

# BA (HONS) PHOTOGRAPHY (WITH INTEGRATED FOUNDATION YEAR)

Institute of Education, Arts and Society

<b>Academic Level:</b>	Level 6	<b>Credits:</b>	480
<b>UCAS Code:</b>	W641		
<b>Awarding Body:</b>	University of Cumbria		
<b>Delivery Site:</b>	Brampton Road		
<b>Programme Length:</b>	Standard registration period (full time) - 4 years		
<b>Mode of Delivery:</b>	Face-to-face		
<b>Pattern of Delivery:</b>	Full Time		
	Total weeks of study:	24	
	Delivery pattern:	2 x 15-week semesters comprised of 12 teaching weeks, 2x assessment weeks and 1x Enhancement Week	
	Standard semester dates:	Yes	
<b>Programme Webpage:</b>	<a href="#">BA (Hons) Photography with Integrated Foundation Year</a>		

## Entry Criteria

The University's standard criteria for admissions apply. Please refer to the [Applicant Information](#) pages of the University website for more information. For [RPL](#), please refer to the University website. Detailed criteria for admission to this programme can be found on the programme webpage.

## PROGRAMME AIMS AND OUTCOMES

### Programme Aims

This programme aims to provide a supportive transitional route into higher education.

By the end of this foundation year you will be able to:

1. Apply the academic skills essential for successful participation in undergraduate academic study
2. Demonstrate the ability to solve problems and study independently
3. Develop creative confidence and technical skills through practical exploration and expression
4. Develop critical reflection and self-directed learning skills to support informed creative decision-making.

By the end of the L4-6 programme you will be able to:

5. Develop as a creative individual with the capacity for independent judgement, initiative, innovation, flexibility, ambition and with a responsible awareness of the social, cultural and ethical contributions of your work
6. Develop confident, imaginative and creative approaches to problem solving through enquiry, research, understanding, and the use of critical judgement
7. Make appropriate use of developing photographic and image capture technologies and develop your digital capabilities to communicate effectively as a socially responsible global citizen
8. Work across disciplines, work collaboratively, be open to new ideas, responsive to change and evolve in relation to the developments in photographic practice
9. Develop appropriate self-reflective approaches to research, analysis, photographic production and presentation
10. Develop the skills, knowledge and personal/professional confidence that will enable you to identify, generate and access opportunities in the creative industries, or in continuing education
11. Enhance qualities of personal initiative, self-motivation, management and self-discipline.

### Programme Outcomes – Knowledge and Understanding

The programme provides opportunities for you to develop and demonstrate the following:

**After 120 credits of study (FdCert) you will be able to demonstrate:**

**FK1.** Understanding of basic creative processes, research methods, and safe technical practice

**FK2.** Recognition of how ideas connect to cultural and professional contexts

**FK3.** Structured approaches to research, idea generation, experimentation and iterative development.

**After 240 credits of study (CertHE) you will be able to demonstrate:**

**K1.** Knowledge of photographic history, visual communication and contextual analysis

**K2.** Understanding of the principles of lens-based image capture

**K3.** Imagination in idea generation, conceptual development and practical application of photographic principles.

**After 360 credits of study (DipHE) you will be able to demonstrate:**

**K4.** Knowledge and understanding of visual theory and how this informs photographic practice and the viewer's understanding of it

**K5.** Fluency in photographic practices, platforms and dissemination including an awareness of audience, client and context

**K6.** Initiative as an innovative and creative practitioner in the execution and presentation of your work.

**After 480 credits of study (BA Hons) you will be able to demonstrate:**

**K7.** Confidence as an autonomous, creative and professional in your approach to the specialisation of your choice

**K8.** Critical synthesis and application of theoretical and contextual knowledge

**K9.** Knowledge of advanced principles of professional practice including self-promotion, employability skills, career projection and working with others.

### **Programme Outcomes – Skills and other Attributes**

The programme provides opportunities for you to develop and demonstrate the following:

**After 120 credits of study (FdCert) you will be able to demonstrate:**

**FS1.** Academic, personal, and professional skills needed to succeed in higher education

**FS2.** Effective problem-based learning (PBL) skills to work collaboratively and solve simple creative challenges

**FS3.** Basic discipline-specific techniques and competencies safely and appropriately in creative practice.

**After 240 credits of study (CertHE) you will be able to demonstrate:**

**S1.** A practical application of project management and personal conduct skills

**S2.** Effective research, evaluation and reflective skills in relation to your own work and within a wider context of assessment literacy

**S3.** Competence in selecting and applying technical processes and material choices against a creative brief.

**After 360 credits of study (DipHE) you will be able to demonstrate:**

**S4.** Conceptual understanding that enables you to devise interesting photographic projects, solve problems and execute your ideas using appropriate techniques and materials

**S5.** Skills in personal promotion, collaboration and social engagement

**S6.** Increasing independence in research and sustained enquiry.

**After 480 credits of study (BA Hons) you will be able to demonstrate:**

**S7.** An ability to create a versatile, personalised and targeted professional profile

**S8.** Confidence in evaluating and reflecting on your own practice, exhibiting initiative and originality in production, research and communication

**S9.** Advanced understanding of photographic production in relation to context, audience and industry.

## PROGRAMME FEATURES

### Programme Overview

Photography is a fantastically versatile discipline and as such offers many routes into employment within the creative industries. At the University of Cumbria, we have designed a programme that will give you technique, practical skills, the power of critical thinking, enquiry and a high level of professional conduct to take forward into a career of your choice.

