

Nottingham Trent University
School of Art & Design
Course Specification

Basic Course Information

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| 1. Awarding Institution: | Nottingham Trent University |
| 2. School/Campus: | School of Art & Design |
| 3. Final Award and Course Title: | BA (Hons) Photography |
| 4. Mode of study and normal duration: | FT 3 years
SW 4 years |
| 5. UCAS Code: | W640 |

6. Overview and general educational aims of the course

Background

Photography at Nottingham Trent University aims to provide an inspirational experience for our students through engagement in the creative practice of photography. The course provides an intellectually stimulating experience of learning, where our students are exposed to a wide range of practical skills, critical approaches and professional strategies to support your future career aspirations. We will support you to explore, experiment and share your photography and your ideas throughout the course.

Our course is distinctive in our approach to the integration of theory and photographic practice. Teaching is practice-based and experiential, integrating critical theory and creative image making throughout. You will develop skills to become critically aware, self-directed, independent learners and practitioners.

You will have the opportunity to work collaboratively; with your peers on the course, with students across different subjects within the School of Art and Design, as well as with external organisations in the form of a live project.

The course is designed for students who anticipate careers in all aspects of photography. We encourage you to discover and contribute to the questions of what photography is and what it might become in the future; through practice, theory and experience with live projects and professional development.

You will be encouraged to seek and complete work experience with the opportunity to gain an additional Diploma or Certificate in Professional Practice, dependent on the duration of the placement.

The course is accredited by the Association of Photographers, meeting their relevant criteria in terms of reinforcing best practice and incorporating key elements of professional photographic practice.

The course aims to:

- develop your abilities as critically creative practitioners, showing rigour in both thought, process and practice.
- equip you with the essential professional, creative, intellectual and technical skills required to work successfully within photography and the wider creative and cultural industries.
- provide an environment which is supportive, intellectually challenging, and collegiate.

- support you to become agile and autonomous learners

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.

By the end of the course you should be able to:

- Make a coherent body of photographic work. (B)
- Select, experiment with and apply appropriate materials, techniques and technologies. (B)
- Recognise, understand and analyse appropriate contexts and discourses of photography. (B)
- Research, evaluate and analyse sources to inform work. (B)
- Evidence a critical disposition towards chosen subjects (photographic, professional, careers). (B)
- Critically reflect upon learning and practice to inform personal / professional directions. (B)
- Work professionally, independently and collaboratively. (B)
- Communicate appropriately and effectively (B)

QAA Art & Design (2017) benchmark informed outcomes are indicated '(B)'

8. **Learning and teaching methods**

Our approach to learning and teaching is designed to build across the three levels to support you in becoming an autonomous and independent learner. Teaching and learning on the course are two-way interactions with your tutors and peers – you will learn by experimenting, making, doing, thinking, reading and discussing throughout the course.

You will move from tutor led to increasingly self-initiated work in which you take increasing responsibility for the content and direction of your creative work.

In level 4, you will encounter a workshop-based approach to learning, supported by lectures and seminars. Workshops will not only support the development of your technical and practical skills but are designed to encourage you to think about theoretical themes and concepts which you will encounter in lectures and seminars. You will learn through making individual work, a photography group project, and collaborative School based experiences.

Level 5 will build on the learning and teaching methods above and will include online engagement as well as more public facing and externally driven methods such as a live project and collaborative working. You will also be able to create more personalised routes to your learning.

As part of our commitment to develop personalisation in our curricula, you will be offered a choice of modules at level 5, from which you will pick one. The module options presented have been selected by the course team in order to compliment

your study, and to give you the opportunity to follow and deepen your interests, and study with students from other courses.

In Level 6, you will take a more independent and synthesised approach to learning, undertaking more self-directed and self-initiated projects across written and photographic work. You will be required to reflect on your learning across your University experience through synoptic approaches to learning and teaching.

9. **Assessment methods**

You will complete a variety of assessments over the three years depending on the module, which are designed to ensure you meet the learning outcomes. Examples include

- The presentation of your visual work to your peers, and as you move through the course, to more public audiences. Presentation of this work will take different forms, such as studio critiques, pin-up shows, publications and exhibitions.
- Written work in a variety of forms, including reviews, image analysis, essays and a major piece of writing in your final year. Written work allows you to explore critical ideas in depth, to question and analyse ideas, concepts and cultures.
- Research and development materials, evidencing your enquiry, experimentation, idea development and critical reading and exploration of ideas.
- Collaborative and group outcomes at designated points across your studies, to enable you to develop skills and abilities of working with others.
- Self-reflection and self-assessment activities to support your critical reflection on your own knowledge and understanding, abilities and academic and professional progress. This includes synoptic assessment which encourages you to reflect across the breadth of your learning.
- Negotiated and self-directed major projects in your final year.

The course includes assessments which incorporate a group project in Level 4, and a Live Project in Level 5. For the group project, you will be given a mark for your individual work, and the group will receive a mark for the group aspect. The Live Project in Level 5 is not assessed due to its experimental nature, but your reflection on the process, skills and abilities you gain from undertaking the project are part of the assessment submission for that module.

