

BA (Hons) Photography

- [Exemptions](#)
- [Programme Overview](#)
- [Programme Aims](#)
- [Programme Intended Learning Outcomes \(ILOs\)](#)
- [Programme Content](#)
- [Assessment Methods](#)
- [Work Experience and Placement Opportunities](#)
- [Additional Costs Table](#)
- [Graduate Attributes](#)
- [Modifications](#)
- [Appendix 1: Programme Structure Diagram – BA \(Hons\) Photography](#)
- [Appendix 2: Map of Intended Learning Outcomes](#)
- [Appendix 3: Map of Summative Assessment Tasks by Module](#)
- [Appendix 4: Module Descriptors](#)

Awarding institution	Bath Spa University
Teaching institution	Bath Spa University
School	Bath School of Art, Film and Media
Main campus	Locksbrook Campus
Other sites of delivery	N/A
Other Schools involved in delivery	N/A
Name of award(s)	BA (Hons) Photography
Qualification (final award)	BA (Hons)
Intermediate awards available	CertHE, DipHE, BA
Routes available	Single
Professional Placement Year	Available (optional 4 years)
Duration of award	3 years full-time 4 years full-time (with Professional Placement Year) 6 years part time
Modes of delivery offered	Campus based
Regulatory Scheme ^[1]	Undergraduate Academic Framework
Exemptions from regulations/framework[2]	No
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body accreditation	N/A
Date of most recent PSRB approval (month and year)	N/A
UCAS code	WPQ3 WPQ4 (with Professional Placement Year)
Route code (SITS)	PHSPS PHSPS-SW
Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements (including date of publication)	Art & Design (February 2017)
Date of most recent approval	June 2018
Date specification last updated	March 2022

^[1] This should also be read in conjunction with the University's Qualifications Framework

^[2] See section on 'Exemptions'

Exemptions

The following exemptions are in place:

Programme/Pathway	Regulations/Framework	Brief description of variance	Approving body and date
BA (Hons) Photography	Undergraduate Academic Framework	Exemption requested to depart from Framework Paragraph 1.4	Academic Quality Standards Committee, 12 December 2018

Programme Overview

The BA (Hons) Photography course provides a student-centred, flexible learning experience that allows you to develop your own creative voice across a diverse range of photographic genres and contexts. The primary ambition of the course is to equip you with a broad range of practical skills and expertise as an original image-maker – but also with the critical and historical knowledge that will enable you to decipher, challenge and influence the complex image-world that we all inhabit.

The course offers you the opportunity to explore and experiment with a wide variety of processes, materials and technologies – from 19th Century Cyanotype printing to high-end digital capture – on location and in the studio. You are actively encouraged to engage with audiences and explore a range of potential outputs for your work, including gallery, editorial, screen and book contexts. These practical and creative explorations are fundamentally underpinned and informed by a parallel exploration of the history of photography, contemporary critical debates and an engagement with the wider culture of photography.

The BA (Hons) Photography is delivered through a variety of teaching and learning environments, including individual and group tutorials, lectures, seminars, group critiques and technical workshops, with a collaborative approach to shared, peer-to-peer learning. The course also involves external engagement through gallery visits, field trips and public exhibitions. You are encouraged and supported in building a network of connections with your contemporaries and the professional world, through work experience, visiting speakers and master classes with industry experts. Content is delivered by teams of full time and visiting photographic specialists.

Programme Aims

1. To offer a distinctive photographic education that foregrounds making, innovation and experimentation.
2. To develop photographers who are confident in identifying and defining complex visual solutions within a range of photographic contexts and audiences.
3. To enable students to develop specialist photographic knowledge and develop a distinctive area of practice.
4. To integrate theory and practice in critical and creative engagement with the subject, demonstrating curiosity and intellectual enquiry through research and reflection.
5. To develop knowledge of major theories relating to photographic practice, and a deeper awareness of social and ethical implications for the photographic industry.
6. To prepare graduates for professional practice and employability within a range of commercial and cultural contexts through local and international engagement.
7. To provide a program that fosters independence, personal interests and critical debate through intellectual and imaginative engagement with production and contexts of practice.

Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

A Subject-Specific Skills and Knowledge

	Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) On Achieving Level 6	On Achieving Level 5	On Achieving Level 4
A1	A photographic practice that enables critical enquiry and experimentation with materials and processes within a diverse range of subject matter	Demonstrate photographic practice exploring material and technical process establishing practical and critical enquiry within practice.	Understanding A range of technical photographic processes and skills investigating the relationship between idea, material and form.
A2	Critical idea generation and the application of conceptual critique.	Idea generation informed by conceptual enquiry within photographic practice	The ability to identify conceptual development within a photographic practice.
A3	A critical understanding of research methods and their application to the development of photographic work and its fabrication.	A knowledge of practical and contextual research processes and of how these effectively inform the development of photographic practice.	A knowledge of practical and contextual research processes.
A4	Ability to critically employ historical and theoretical perspectives, undertake critical evaluation of the creative process, and to engage in contemporary debates in visual and material culture and wider society.	Ability to effectively employ historical and theoretical perspectives, reflect effectively on the creative process, and evaluate critically contemporary issues in visual and material culture and wider society.	Ability to investigate selected historical and theoretical connections and reflect on the creative process.
A5	Accurate application of skills in post production, editing, sequencing and production of original outputs in a range of material forms and technologies, including high-quality printing, gallery installation, multimedia, editorial and book publication contexts.	Effective creative skills in analogue and digital post-production, editing, sequencing and production of original outputs in a range of contexts.	A range of skills in analogue and digital technologies investigating their potential and demonstrating proficiency in technique.
A6	Critical and practical understanding of how skills and knowledge are applied in the professional world beyond university in both commercial and non-commercial contexts including an ability to respond creatively and imaginatively to precise briefs.	Knowledge of professional photographic contexts and an ability to respond creatively and imaginatively to precise briefs.	An understanding of range of professional contexts for practice and an awareness of audiences.

B Cognitive and Intellectual Skills

	Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) On Achieving Level 6	On Achieving Level 5	On Achieving Level 4
B1	Integrate theory and practice in critical and creative engagement with photography	The ability to identify areas of research to inform, expand and challenge ideas developing critical insight and intellectual curiosity of photography.	An understanding of the theoretical and historical development of photography within contemporary creative practice.
B2	Apply specialist subject knowledge evidencing critical analysis and understanding of historical and cultural factors through self reflection.	Analytical skills to evaluate and speculate on one's own work and the work of others through an understanding of historical and contemporary photographic practice.	The ability to evaluate and analyse photographic practice apply knowledge to a range of photographic contexts.
B3	Communicate in written and oral forms, a critical understanding of debates within contemporary photographic practice demonstrating independent judgement and critique	The ability to contribute to dialogues around practice and to knowledge effectively through oral and written presentations.	The ability to Communicate in written and oral form knowledge of key historical and contemporary debates within photographic practice.

C Skills for Life and Work

	On achieving Level 6 you will be able to:	On achieving Level 5 you will be able to:	On achieving Level 4 you will be able to:
C1	Work Independently Exercise initiative, independence and personal responsibility to manage your own learning and time.	Work Independently Exercise independence and personal responsibility to manage your own learning and time.	Work Independently Manage your own learning and time.
C2	Work with Others Work collaboratively with others to achieve individual and common goals, solve problems creatively and build interpersonal relationships to flourish in a global workplace.	Work with Others Work collaboratively with others to achieve individual and common goals, solve problems creatively.	Work with Others Work collaboratively with others.
C3	Communicate with Impact Communicate clearly, effectively and impactfully with specialist and non-specialist audiences.	Communicate with Impact Communicate clearly and effectively with others.	Communicate with Impact Communicate accurately and reliably with others.
C4	Demonstrate Digital Fluency Use digital skills productively, critically and ethically to enhance creativity and communication.	Demonstrate Digital Fluency Use digital skills productively, critically and ethically.	Demonstrate Digital Fluency Use digital skills productively.