Informed by the clear integration of practice and theory, and by an expectation of your intellectual engagement in Photography practice, our course aims to provide you with the skills and knowledge to enable the application of transferable skills across a range of professional settings.

We have developed this programme in tune with the changing demands of the photography industry and the rapidly shifting grounds of image-capture technology. The following areas give you a taste of what we offer on our programme:

#### **Who We Are:**

Our Photography Programme offers a distinctive practice-led, student-centred approach to the study of Photography, taught by a staff team who are nationally and internationally known professional photographers and scholars. Our ambition is to provide you with the best photographic education that gives you the fundamental principles of photography and the skills to develop your own, bespoke, personal practice enabling you to apply your skills and extend your employability as a creative and entrepreneurial practitioner.

Our curriculum is constantly updated and revised according to current trends in Photography. Our shooting studios, darkroom and post-production studio are industry standard enabling you to be ambitious and innovative in your practice. We are committed to offering one-to-one tutorial support and working with you to design your personal route to success.

The photography academic staff team are all research active and contribute new knowledge nationally and internationally. We are members of the Association of Photography in Higher Education, and the programme is accredited by the Association of Photographers, thereby our ethics and professionalism are guided by industry leaders.

As such we ensure that you receive an up-to-date education. The research that the academic team carry out feeds into the ethos and content of the programme and informs how and what you are taught. You will be invited to attend any external events generated by the academic team and have access to every member of the academic team on every level of your degree.

The developmental nature of the course and our emphasis on guided independent learning supports you as you build confidence, eloquence and the entrepreneurial skills essential for real-world success as a self-assured and innovative practitioner. Your studio practice is underpinned by historical, critical, theoretical and industry engaged modules.

**Specialist Resources** - the Photography programme is facilitated by our excellent technical resources and teaching spaces:

- Three shooting studios – you will be supported by our expert and dedicated technician

- State of the art darkroom - you will be supported by our expert and dedicated technician in analogue processes.
- Post-production studio – equipped with industry standard printers and scanners with attendant technical support.
- Equipment Store – you can borrow any kit that you need and experiment with different formats of analogue and digital equipment and location shooting kits.
- 3D and Audio-Visual Resources - include metal, wood, ceramic, textile and print workshops as well as editing suites and moving image equipment and software. Here you can broaden your experience and realise the full potential of your photographic practice.

**Small Class Sizes** are valuable in learning photography due to the individual nature of the work you will carry out. Smaller groups mean a better view in demonstrations, more opportunity for 1-to-1 tutorials with the tutor and a better sense of group identity and community of practice. From our point of view, it means that the academic team can know you by name and understand your specific areas of research and interest. It puts us in an informed position when it comes to tailoring our approach to your learning and matching you up with any external opportunities that become available.

**New Technologies** are explored in all years through increasing your digital capabilities in various software packages to experiencing and practicing cutting-edge technologies such as virtual reality and photogrammetry. You will experience post-photography practice, work with orphan images, experiment with moving image, play with digital retouching techniques and be introduced to new AI technologies as they develop. A dedicated module to new and traditional technologies is PHOT5090 Immersive Image Making, here you can trial innovative methods of production and fail safely in a supportive environment.

**Showing Your Work in the Real World:** Photo books & exhibitions are explicit outcomes of photographic practice.

- Photo Books - you will be introduced to the skills of book-binding, explore the history of photo books and develop a body of work to be designed into a book of your own making.
- Exhibitions - in each year of study, you will be required to work as part of a team to design, produce, curate, install, fund and market an exhibition. As you progress through your degree you will take more ownership of the exhibition elements, and they will become more public. This knowledge, skill and practice will transfer directly into a photographic career.

**Interdisciplinarity & Collaborative Working** is an essential skill to develop as you prepare to be a professional photographer. That is why we give you the opportunity of working in groups within photography and across the Art & Design suite of programmes (photography, fine art, graphic design and illustration). We share critiques, guest speakers, visits, a research module and an academic staff team. Communication, planning, adaptability, flexibility, organisation, team working, and leadership development are all skills necessary for the success of collaboration and in any future career.

A distinct feature of studying at the University of Cumbria is that in level 4, first year, you will study two modules with all level 4 arts students. These modules are Cultural Contexts and Collaborative Practice. Cultural Contexts introduces you a range of approaches to reading a diverse range of

visual creative arts, and Collaborative Practice is a module where you will work with other students and embark on a problem-solving project practicing professional skills such as leadership, team-working and project management.

The programme is also designed to encourage social engagement; this is particularly explicit at Level 5 where you will be supported in working with local communities to develop your photographic practice in the module PHOT5080 Narrative & Networks.

**Links with the Creative Industries** are crucial to kickstart your career. Level 5 is designed to be directly linked with industry representatives through the modules PHO5080 Narratives and Networks and PHOT5100 The Photographic Interface. As well as being valuable sources of information and contacts, these links ensure that the programme stays current and in tune with the demands of the photography industry. We work closely with our careers team to ensure that you will be taught professional conduct, career building skills, developing a personal profile, entrepreneurial and marketing skills amongst others. Masterclasses from the Association of Photographers ensure that you are up-to-date in photographic law and procedure and have access to external support and business advice. In all years we will support you as you work on live briefs and commissions in preparation for a freelance career.

**Opportunities for Enrichment:**

- Guest Speakers - offer added value to your learning experience and you can share your own work with the professionals through folio reviews and crits.
- National and International Visits - are an important element of your learning experience. Where possible we try to provide subsidised trips annually. Destinations range from Liverpool and Edinburgh to the Lake District and the Farne Islands. International trips are an added cost but a brilliant experience and opportunity. Destinations range from Amsterdam and Berlin to New York.
- Live briefs and competitions allow you to experience the real-world demands of photographic practice. Success in live briefs and competitions means that your work is immediately located in the real world. You are supported during the live briefs so that you can develop confidence and experience when working with a client or commissioning body.
- Graduate Showcases - are important for you to engage with as you prepare your work for the public domain, this might be through online platforms such as Source: Graduate Photography Review, or through graduate exhibitions such as Free Range at the Old Truman Brewery in London.

**Location** is everything in photography and we offer an amazing location in which you can practice your photography. World Heritage Site the Lake District, Forestry Commission reserves, Pennines and Scottish Borders are accessible to you, as is the West Coast of Cumbria, the nuclear coast and Hadrian's Wall country. Carlisle is a historic town rich in heritage, and our Ambleside campus provides a base for you when shooting in the Lake District. Newcastle, Glasgow and Edinburgh are easily accessible by train and London is only three and a half hours away.

**Brampton Road Campus** is a fantastic base for your study. The site has been dedicated to arts education for almost 200 years, and remains dedicated to providing a rich, stimulating and brilliant experience to all our students. We have:

- A specialist arts library that the academic team add to regularly making sure that the most current titles are available to you.
- The dining area to ensure that while you feed your knowledge you can feed your body too.
- Stanwix Theatre is on site and hosts various events and lectures.
- The Vallum Gallery has a varied programme of professional exhibitions with associated gallery talks.

### **Integrated Foundation Year (IFY)**

The integrated foundation year provides the opportunity for you to settle into university life and gain the confidence and skills to succeed in your chosen arts and creative practice degree through participating in a supportive academic, personal, and professional development programme.

The foundation year modules provide a strong grounding in academic and study skills, preparing you for progression to higher levels of study (Levels 4–6). This route offers a unique opportunity to develop problem-solving, creative, practical, and investigative skills that underpin the interdisciplinary approach to the study of art, design and media, while nurturing your career aspirations.

On the Arts IFY, you will study six modules that explore academic skills and the theoretical and practical concepts underpinning creative disciplines. Two of these modules will be academic and professional skills aligned to your programme of study and the demands of the creative industries, and the following:

- Introducing Creative Research Practice introduces the role of research in creative development, helping you connect ideas to cultural and professional contexts.
- Ideas, Images and Objects develops observation and experimentation skills, encouraging process-led exploration across media.
- Innovation Lab focuses on teamwork and collaborative problem-solving through short, mixed-discipline projects.
- Creative Playbook synthesises research, making, and reflection into a polished artefact, supporting your transition to Level 4.

You will learn how to use specialist equipment and develop techniques for safe and effective practice in studios and digital labs. Through practical application, you will gain awareness of issues such as sustainability, ethics, and audience engagement. Cross-cultural awareness is encouraged through collaborative modules and shared projects with students from other pathways.

Throughout the foundation year, you will develop professional skills such as communication, teamwork, self-management, and organisation. You will make links with the careers team to discuss your skill development and to help you reflect on how these link to your employability and graduate skills. You will also work on your digital skills profile, using university resources such as LinkedIn Learning to enhance your digital literacy and employability.

**Level 4: *The Photographic Environment*** deals with the cornerstone craft of photographic image capture, both analogue and digital, in application to and investigation of, your photographic interests. Research and contextual skills will be established at this level as we introduce the work

of significant photographers and explore how influences and themes can be tracked through history, thereby setting the stage for the development of your own work.

**Level 5: *The Relevant Photograph*** attends to socially engaged practice. Working with the local community and culture with input from industry professionals you will learn to apply your craft to greater purpose. You will also develop your contextual explorations into photographic theory, critical thinking and analysis. We have developed an enrichment module in year two where you can experience and practice traditional techniques and cutting-edge technologies. Creating the space for experiment and play is enormously valuable in promoting creativity, problem-solving skills, risk-taking, and imagination. The module is intended to expand your practice skills midway through your degree enabling you to explore your own potential and readying you for a more focused journey through your final year and employment beyond that.

**Level 6: *Independent Showcase*** here you take full charge of your own practice and bring it into the public domain. Research, practice and professional skills come together in the final year of study to refine and showcase your personal vision and expression of photographic practice. At this point you will be an independent, intelligent and competent practitioner with a personal portfolio representing the breadth of your skill and depth of your engagement.

Upon graduation, you will be ready to embark upon a photographic career or take on further study. Some graduates aspire to move towards teaching as a career, others prefer to extend their knowledge base and push themselves to produce ever more advanced photographic work. You can make the most of postgraduate study at MA, MPhil and PhD levels at the University of Cumbria.