Feedback on your work and progress on the course is given regularly: in group sessions, presentations, seminars, tutorials and group workshops. It can be verbal, written or recorded. You will also have points during the module for *formative* feedback. This type of feedback is designed to help you understand your progress, strengths and areas for improvement in your work related to the learning outcomes which you are working to achieve by the end of the module.

All module assessments on your course are based on coursework. Some modules have elements, or parts of the module which you must successfully pass. At the end of each module, you will receive a mark and feedback on your achievement. This is referred to as *summative* assessment and feedback.

Only work completed in Level 6 contributes to your final degree classification.

10. **Course structure and curriculum**

The course is studied on a full-time (3 years) basis, with the option of a sandwich placement between years two and three.

Level 4 (Year 1)	Core / Optional	Credits
Conversations with Photography	C	20
Exploring Photography	C	100

Level 5 (Year 2)	Core / Optional	Credits
Photography and the World	C	60
Futures	C	20
Publishing: Experimental Formats*	O	20
Telling Stories*	O	20
Digital Marketing and Communication*	O	20
The Art of the Video Interview*	O	20
Co Lab: Research, Exploration and Risk-taking	C	20

* students must select 1 module (20 credits) from the suite of optional modules

Level 6 (Year 3 / 4)	Core / Optional	Credits
Writing Photography	C	20
Photography Final Project	C	80
Futures II	C	20

The focus of Level 4 is around experimentation and exploration to question established ideas of photography.

Level 5 focuses on both exploration and consolidation to develop individual interests in photographic practice, looking at visual culture and photography's place in the world.

Level 6 learning is about independence, resolution and articulation of your own critically creative voice.

Placement awards

Students undertaking the sandwich placement may achieve a Placement Diploma in Professional Practice, and students undertaking placements of shorter duration may be eligible for a Placement Certificate in Professional Practice.

Interim awards

Students who do not progress to the final stage may be eligible for an interim award of Certificate of Higher Education, Diploma of Higher Education or Ordinary Degree.

11.	<p>Admission to the course</p> <p>Entry requirements</p> <p>For current information regarding all entry requirements for this course, please see the 'Applying' tab on the NTU course information web page.</p>
12.	<p>Support for learning</p> <p>The School is committed to assisting you to achieve the best results possible during your studies, providing a wide range of academic and pastoral help and advice. In addition to the course leader, module leaders and course administrator, a member of staff will also be assigned to you at the start of the course as your personal tutor.</p> <p>As part of your Induction, you will be introduced to the Student Handbook which includes information on how to access Employability Services, Disability Services, Fees and Student Finance Services, the Student Union, Language Support, Health and Wellbeing Services, International Students Support, Study Support and Individual Support.</p> <p>The course has an extended induction period to support your transition from previous study to a degree level approach. Working in smaller groups, we will support you to develop a critically confident voice.</p>
13.	<p>Graduate destinations/employability</p> <p>Photography has a strong focus on producing highly employable graduates valuable to a broad range of cultural and creative industries. You will develop many skills for careers, working closely with the employability team and academic staff preparing you for the future in autonomous, collaborative and interdisciplinary creative enterprises. Our graduates go on to become photographers, picture editors, freelancers, stylists, studio managers, writers, picture researchers, web designers, photographers' agents, curators, arts administrators, postgraduate students, teachers and lecturers.</p> <p>The course offers modules to support your career aspirations, as well as placement opportunities and a live project to enable you to experience working in professional contexts and identify how you / your practice sits within the creative and cultural industries.</p> <p>We will encourage you to take part in opportunities to visit creative companies, organisations and festivals as an important part of the curriculum/</p> <p>The guest speakers and visiting alumni will provide you with valuable contacts within the creative industries, and staff research and the networks of photography continue to inspire and support graduate employability.</p>
14.	<p>Course standards and quality</p> <p>There are well established systems for overseeing the quality of the curriculum within the School.</p> <p>Module feedback questionnaires and annual surveys are used to gather feedback from students on their learning experiences.</p>

Termly course committee meetings, attended by student representatives and academic staff, provide opportunities to raise and discuss matters contributing to the quality, standards and continuing development of the course.

The outcomes of the above inform an annual report highlighting positive features and areas to address which are further included in a course development plan. The plan is monitored through course committees and students have the opportunity to talk through the impact of any changes made.

Informally, course and individual tutorials additionally provide a further means of gathering student feedback and enable staff to address matters as soon as they arise.

Externally, the School consult with industry representatives as part of the course review and development process to ensure continued relevance of the curriculum to the creative and cultural industries. An external examiner is appointed to provide advice and monitor the academic standards of the course and student achievement in relation to those standards.

15. Assessment regulations

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

16. Additional information

Collaborative partner(s):

Course referenced to national (QAA)
Benchmark Statements:

Art and Design (2017)

Course recognised by:

NTIC progression route(s):

Foundation Certificate in Art,
Design & Media

Date this course specification approved:

DAG 15/11/19

Any additional information: