualities and attributes By the end of the course you should be able to:</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a reflective practitioner, accountable for your own decisions, and able to independently interpret the wider context of your project as defined in your learning agreement. • Demonstrate expertise in highly specialised research, processes applicable to your photography project. • Critically apply advanced knowledge and technical skills to create new opportunities that further your professional development. • Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving complex problems. • Communicate results of your research and the resulting work in an effective and appropriate manner. • Learn independently and act autonomously in meeting your personal creative and intellectual ambitions.

8. Teaching and learning methods

MA Photography is a full-time course (180 credits), delivered over one academic year, which runs from September to July. In terms of course structure there are two study options to choose from;

Option A 'Photography' (180cr) (45 weeks). This option focuses on both the theory and practice of photography, culminating in the assessment of a major body of photographic work, a reflective journal, an annotated bibliography, a critical essay, a contextual artist's statement and public exhibition. This package is concluded with an oral presentation as part of the final assessment. These outcomes will all respond to your project aims and outcomes as set out in your Learning Agreement.

The module encompasses group tutorials and seminars that examine the critical, cultural and theoretical discourses that underpin photographic practice. These will support the process of defining and realizing your photographic research and practice project.

You will develop your pre-existing photography skills through a range of technical workshops that include studio, darkroom and digital workflow skill sets.

Option B: this consists of two modules, a 160 credit module – **'Photography (option B)'** (45 weeks) and a 20 credit module **'Advanced Art and Design Research'** (15 weeks), delivered in parallel with the 160 credit point module. This option of study affords the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of research methodologies in relation to the subject area and would be pertinent to those students pursuing progression to a research degree award in the future.

The 160 credit module is, in essence the same as the 180 credit option however you are not required to attend the critical practice seminar series or produce the essay requirement as these learning outcomes will be covered in the 'Advanced Art and Design Research' module. The 20 credit point module comprises of a series of lectures and seminars that aims to help you produce a piece of written work that interrogates the research methodologies supporting your own practice.

Each term, all postgraduate students, both full and part-time, will participate in a collaborative meeting alongside all staff members, referred to as *'The*

MA Day'. This is an opportunity to share ideas and develop a community of practice that will support the development of the final exhibition at the end of the course. There is also a cross course 'pin up' event each term where all students on the photography masters programmes come together to share work in progress and developing ideas. All postgraduate students will be invited to go on cultural and industry related trips that take place across the year.

9. **Assessment methods**

Assessment will focus on your level of achievement against each of the course, and module learning outcomes, and your ability to reflect on the process supporting your achievement. All learning outcomes have assessment and grading criteria that describe the level of learning being achieved against each learning outcome.

You will receive written formative feedback about the progress you are making in 1:1 tutorials each term. You will be responsible for recording commentary and proposed actions on a tutorial record form. You will also receive regular verbal feedback from staff and students during group presentations, workshops and seminars.

The assessment for:

Option A: 'Photography' (180cr) comprises 80% coursework and 20% written work. You will produce a written essay of 3000 words (+/- 10%). It will engage with theoretical, philosophical and critical discourse in relation to contemporary and/or historical photographic practice. (20% of your mark)

You will submit a practice package that includes; a Learning Agreement, an annotated bibliography, a reflective journal evidencing research development and a contextual artist statement. You will give a critical presentation of your work that evidences your project realisation and future practice ambition. Your final body of work, as defined by your learning agreement, will be assessed as part of a collaborative exhibition, against the course's learning outcomes, at the end of the module and course. (80% of your mark)

'Photography (option B)' (160cr) The outcomes for this module are the same as Option A—you will not be produce the essay embarked upon during the middle part of the course as you will be undertaking the 20 credit point research module.

'Advanced Art and Design Research' (option B) (20cr) The assessment for this module will be a piece of written work of no more than 3,000 words that interrogates the research methodologies supporting your own practice. Your preparation and contribution to regular discussions throughout the module will also contribute to assessment.