#### **Key features of the programme**

- **Integrated Foundation Year (IFY):** A supportive entry route designed to build confidence, academic skills, and creative practice for progression to Level 4.
- **Interdisciplinary Approach:** Opportunities to explore multiple creative pathways including Animation & Visual Effects, Film & TV, Fine Art, Games Design, Graphic Design, Illustration, and Wildlife Media.
- **Process-Led Learning:** Emphasis on research, experimentation, and iterative development rather than focusing solely on final artefacts.
- **Authentic Assessment:** Portfolio-based tasks, showcases, and collaborative projects aligned with industry expectations.
- **Professional Skills Development:** Communication, teamwork, planning, and reflective practice embedded throughout the programme.
- **Access to Specialist Facilities:** Studios, digital labs, print workshops, and industry-standard software from the start of your studies.
- **Digital and Employability Focus:** Integration of digital skills, LinkedIn Learning, and career development activities to prepare for graduate employment.

## **Learning and Teaching**

### **Teaching**

The University of Cumbria Learning, Teaching and Assessment (LTA) Plan underpins the development of this programme. As a student, you will join an inclusive learning community that

values diversity and creativity. Teaching, assessment, and support are designed to provide equitable opportunities for you to optimise your potential and develop autonomy as a creative practitioner.

As a student at the University of Cumbria, you are part of an inclusive learning community that recognises diversity. You will have opportunities to learn by interacting with others in a collegiate, facilitative and dynamic learning environment. Teaching, assessment and student support will allow equal and equitable opportunities for you to optimise your potential and develop autonomy.

We seek to create a stimulating and innovative community of learning, whether encountered on campus or at a distance, on placement or in the workplace. Facilitated by our expert practitioner staff, you will experience a learning environment that is well equipped, flexible, and stimulating.

The University of Cumbria's Learning, Teaching and Assessment Plan sets out clear aspirations and commitments for and to our students. The students that graduate from this institution are enquiring and self-reliant, confident and capable, professionally ready, responsible individuals that are ambitious and proud. These attributes are practiced on every year of study as we support you to become one of our graduates. You will find your place in learning environments that will both support and challenge you, explore ideas in and around your discipline, enabling you to grow and develop to become adaptable and reliable agents in the field of photographic image making.

### **Module Size and Structure**

Each module of the degree is either a 20, 40 or 60 credit module. 20 credit modules are shorter and deal with contextual history and theory content or, in the case of PHOT5090 Immersive Image-Making, specialist skills enrichment. Longer 40 credit modules are dedicated to your photographic practitioner and professional skills. In these modules, professional and employability skills are designed into briefs alongside your photographic practice skills; for example, the exhibition element in PHOT5100 The Photographic Interface requires that you develop a body of photographic work that is intended for exhibition. The professional skills of installing an exhibition run alongside the photographic practice skills taught on the module. These skills directly relate to the demands of the photography industry.

At the end of your degree the final semester is a 60 credit module where all of your knowledge about photography practice is framed with conceptual and theoretical understanding and where your professional skills are tested in your development of a public profile. This is the culmination of your degree where everything comes together and you prepare to graduate as a rounded independent practitioner.

Also in year three, you will take a module that is shared across the Art & Design programmes. This is a 20 credit module called ARTD6000 Independent Research Paper. This is a research module and you will produce a piece of academic writing based on your chosen research topic.

There are two semesters each year and each semester will contain one 20 and one 40 credit module (except the last semester that is one module of 60 credits). In every module you will be formatively assessed to support your development, and summatively assessed to measure your achievement. The methods we use to teach and assess you are outlined below.

We use a variety of approaches to learning and teaching to make sure you develop appropriate concepts, knowledge and skills and to develop work related skills. These include study skills,

research methods, critical and analytical abilities, and your ability to manage your time and plan your work. Our learning and teaching methods allow you to develop both social and independent learning techniques.

- **Lectures** are used by both practice and theory tutors using a variety of media as support. You will be expected to take notes, ask questions and contribute to any group discussions that ensue.
- **Seminars** will explore issues in greater depth with both tutor and student-led formats. These will require you to engage in research and background reading and will consider the relation of theory to practice and help develop wide ranging transferable skills.
- **Tutorials** provide individually tailored feedback to you. They can range from one-to-one to small group situations. They will be scheduled into timetabled sessions and as the course progresses you will be encouraged to request tutorials with specialist tutors for more involved feedback reflecting the advanced level at which you are working.
- **Practical Workshop Sessions** will provide the opportunity for you to develop specialist technical skills and knowledge. They normally take the form of tutor-led studio demonstrations, designed to allow you to focus on, experiment with, develop and personalise specialised skills, media, techniques and concepts.
- **Problem based learning** is a key element of your learning as problem solving is an important skill for the photographer. In photography, there will never be only one answer or visual response. The photographer needs to both negotiate the demands of the situation within the technologies available to them, but also needs to work out the most effective way to respond to a brief and communicate efficiently with an audience. Each brief that you will be given will demand an individual response from you. This will involve thorough research, synthesising the information you have discovered and developing and presenting an appropriate visual response. As you move through the programme, you will begin to devise your own briefs and set your own subjects to research and present, making your own decisions as you progress.
- **Group work** is very important in photography, as, in all creative arts, input from different voices, the demands of different bodies and situations require that you develop skills in communication, trust, responsibility, flexibility and reliability. We write projects and tasks that allow you to experience, consider and develop your team-working skills.
- **Briefs** are the usual vehicle by which you develop your photographic knowledge and expertise. The project work you undertake during year two and three will form the content of the professional portfolio of work you will take with you when pursuing employment at the end of the course.
- **Independent Learning** forms a natural and expected extension of the formal aspects of the course. Your ultimate success will be dependent on your willingness to develop, experiment with and extend the concepts and approaches introduced by project briefs. It is only with continued application that lasting and valuable progress can be made.
- **E-learning and Blackboard** is the portal to access to project briefs, timetables and lecture notes, to submit module assessments and receive summative feedback. Learning packages which can be completed at your own pace are also a feature in some modules.

## **Foundation Year Approach**

We want to motivate you in your foundation year through varied teaching and learning approaches that support different student's needs and help you integrate into university life. Modules combine practical workshops, critiques, seminars, and guided independent study, encouraging you to explore ideas, experiment with media, and reflect on your process.

Vocational and creative practice opportunities form an essential part of the programme, enabling you to make meaningful links between theoretical concepts and practical application. During the integrated foundation year, you will work alongside students from a range of creative pathways, allowing for a richer, interdisciplinary learning experience. You will collaborate in groups to solve design problems, research case studies, and deliver creative outputs.

Each module is led by a module leader with overarching responsibility, but delivery is team-taught, ensuring you benefit from subject specialists and experience diverse teaching styles. This approach mirrors the collaborative nature of the creative industries and prepares you for progression to Level 4.

### **Overview of Learning and Teaching Methods**

At Level 3, you typically have around 12 scheduled learning hours per week, including:

- 6 hours of practical workshops and seminars
- 6 hours of lectures and group critiques
- 13 hours of guided independent study
- 2–4 scheduled personal tutoring meetings across the academic year

At Level 4 you typically have around 10 – 12 scheduled learning hours per week, typically consisting of:

- 4 hours of lectures
- 2 hours of seminars
- 4 hours of practice photography
- 1 hour of personal tutoring

At Level 5 you typically have around 9 – 10 scheduled learning hours per week, typically consisting of:

- 3 hours of lectures
- 3 hours of seminars
- 3 hours of practice photography
- 1 hour of personal tutoring

At Level 6 you typically have around 10 scheduled learning hours per week, typically consisting of:

- 2 hours of lectures
- 4 hours of seminars
- 2 hours of practice photography
- 1 hour of personal tutoring

### **Independent Learning**

When not attending scheduled sessions, you will engage in self-directed study, including research, experimentation, and portfolio development. Independent learning is supported by digital platforms such as Blackboard, LinkedIn Learning, collaborative tools like Padlet and curated reading lists via OneList.

### **Digital Capabilities**

Digital literacy is embedded throughout the programme. You will use industry-standard software (e.g., Adobe Creative Suite, 3D modelling tools), develop online portfolios, and access LinkedIn Learning and MOOCs to enhance your skills.

### **Teaching Staff**

Your tutor team are highly skilled in photographic production, including studio, digital editing and workflow. Their knowledge of darkroom and lighting design compliments their professional strategies and experience for making creative work and engaging audiences with your work.

Tutors undertake and generate high level research and have active practices which are shared and evidenced in the sessions they lead.

## **Assessment**

Assessment for learning is fully embedded in our learning, teaching and assessment strategy. The five main principles of this are questioning, feedback, recognition and understanding of success, peer and self-assessment and finally summative assessment. As such we have designed a programme where enquiry and curiosity are starting points for learning; this is led by your own interests.

You'll be continuously involved in the assessment of your own work and that of your peers; developing the critical, interpersonal and team-working skills that are vital to gaining confidence and independence as a creative practitioner.

Where possible, across the photographic practice modules, we have designed authentic learning and assessment methods. This means that we set work and learning outcomes in tune with the demands of industry. Portfolios, exhibitions, photo books, mock interviews etc all give authentic experience and outcomes to your practice (see below for more detail).

Assessment will be either formative or summative. Formative assessment responds to your developing work and summative assessment is a formal response to your finished work.

Summative assessment is graded; formative assessment is not.

- **Crits** (short for 'critique') take place at certain points throughout the semester on the photography practice modules (the longer modules in each semester). You will be expected to present your work to a group your fellow students and tutors. The work that you present will be either work in progress or a more finished resolution of a brief. Your work and presentation will then be discussed by all present and you will receive a large amount of formative verbal feedback.
- **Written work** is central to a degree course and many of the learning approaches and emphasis is put upon clarity of style and argument as well as presentation. Different forms of written language will be explored to ensure appropriate critical skills and creative authorship are

examined. Written work can be either formatively or summatively assessed and this is always made clear in the assessment brief.