The final body of exhibited work should show appropriate research and problem solving skills, as well as knowledge of specialist subject skills to complete, and present, the final photographic project. Knowledge of, and skills in the relevant technical, creative and professional contexts of production for a completed project should also be evidenced. The project outcomes should meet the creative and intellectual ambitions of both your Learning Agreement and the learning outcomes of the course.

At the end of the course you are assessed against the learning outcomes of the 180 credit module, or the 160 and 20 credit modules (option B) to determine whether you have passed the Master's course. All course learning outcomes have assessment and grading criteria that describe the level of learning you have achieved, against each learning outcome. Your work is assessed against the learning outcomes to determine your award; for example Distinction, Commendation, Pass or Fail, according to your level of achievement.

If you have not met the MA learning outcomes you may be offered a further attempt, in accordance with the University's Common Assessment Regulations. If after this point you have still not met the learning outcomes for the MA award, your work will then be assessed against the learning outcomes for the interim awards of; Postgraduate Certificate in Photography (equivalent to 60 credit points at Masters level), or Postgraduate Diploma in Photography (equivalent to 120 credit points at Masters level).

This decision will be made by the Board of Examiners at the end of the course, and will be confirmed by an External Examiner.

10. **Course structure and curriculum**

The course structure is as follows:

MA Photography: full-time route	
<i>Option A</i>	<i>Option B</i>
Photography	Photography (option B)
45 weeks	45 weeks
180 credits	160 credits

		<i>Option B</i> Advanced Art and Design Research 15 weeks 20 credits
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All students will commence on the 180 credit module during the first part of the year. In November, you will be asked to confirm which module option (180 or 160+20 credits) you wish to take. To help you in your decision-making you will have the opportunity to discuss the options available to you with your supervisor, the Course Leader and academic staff from the Advanced Research team.

You are asked to arrive with an outline of a self-directed project at the beginning of the course. This will underpin the development of your Learning Agreement and will detail how you are going to develop your own practice as an artist photographer and/or academic researcher. This is then developed throughout the MA, culminating in the fully resolved aims of your project brief, and a final exhibition of work.

The first term, between September and January, for both options of the course, explores theory and practice to support the development of your project and research in relation to the parameters of photographic discourse.

During a standard teaching week you will engage in tutorial discussions to determine the scope and possibilities for your creative work and attend a seminar series that examines the critical dialogues of photographic practice. This will help you understand research, production and practice, the core purpose of an MA in Photography.

A range of technical workshops will expand your pre-existing photography skills and may include digital capture, studio lighting, wet darkroom and alternative processes amongst others. During the latter part of this phase you will indicate your wish to study either option A or option B. In January there will be a formative assessment event at which you will give a critical presentation of your work that summarises your project's progress to date and outlines the next stage of the research.

You will develop your project through experimentation and discussion during tutorials. You will apply and use the research skills, methods and

photographic techniques to progress your project.

The critical seminar series will examine photographic discourse to enable you to locate your work within the contexts of contemporary practice and undertake the written components of the course.

At the end of the phase there will be a formative assessment event at which you will give a critical presentation of your work that summarise your project's progress to date and outlines the next stage of the research.

If you choose to study option B, this module will now run in parallel with the 20-credit 'Advanced Art and Design Research' module over term 1 and part of term 2. The module comprises a series of lectures and discussions that will support you in producing an essay that draws upon the methodologies of your own work and those underpinning research practice within the subject area.

In the remainder of term 2 and throughout term 3, you will focus your attention on producing an exhibition piece and a body of work for your final assessment, whether studying Option A or B. You will be encouraged to demonstrate appropriate research and problem solving skills, as well as an advanced knowledge of specialist subject skills to complete and present the final photographic project.