- **Peer Review** is a central part of your learning experience. Like an informal crit you will be expected to share work and ideas with a small group of your fellow students and a tutor. Here ideas will be tested and developed as you engage in a reciprocal discussion about your work. As you progress through the degree you will take more ownership of the peer review process and with your peers develop a study group system where you support each other in developing your work. Group communication and participation are excellent skills to take into the workplace.
- **Portfolios** have traditionally been a method of presenting your photographic work, providing you with a portable way to showcase your talents to prospective clients. The portfolio still has a role in contemporary photography and we work with you to develop a professional style for your physical portfolio. In the digital age the methods of showcasing your work are more varied, adaptable and flexible. Working on your digital capabilities you will explore how best, in different circumstances, to present your work using a variety of platforms.
- **Mock Interviews** give you a real-world experience and can be arranged with careers specialists who will conduct interviews with you. You will have a chance to practice interview skills and prepare before the interview. This process aims to take away a lot of the stress of being interviewed and allows you the chance to reflect on how you could improve before applying for a job.
- **Presentations** provide an alternative way of conveying research and offer an opportunity for all learning types to develop their verbal articulation skills. Confidence in being able to speak about your work is absolutely necessary in the workplace. Practicing these skills will contribute to your confidence and personal development.
- **Photobooks** are a significant way of sharing photography. You will be equipped with the principles of photobook design and required to produce your work in a publishable format. This is one of the formats through which we will assess your work. It will also be one of the formats you take to potential clients to showcase your work as you embark on your chosen career.
- **Exhibition** is one method to share photography with a wider audience. In every year of your degree you will be required to respond to exhibition briefs. In year two you will work as part of a group to organise an exhibition in a public space. This is an invaluable learning experience as you will work from concept design to location scouting, fundraising and marketing to production, curation and installation; these are transferrable skills and ones that will inform your decision making in year three when you prepare your degree show.
- **Self-Assessment** is an important method of assessment. You will be given an opportunity to assess your work against the assessment criteria and rubric before the module tutor assesses your work. This process allows for a useful feedback tutorial about your sense of success and how well you are achieving your aspirations. Your involvement in the process means that you have the opportunity to devise, with your tutor, a bespoke achievement route to follow.
- **Assessment Criteria and Rubrics** are connected to each individual module and respond to the learning outcomes. As part of a group you will work with a module tutor to moderate an

assessment rubric where you can see what is being assessed, what you need to achieve for each grade band and the weighting attached to each criterion. This process gives you a clearer picture of how your work will be marked and you will gain a sense of involvement in the assessment process.

- **Anonymous Marking** is employed where possible, usually in contextual modules against written assignments. Your work is submitted anonymously so that first and second markers can assess your work without influence or bias.

The range of learning, teaching and assessment methods used enables different aspects of your learning to be developed and tested. As well as testing what you know and can do at the end of a module (*Summative Assessment*) you'll get regular advice and guidance while your work is in progress (*Formative Feedback*) through one-to-one, peer-to-peer and group tutorials where you will have the opportunity to discuss and develop strategies to develop your work. This enables you to develop and refine the work as it is being produced with the structured guidance required to achieve the best possible results.

Overview of the methods of assessment used on the programme within each year of study

### **Integrated Foundation Year**

- Portfolios
- Project work
- Written Assignment
- Presentations

### **Year 1**

- Workbooks
- Essays
- Portfolios

### **Year 2**

- Portfolios
- Books
- Exhibitions
- Journals
- Essays

### **Year 3**

- Portfolios
- Professional presentation
- Profile/Blog

### **Feedback**

Feedback is provided regularly during studies, in various forms and is a crucial part of the learning cycle. Formative feedback in tutorials and crit sessions help develop your project work. Feedback from visiting professionals is valuable as it brings real world perspectives into your development.

Whilst summative feedback at the end of modules is clear and transparent at how grades are reached by way of a marking rubric, which is available throughout the individual modules.

In line with UoC policy, formal feedback on summative assessments will be provided within 20 working days. It will be based on grading criteria linked to the module learning outcomes and aligned to the UoC grade descriptors, which differentiate between the levels of study.

## Graduate Prospects

As a successful graduate of the BA (Hons) Photography programme you will be able to access a variety of career options. A degree in photography becomes a passport to enter an extensive range of careers throughout the creative industries. You will be well equipped to conduct yourself as a photographer with the skills and knowledge of how to get the best image.

### Transferrable Skills:

- Working independently/Working with others
- Communication
- Time management
- Presentation skills
- Editing and production skills
- Self-evaluation
- Technical, research, critical and analytical skills
- Problem solving

### Progression Routes:

- Freelance photography
- Setting up your own business
- Assisting and getting experience on the job
- Postgraduate education: we offer MA, MPhil and PhD level study
- **Examples of Photography Graduate Destinations:**
- Editorial and photojournalism,
- Sports photography
- Commercial and fashion photography
- Medical/forensic science photography
- Archiving and collections work
- Photo image/editing
- Picture researchers
- Teaching

The scope described by these destinations is testament to the flexibility of the programme that supports all the individual interests of our students. It also speaks to the potential that photography holds as a great career choice.

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree/photography> \*

## MODULES

Level 3			
Code	Title	Credits	Status
FYUN3014	Introducing Creative Research Practice	20	Compulsory
FYUN3015	Seeing, Thinking, Making Meaning	20	Compulsory
FYUN3016	Ideas, Images and Objects	20	Compulsory
FYUN3017	Innovation Lab	20	Compulsory
FYUN3018	Creative Industries Toolkit	20	Compulsory
FYUN3019	Creative Playbook	20	Compulsory
<b>Students exiting at this point with 120 credits would receive a FdCert Photography</b>			

Year 1			
Code	Title	Credits	Status
PHOT4080	Photographic Image Capture	40	Compulsory
UCIA4030	Cultural Contexts	20	Compulsory
PHOT4060	Picturing Place: Culture and Identity	40	Compulsory
UCIA4020	Collaborative Practice	20	Compulsory
<b>Students exiting at this point with 240 credits would receive a CertHE Photography (with Integrated Foundation Year)</b>			

Year 2			
Code	Title	Credits	Status
PHOT5080	Networks and Narratives	40	Compulsory
PHOT5090	Immersive Image Making	20	Compulsory
PHOT5100	Industry Interface	40	Compulsory
PHOT5110	Theorising Photography	20	Compulsory
<b>Students exiting at this point with 360 credits would receive a DipHE Photography (with Integrated Foundation Year)</b>			

Year 4			
Code	Title	Credits	Status

PHOT6070	Blueprint of Practice	40	Compulsory
ARTD6000	Independent Research Paper	20	Compulsory
PHOT6080	Picturing Place: Culture and Identity	60	Compulsory
<p><b>Students exiting at this point with 420 credits would receive a BA Photography (with Integrated Foundation Year)</b></p> <p><b>Students exiting at this point with 480 credits would receive a BA (Hons) Photography (with Integrated Foundation Year)</b></p>			

### Additional Module Information

Students must successfully complete 100 credits at Level 3 before progressing to Level 4.

A failed student will not be permitted to re-register on the same programme.

This programme uses 40/20 credit module structure in all years and in each semester, with the exception of second semester in year 3 where we have designed a 60-credit module. The 40- and 60-credit modules are all dedicated photography practice modules and have been designed such to:

- **Enable progression:** the intensity of the modules will establish and ensure a working practice that is maintained throughout the degree from years 1-3, and is designed so that you will be equipped to meet the increasing expectations as you progress through each level.
- **Streamline assessments:** the longer modules allow fewer assessments with a greater emphasis on linking practice to professional outcomes. You will be more focused and driven on achieving in all areas rather than in separate components.
- **Reduce the Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs):** as with the streamlining of assessment, this would have the same effect of the ILOs, these can be more focused and relevant to real-world expectations.
- **Reduce the number of students carrying fails:** you will be fully supported throughout these longer modules, if you are struggling on any module you will be identified earlier and have the opportunity and support to get back on track.

The modules are designed so that you have a longer period to rigorously develop your work. This aspect allows you to manage bigger projects, develop your personal management skills and experience a practice more closely related to the time-frames and conditions experienced in industry. You will be well supported with formative assessment points and interim objectives that will guard you against failure.

The longer credit modules also enable the embedding of professional attributes and skills as part of photographic practice, through live briefs, commissions, publishing processes and exhibitions etc.

The 60-credit module in year 3 is a semester long module. All the skills, knowledge and other attributes synthesise at this point and the larger module gives sufficient time for this to develop

and find resolution. As above, formative assessment and interim objectives will support you to make the most of this opportunity.

The larger modules of 40 and 60 credits are recognised, by the QAA, to be typical in Art and Design programmes, and reflect the pedagogic approach to encourage independent working on significant bodies of work.

### Key to Module Statuses

Compulsory modules	Must be taken although it may possible to compensate as a marginal fail (within the limits set out in the Academic Regulations and provided that all core or pass/fail elements of module assessment have been passed).
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### Timetables

Timetables are normally available in August each year. Please note that while we make every effort to ensure timetables are as student-friendly as possible, scheduled learning can take place on any day of the week.

Our Timetabling team work hard to ensure that timetables are available to students as far in advance as possible, however there may be occasional exceptions such as in the case of teaching which falls outside of the usual academic calendar. The UoC academic calendar runs from August to July, so timetabling information for programmes which include teaching sessions in August may not be published until closer to the August delivery.

Field trips, gallery visits and special opportunities offered by our network of industry connections may also take place outside of the regular taught sessions. Often these are one off events and are dependent on the external providers.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Student Support

We provide responsive student support that promotes student success. Our approach to student support is designed to support achievement and progression, champion inclusivity and accessibility, prepare you for opportunities beyond study, and promote independence and resilience, enabling you to achieve your potential.

As a student of the University of Cumbria, you will be taught by academics and expert practitioners who facilitate learning through structured inquiry. You will be provided with access to high quality academic resources through physical and digital libraries and will be supported to develop skills that enable you to become a critical, reflective, discerning and independent learner and researcher.

#### Induction

As a student at the University of Cumbria, you will have access to a University of Cumbria on-line provision, currently known as 'Head Start'. This feature provides guidance and exercises for you to enable you to prepare for academic study. Furthermore, you will have access to staff details to ask any questions in advance of commencing the programme.

An undergraduate induction is timetabled for the week before the programme delivery starts and will be your first week on the programme. You will undertake a series of activities designed to form cohesion amongst your peer group, to familiarise you with the University and introduce you to a range of support services who are there to help you settle into university life and help you progress through your studies. You will be shown how to use our Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) which is called 'Blackboard' and how to submit assessments using 'Turn it In'. You will attend centrally organised sessions, Student Life and Help is at Hand.