During the course you will be supported to undertake optional work placement opportunities that may relate to your practice interests providing further scope to fulfil course outcomes. There may be opportunities to undertake live projects within a range of contexts throughout the academic year. The course team and in particular, the International Office and Student Employability and Enterprise team, will be able to help you to identify and secure an appropriate placement or live project-based opportunity.

11. **Admission to the course**

Entry requirements

For current information regarding all entry requirements for this course, please see the 'Applying' tab on the NTU course information web page.

Accreditation of Prior (Experiential) Learning (AP(E)L) Exceptional candidates from non-academic backgrounds with proven track record in industry and commerce will be considered. Those with non-traditional backgrounds but

with evidence of skill, and /or portfolio of work which meet the admission standards of the course, will also be considered. APEL does not cover exemption from study whilst on the course or enable potential students to enter the course other than the PG Certificate stage. However, we reserve the right for exceptional circumstance.

12. Support for learning

The School is committed in assisting you to achieve the best results possible during your studies and will provide you with a wide range of academic and pastoral help and advice. The course leader and course administrator, as well as other members of the teaching team, can offer pastoral advice and support should personal circumstances impact your studies.

The Student Handbook (available on NOW) contains details of all the support available to you. If there is an interruption in your studies due to circumstances outside of your control, or through other factors affecting your academic performance, then please speak to your Course Leader for advice on what to do next.

At the start of your course you will be invited to participate in an 'induction week' where you will undertake a range of activities that will introduce many of the key facilities available within the University and will also provide you with an essential introduction to the course. You will meet the staff and your fellow students and will be able to find out more about how you will be taught and assessed on your course. At the same time, the Students' Union organise social events in 'welcome week' that will encourage you to meet people from the wider NTU community.

NTU's Online Workspace (NOW) is used across all modules on your course and allows key information to be accessed and shared within modules at any time. You can also access your results through NOW.

To ensure that you have a clear understanding of the way in which you are progressing within the modules, you will receive feedback on the progress that you are making on a regular basis. Some of the feedback that you will receive is formal and will occur both during and at the end of the module when you will receive written feedback. Group tutorials are also an important informal opportunity to receive feedback from fellow students and your tutor.

You will have a tutorial session approximately once a week. The complete cohort (including students studying part-time) will meet once a term at an

event called 'The MA Day' which is an opportunity to share ideas and develop a community of practice that will support all students in the development of a final exhibition of work. You will also be taught via lectures and photographic production workshops. Also, where possible, seminar and workshop discussions and exercises will be also available online to support you with your studies.

13. Graduate destinations/employability

This course has a strong focus on producing highly employable students and is committed to offering experiences throughout the course that will enhance your understanding of the industry's requirements. To this end the Art & Design Employability Team can prepare you well for your future. They can offer a variety of activities to support you in preparing for your future. As part of the curriculum you will meet someone from the team as they deliver group sessions and lectures about employability-related themes. This often covers CV building, approaching potential employers and applications, preparing for interviews and building your professional brand. They can also offer support in finding work experience and set up events where prospective employers can come into NTU so that you can talk to them in person about future opportunities.

14. Course standards and quality

We would like you to contribute to the continuing development of this course, we welcome all feedback and have a number of ways in which we can formally and informally receive this. You will have an opportunity to put yourself forward to be considered as a course representative at the beginning of your course. As part of this role you will be invited to attend the course committee meetings that occur three times a year and contribute to the conversations and debate to support the continuing health of the course. Any issues brought up at the course committee meetings are reported to the school academic standards and quality committee and actions identified from thereon in with responses reported back to you either via the next course committee meeting or via NOW.

The experience that you have whilst studying on the course is important to us and you will be required to give feedback on individual modules and the course as a whole and will also be invited to attend staff-student liaison committees and meetings with the Dean. At the end of each year the course team write an evaluative document entitled the Interim Course Report (ICR)

which is received at School level and contains an action plan to ensure that the course continues to reflect and develop its curriculum to remain current.

An External Examiner is also appointed whose job it is to make judgements about and report on the standard of your course in relation to other comparable courses in the UK. Part of their role is to review samples of assessed work and confirm at the Board of Examiners that the internal assessment and moderation practices are fair and in line with the School and NTU's policies. The external examiner also writes a report at the end of each academic year and this will be available to you via NOW, together with a response written by the Course Team and the Course Committee.

15. Assessment regulations

This course is subject to the University's Common Assessment Regulations (located in Section 16C of the Quality Handbook).

16. Additional Information

Collaborative partner(s):	None
Course referenced to national QAA	Master of Art
Benchmark Statements:	
Course recognised by:	Art and Design
Date this course specification approved:	3 August 2016 Advanced Standing Agreement added with AIVA, Shanghai (SASQC October 2016)
	SASQC Approval: 6 July 2018. Approval for PCR/Curriculum Refresh Modification Course Change and updates

Any additional information:

Achieving your own career and personal goals is the main aim of this MA in Photography.

- You can tailor your project to your own personal interests and career aspirations within the breadth of contexts that encompass photographic practice.
- You will engage with, and discuss, the critical, historical and contextual frameworks surrounding your practice
- You will update and challenge your pre-existing skill set in order to utilize high-end digital capture, traditional processes, and studio based work.
- The course can be studied in full or part-time mode.
- You can undertake an additional research module to support understanding and progression to PhD.

- The course provides optional study visits to photo festivals in the UK and Europe, such as Paris Photo and Photo London.
- You will join the seventy-five years' worth of NTU graduates who have achieved success, won awards or otherwise distinguished themselves in photography.

Nottingham Trent University Course Specification

Basic Course Information		
17.	Awarding Institution:	Nottingham Trent University
18.	School/Campus:	School of Art & Design/City Campus
19.	Final Award, Course Title and Modes of Study:	MA Photography Part-time
20.	Normal Duration:	Two years
21.	UCAS Code:	N/A

22.	Overview and general educational aims of the course
	<p>This part-time practice-based course aims for you to explore the creative and intellectual possibilities of photography through practice and research to support your development as an artist, photographer, researcher.</p> <p>It takes a critical and discursive approach that will expect you to evaluate your practice in relation to photographic discourse and the wider contexts and implications of contemporary image culture. You will be introduced to high-level production workshops that will extend your own photographic skillset and support the development of your practice.</p> <p>You will produce a project proposal known as a Learning Agreement through which you will establish your research objectives and practice ambition. Your learning is supported and evidenced in your 'reflective journal', which records, analyses and evaluates your ideas and considers ways in which your project might progress. Your project concludes with a public exhibition at the end of the course.</p> <p>The course supports and fosters experimental approaches to the subject and you will be encouraged to explore photographic image making, still and/or moving, in relation to other fields of visual and cultural practice.</p> <p>You will be encouraged and enabled to work collaboratively with students from different subject areas, for example; fine art, graphic design, film and fashion within the postgraduate community in the School of Art and Design.</p> <p>Advanced production workshops will build on your pre-existing photography skills and reflect the requirements of your projects. These workshops are central to the course, and may include high end digital capture and workflow, alternative processes and studio photography amongst others. Workshops aim to improve your production skills with a view to future employability, practice and professional development.</p>

You will be encouraged to research and critically evaluate your ideas and undertake visual work in full awareness of the ethical implications they may give rise to. Through the development of sound research methodologies, you will discover opportunities to extend your knowledge and skills as a practitioner, researcher and scholar. You will be encouraged to explore the relationship between theory and practice and wider contexts that help establish lifelong learning skills. The course aims to prepare and equip you with the necessary skills to progress on to a research degree in the future as well as enter the creative industries.

In addition to your personally devised learning aims as part of your Learning Agreement, the key objectives of the course are to enhance your personal and professional ambitions through the practice of photography. Support is available, through flexible and responsive teaching and learning methods, to enable you to explore and challenge the established parameters of photography and the boundaries within which it operates. The course encourages a commitment to the exchange of ideas and knowledge across international boundaries. Through your work, and through engagement with peers and others from many different cultures and backgrounds, you will gain a first-hand understanding of diversity and community.