During the induction week you are allocated a Personal Tutor (PT), as are all students at the University, but in addition foundation year students will receive dedicated supported from the Student Learning Developer.

Transitioning to Level 4: Progressing students will not be required to attend all induction activities at Level 4, but will be invited to activities that will enable them to meet and feel fully integrated with their new cohort such as introduction to programme structure, modules and team building activities. In addition, the students will be invited by the programme leader to mentor and support new students in other activities such as campus tours and general tips and guidance on being a UoC student.

#### Personal Tutor

You will also be allocated a Personal Tutor at the start of your programme. Your Personal Tutor will be proactively involved in the delivery of your programme and will have contact with you throughout your time at the University. They will support your learning and development, including through tutorials, progress reviews and other support as outlined in the Personal Tutoring Policy. You will meet with your Personal Tutor on a minimum of four occasions per academic year at Level 3 and 4 (and twice yearly at Levels 5 and 6). These meetings are in addition to any discussions you may initiate which are without limit. The scheduled meetings will include the opportunity to

examine your marks and feedback across modules to identify practice which can be encouraged across modules and recognising where further support may be beneficial.

### **Student Learning Developers (IFY)**

During the first year of your programme (Foundation Year) you will have access to support from dedicated Student Learning Developers (IFY support). These advisors will provide you with individual academic and pastoral support alongside the academic team to ensure you reach your full potential whilst you are on this programme. In particular, they will help you to adjust adjustment to university study, assist you in the navigation of the academic environment, policies, expectations and signposting to a wide range of services. They also work with you and your personal tutor to help you to develop your own strategies for effective study and provide additional one-to-one and group support in academic writing and study skills.

The [Student Enquiry Point](#) is a simple way to contact Student Services. Using the Student Enquiry Point tile on the Student Hub you can submit an enquiry to any of the Student Services teams, which includes:

- [Careers and Employability](#)
- [Chaplaincy](#) for faith and spiritual wellbeing
- [Mental Health and Wellbeing](#)
- [Digital Skills](#)
- [Disability and Specific Learning Difficulty \(SpLD\)](#)
- [International Student Support](#)
- [Library](#)
- [Money Advice Service](#)
- [Safeguarding](#)
- [Skills@Cumbria](#)
- [Sports and Fitness Facilities](#)
- [University Student Accommodation](#)

As a student at the University of Cumbria you automatically become a member of the Students' Union. The Students' Union represents the views and interests of students within the University.

The Students' Union is led by a group of Student Representatives who are elected by students in annual elections. They also support approximately 400 Student Academic Reps within each cohort across the entire University. The Students' Union represent the views of their cohort and work with academic staff to continuously develop and improve the experience for all University of Cumbria students. You can find out more about who represents you at [www.ucsu.me](http://www.ucsu.me).

You can email at any time on [studentvoice@cumbria.ac.uk](mailto:studentvoice@cumbria.ac.uk).

## **Course Costs**

### **Tuition Fees**

Course fees can be found [BA \(Hons\) Photography with Integrated Foundation Year](#)

The following course-related costs are included in the fees:

- The loan of all camera equipment, lenses and lighting kit for use on location and in studio.
- Induction materials for darkroom processes.
- Reimbursed fares to galleries and cultural visits for module content.

#### **Additional Costs**

The following course-related costs are not included in the fees:

- Printing costs to produce portfolio work for submission are additional and are outlined at the beginning of each module.
- Display and presentation materials may incur additional costs; these are bespoke to each individual student and dependent on the type of presentation.
- Optional residential field trips may incur some additional costs (approx £50 per visit)

### **Exceptions to the Academic Regulations**

This programme operates in accordance with the University's Academic Regulations and Academic Procedures and Processes with the following permitted exceptions:

Module credit size: 60 credits (Undergraduate study)

The 60-credit module in year 3 is a semester long module. All the skills, knowledge and other attributes synthesise at this point and the larger module gives sufficient time for this to develop and find resolution. Formative assessment and interim objectives will support you to make the most of this opportunity.

### **External and Internal Benchmarks**

[QAA Subject Benchmark Statement: Art and Design 2019](#)

<https://www.the-aop.org/>

<https://photoworks.org.uk/>

<https://www.redeye.org.uk/>

<http://www.bjp-online.com/#>

<https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/>

The programme is also informed by the following internal reference points:

- Business Plan for the Institute of Education, Arts and Society
- [The Academic Strategy - Transforming lives and livelihoods](#)
- [cumbria.ac.uk/media/towards-2030.pdf](http://cumbria.ac.uk/media/towards-2030.pdf)
- [Learning, Teaching and Assessment Plan](#)
- [Academic Regulations](#)

### **Disclaimer**

This programme has been approved (validated) by the University of Cumbria as suitable for a range of delivery modes, delivery patterns, and delivery sites. This level of potential flexibility does not reflect a commitment on behalf of the University to offer the programme by all modes/patterns and at all locations in every academic cycle. The details of the programme offered for a particular intake year will be as detailed on the programme webpage: [BA \(Hons\) Photography with Integrated Foundation Year](#)

<b>Date of Programme Specification Production</b>	July24
<b>Date Programme Specification was last updated</b>	March 2026