There are two module options to select from on the course;

Option A – ‘Photography’. This is a year-long 180 credit module.

Option B – ‘Photography (option B)’. This is a year-long 160 credit module plus a 20 credit **‘Advanced Art and Design Research’** module.

Everyone will begin on the 180 credit module during the first part of the year and you will then decide in November if you are going to continue on this module, or elect to take the 160 credit module alongside a 20 credit module in ‘Advanced Art and Design Research.’ (Option B).

This 20 credit module has been devised for students who are interested in further postgraduate study, or research roles following master’s study, and taking this module would support applications for further research study, such as MPhil or PhD, which you may be interested in pursuing in the future.

It is designed to support your understanding of how your advanced practice can be a valid component of a research process that makes a contribution to knowledge, giving you skills which enable you to design a research enquiry as well as to carry it out systematically while giving you an overview of the traditions of research on which your creative practice may draw. The

<p>teaching and learning methods for this module include lectures, written assignments, discussions and presentations.</p>
<p>23. Course outcomes Course outcomes describe what you should know and be able to do by the end of your course if you take advantage of the opportunities for learning that we provide.</p>
<p>Knowledge and understanding By the end of the course you should be able to:</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilise a specialist knowledge of photography, that meets the creative and intellectual ambitions of your learning agreement. • Evidence advanced research and critical reflection on both historical and contemporary photographic practices, situating your work appropriately. • Critically reflect on the current debates within visual culture and apply them to your work. • Deploy an advanced research methodology in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in photography. • Conceptualise your own photography to advance, and define, your professional practice. • Utilise an advanced knowledge and understanding of ethical standards appropriate to your practice within a broad international context.
<p>Skills, qualities and attributes By the end of the course you should be able to:</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a reflective practitioner, accountable for your own decisions, and able to independently interpret the wider context of your project as defined in your learning agreement. • Demonstrate expertise in highly specialised research, processes applicable to your photography project. • Critically apply advanced knowledge and technical skills to create new opportunities that further your professional development. • Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving complex problems. • Communicate results of your research and the resulting work in an effective and appropriate manner. • Learn independently and act autonomously in meeting your personal creative and intellectual ambitions.

24. **Teaching and learning methods**

This part-time course runs for two academic sessions (commencing September and finishing in the July of the 2nd year), spans 90 weeks of taught and self-directed study time (excluding holidays).

In terms of course structure there are two study options to choose from:

Option A 'Photography' (180cr) (90 weeks).

This option focuses on both the theory and practice of photography, culminating in the assessment of a major body of photographic work, a reflective journal, an annotated bibliography, a critical essay and a contextual artist's statement. These outcomes will all respond to your project aims and outcomes as set out in your Learning Agreement.

The module encompasses group tutorials and seminars that examine the critical, cultural and theoretical discourses that underpin photographic practice. These will support the process of defining and realizing your photographic research and practice project.

You will develop your pre-existing photography skills through a range of technical workshops that include studio, darkroom and digital workflow skill sets.

Option B: this consists of two modules, a 160 credit module – **'Photography (option B)'** (45 weeks) and a 20 credit module **'Advanced Art and Design Research'** (15 weeks), delivered in parallel with the 160 credit point module. This option of study affords the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of research methodologies in relation to the subject area and would be pertinent to those students pursuing progression to a research degree award in the future.

The 160 credit module is, in essence the same as the 180 credit option however you are not required to attend the critical practice seminar series or produce the essay requirement as these learning outcomes will be covered in the 'Advanced Art and Design Research' module. The 20 credit point module comprises of a series of lectures and seminars that aims to help you produce a piece of written work that interrogates the research methodologies supporting your own practice.

Each term, all postgraduate students, both full and part-time, will participate in a collaborative meeting alongside all staff members, referred to as *'The*

MA Day'. This is an opportunity to share ideas and develop a community of practice that will support the development of the final exhibition at the end of the course. There is also a cross course 'pin up' event each term where all students on the photography masters programmes come together to share work in progress and developing ideas. All postgraduate students will be invited to go on cultural and industry related trips that take place across the year.

25. **Assessment methods**

Assessment will focus on your level of achievement against each of the course, and module, learning outcomes and your ability to reflect on the process supporting your achievement. All learning outcomes have assessment and grading criteria that describe the level of learning being achieved against each learning outcome.

You will receive written formative feedback about the progress you are making at each tutorial via the completion of a tutorial record form. You will also receive regular verbal feedback from staff and students during group presentations, workshops and seminars.

The assessment for:

Option A: 'Photography' (180cr) comprises 80% coursework and 20% written work. You will produce a 3000-word essay that engages with theoretical, philosophical and critical discourse in relation to contemporary and/or historical photographic practice. (20%)

You will submit a practice package that includes; a Learning Agreement, an annotated bibliography, a reflective journal evidencing research development and a contextual artist statement. You will give a critical presentation of your work that evidences your project realisation and future practice ambition. Your final body of work, as defined by your learning agreement, will be assessed as part of a collaborative exhibition, against the course's learning outcomes, at the end of the module and course. (80%)

Option B: (160cr) The outcomes for this module are the same as Option A you will not be produce the essay embarked upon during the middle part of the course as you will be undertaking the 20credit point research module.

Option B: *Advanced Art and Design Research (20cr)* The assessment for this module will be a piece of written work 3,000 words, (+/- 10%) that interrogates the research methodologies supporting your own practice. Your

preparation and contribution to regular discussions throughout the module will also contribute to assessment.

The final body of exhibited work should show appropriate research and problem solving skills, as well as knowledge of specialist subject skills to complete, and present, the final photographic project. Knowledge of, and skills in, the relevant technical, creative and professional contexts of production for a completed project should also be evidenced. The project outcomes should meet the creative and intellectual ambitions of both your Learning Agreement and the learning outcomes of the course.

At the end of the course you are assessed against the learning outcomes of the 180 credit module, or the 160 and 20 credit modules (option B) to determine whether you have passed the Master’s course. All course learning outcomes have assessment and grading criteria that describe the level of learning you have achieved, against each learning outcome. Your work is assessed against the learning outcomes to determine your award; for example Distinction, Commendation, Pass or Fail, according to your level of achievement.

If you have not met the MA learning outcomes you may be offered a further attempt, in accordance with the University’s Common Assessment Regulations. If after this point you have still not met the learning outcomes for the MA award, your work will then be assessed against the learning outcomes for the interim awards of; Postgraduate Certificate in Photography (equivalent to 60 credit points at Masters level), or Postgraduate Diploma in Photography (equivalent to 120 credit points at Masters level).

This decision will be made by the Board of Examiners at the end of the course and will be confirmed by an External Examiner.

26. Course structure and curriculum

MA Photography: part-time route, two years, six terms		
<i>Option A</i> Photography 90 weeks 180 credits	<i>Option B</i> Photography (Option B) 90 weeks 160 credits	Year One Sept - July
	<i>Option B</i> Advanced Art and Design Research 30 weeks	
		Year Two Sept - July

		20 credits	
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All students will commence on the 180 credit module during the first part of the year. In November, you will be asked to confirm which module option (180 or 160+20 credits) you wish to take. To help you in your decision-making you will have the opportunity to discuss the options available to you with your supervisor, the Course Leader and academic staff from the Advanced Research team.

You are asked to arrive with an outline of a self-directed project at the beginning of the course. This will underpin the development of your Learning Agreement and will detail how you are going to develop your own practice as an artist photographer and/or as an academic researcher. This is then developed throughout the MA, culminating in the fully resolved aims of your project brief and a final exhibition of work.

The first term, for both options of the course, explores theory and practice to support the development of your project and research in relation to the parameters of photographic discourse.

During a standard teaching week you will engage in tutorial discussions to determine the scope and possibilities for your creative work and attend a seminar series that examines the critical dialogues of photographic practice. This will help you understand research, production and practice, the core purpose of an MA in Photography.

A range of technical workshops will expand your pre-existing photography skills and may include digital capture, studio lighting, wet darkroom and alternative processes amongst others. During the latter part of this phase you will indicate your wish to study either option A or option B. In January there will be a formative assessment event at which you will give a critical presentation of your work that summarise your project's progress to date and outline the next stage of the research.

You will develop your project through experimentation and discussion during tutorials. You will apply and use the research skills, methods and photographic techniques to progress your project.

The critical seminar series will examine photographic discourse to enable you to locate your work within the contexts of contemporary practice and undertake the written components of the course.

At the end of the phase there will be a formative assessment event at which you will give a critical presentation of your work that summarise your project's progress to date and outlines the next stage of the research.

If you choose to study option B, this module will run in parallel with the 20-credit 'Advanced Art And Design Research' module between April and December. This module comprises a series of lectures and discussions that will support you in producing a piece of written work that interrogates the methodology of your own photography practice in response to the methodological and philosophical underpinning of research practice.

From term 2, whether you chose to study 180 or 160 credit point module, you will now be taught together once again. This module will focus your attentions on producing an exhibition piece and a body of work for your final assessment. You will be encouraged to demonstrate appropriate research and problem solving skills, as well as an advanced knowledge of specialist subject skills to complete and present the final photographic project.

Your work should demonstrate evidence of contemporary theory and practice within Photography and should show a strong commitment to your chosen practice demonstrating creativity, imagination and innovation. It is therefore envisaged that the final body of work and the exhibition statement will meet the creative and intellectual ambitions of both the Learning Agreement and the learning outcomes of the course.

During the course you will be supported to undertake optional work placement opportunities that may relate to your practice interests providing further scope to fulfil course outcomes. There may be opportunities to undertake live projects within a range of contexts throughout the academic year. The course team and in particular, the International Office and Student Employability and Enterprise team, will be able to help you to identify and secure an appropriate placement or live project-based opportunity.

27. **Admission to the course**

Entry requirements

For current information regarding all entry requirements for this course, please see the 'Applying' tab on the NTU course information web page.

Accreditation of Prior (Experiential) Learning (AP(E)L) Exceptional candidates from non-academic backgrounds with proven track record in industry and

commerce will be considered. Those with non-traditional backgrounds but with evidence of skill, and /or portfolio of work which meet the admission standards of the course, will also be considered. APEL does not cover exemption from study whilst on the course or enable potential students to enter the course other than the PG Certificate stage. However, we reserve the right for exceptional circumstance.

28. Support for learning

The School is committed in assisting you to achieve the best results possible during your studies and will provide you with a wide range of academic and pastoral help and advice. The course leader and course administrator, as well as other members of the teaching team, can offer pastoral advice and support should personal circumstances impact your studies.

The Student Handbook available on NTU's Online Workspace (NOW) contains details of all the support available to you. If there is an interruption in your studies due to circumstances outside of your control, or through other factors affecting your academic performance, then please speak to your Course Leader for advice on what to do next.

At the start of your course you will be invited to participate in an 'induction week' where you will undertake a range of activities that will introduce many of the key facilities available within the University and will also provide you with an essential introduction to the course. You will meet the staff and your fellow students and will be able to find out more about how you will be taught and assessed on your course. At the same time, the Student's Union organise social events in 'welcome week' that will encourage you to meet people from the wider NTU community.

NOW is used across all modules on your course and allows key information to be accessed and shared within modules at any time. You can also access your results through NOW.

The NOW will also be used to give part-time students online access to critical texts and historical lectures, this blended learning approach is used to enhance the part-time student experience.

To ensure that you have a clear understanding of the way in which you are progressing within the modules, you will receive feedback on the progress that you are making on a regular basis. Some of the feedback that you will receive is formal and will occur both during and at the end of the module when you will receive written feedback. Group tutorials are also an important informal opportunity to receive feedback from fellow students and your tutor. You will also be assigned a personal tutor who will meet with you

on a regular basis.

The complete cohort (including students studying part-time) will meet once a term at an event called 'The MA Day' which is an opportunity to share ideas and develop a community of practice that will support all students in the development of a final exhibition of work. You will also be taught via lectures and photographic production workshops. Also, where possible, seminar and workshop discussions and exercises will be also available online to support you with your studies.

29. Graduate destinations/employability

This course has a strong focus on producing highly employable students and is committed to offering experiences throughout the course that will enhance your understanding of the industry's requirements. Part-time MA Photography students have gone onto further study, enhanced their teaching careers or extended their professional practice.

To this end the Art & Design Employability Team can prepare you well for your future. They can offer a variety of activities to support you in preparing for your future. As part of the curriculum you will meet someone from the team as they deliver group sessions and lectures about 'employability-related' themes. This often covers CV building, job hunting and applications, preparing for interviews and even building your personal brand. They can also offer support in finding work experience and set up events where prospective employers can come into NTU so that you can talk to them in person about future opportunities.

30. Course standards and quality

We would like you to contribute to the continuing development of this course and we welcome all feedback and have a number of ways in which we can formally and informally receive this. You will have an opportunity to put yourself forward to be considered as a course representative at the beginning of your course. As part of this role you will be invited to attend the course committee meetings that occur three times a year and contribute to the conversations and debate to support the continuing health of the course. Any issues brought up at the course committee meetings are reported to the school academic standards and quality committee and actions identified from thereon in with responses reported back to you either via the next course committee meeting or via NOW.

The experience that you have whilst studying on the course is important to us and you will be required to give feedback on individual modules and the course as a whole and will also be invited to attend staff-student liaison committees

and meetings with the Dean. At the end of each year the course team write an evaluative document entitled the Interim Course Report (ICR) which is received at School level and contains an action plan to ensure that the course continues to reflect and develop its curriculum to remain current.

An External Examiner is also appointed whose job it is to make judgements about and report on the standard of your course in relation to other comparable courses in the UK. Part of their role is to review samples of assessed work and confirm at the Board of Examiners that the internal assessment and moderation practices are fair and in line with the School and NTU's policies. The external examiner also writes a report at the end of each academic year and this will be available to you via NOW, together with a response written by the Course Team and the Course Committee.

31. **Assessment regulations**
This course is subject to the University's Common Assessment Regulations (located in Section 16C of the Quality Handbook).

32. **Additional Information**

Collaborative partner(s):	None
Course referenced to national QAA Benchmark Statements:	Master of Art
Course recognised by:	Art and Design
Date this course specification approved:	3 August 2016 Advanced Standing Agreement added with AIVA, Shanghai (SASQC October 2016)
	SASQC Approval: 6 July 2018. Approval for PCR/Curriculum Refresh Modification Course Change and updates

Any additional information:

Achieving your own career and personal goals is the main aim of this MA in Photography.

- You can tailor your project to your own personal interests and career aspirations within an art, commercial, documentary, fashion, landscape or moving image context.
- You will engage with, and discuss, the critical, historical and contextual frameworks surrounding your practice
- You will update and challenge your pre-existing skillset in order to use high-end digital capture, historical analogue processes, or contemporary studio photography

- The course can be studied in full or part-time mode.
- You can undertake an additional research module to support understanding and progression to PhD.
- You will undertake industry visits.
- You will join the seventy-five years' worth of NTU graduates who have achieved success, won awards or otherwise distinguished themselves in photography.