Programme Content

Key:

Core = C

Required = R

Required* = R*

Optional = O

Not available for this status = N/A

If a particular status is greyed out, it is not offered for this programme.

Subject offered as single award

BA (Hons) Photography				Status	
Level	Code	Title	Credits	Single	Joint
4	PHO4000-20	Photographic Practice 1: <i>The Photographic Image</i>	20	C	
4	PHO4001-20	Photographic Practice 2: <i>Identity and the Camera</i>	20	C	
4	PHO4002-20	Photographic Practice 3: <i>Image and Context</i>	20	C	
4	PHO4003-20	Photographic Practice 4: <i>Perception of Place</i>	20	C	
4	PHO4004-20	Professional Contexts 1	20	C	
4	CST4004-20	How Did We Get Here?: Contexts of Photography	20	C	
5	PHO5000-20	Photographic Practice 5 <i>Narrative: Fact</i>	20	C	
5	PHO5100-20	Photographic Practice 6 <i>Narrative: Fiction</i>	20	O	
5	PHO5001-40	Photographic Practice 7: <i>Object, Figure, Space</i>	40	C	
5	PHO5002-20	Professional Contexts 2	20	C	
5	CST5107-20	We Are Here: Photography in the 21st Century	20	C	
5	PPY5100-120	Professional Placement Year	120	O	
6	PHO6001-20	Individual Practice: Portfolio 1	20	C	
6	PHO6002-20	Individual Practice: Portfolio 2	20	O	
6	PHO6003-40	Individual Practice: Major Project	40	C	
6	PHO6004-20	Professional Contexts 3	20	C	
6	CST6100-20	Situating Practice: Final Project	20	C	

Assessment Methods

A range of summative assessment tasks will be used to test the Intended Learning Outcomes in each module. These are indicated in the attached assessment map which shows which tasks are used in which modules.

Students will be supported in their development towards summative assessment by appropriate formative exercises.

Please note: if you choose an optional module from outside this programme, you may be required to undertake a summative assessment task that does not appear in the assessment grid here in order to pass that module.

Work Experience and Placement Opportunities

The course will provide you with a range of opportunities to participate in external projects, such as events, exhibitions, open studios, placements and publications. These opportunities contribute to the future development of your practice and facilitate your skills development in preparation for a broad range of employment possibilities within the creative industries.

These include:

- Professional Contexts modules in levels 4, 5 and 6 which assist you in finding experience with an employer of a self-initiated public platform for your practice
- A Professional Contexts Facebook group page which is an active blackboard for professional opportunities. Staff, students and alumni all contribute to this forum, this page is administered by the Course Leader.
- Industry led lectures and workshops establish external relationships and provide valuable insight into creative networks, professional bodies, organisations, arts funding opportunities as well as competitions and artists residencies
- Industry live briefs and external opportunities are explored in portfolio modules in level 6
- Students engage in exhibition week across all three years of the program. This is an opportunity for students to work collaboratively and showcase their practice in a public forum
- The university careers office provides access to a variety of opportunities, including starting a business, part-time employment, volunteering and placements.

You will have the opportunity to consider undertaking the Professional Placement Year (module PPY5100). This is coordinated and supported by the Careers and Enterprise team, and you will be also be assigned a Professional Placement Year tutor.

During the Professional Placement Year, you would commit to working for the external organisation/s for a period of 9-13 months, between the second and third year of your course.

At the start of your final year, you return to university and submit a Placement Report detailing your development on placement. By successfully completing the module, you are entitled to the addition of "with Professional Placement Year" to your degree title, evidencing your work and outcomes in respect of your placement, and demonstrating your ability to secure and sustain graduate-level employment.

Additional Costs Table

Module Code & Title	Type of Cost	Cost
N/A		

Graduate Attributes

Graduate Attribute	While at Bath Spa, I will develop my ability to:	This programme will help me to do this through:

Confidently Self-Aware	Reflect on and recognise my unique skills, strengths, and values and be able to apply and articulate them in a range of different contexts.	Through the development of confidence and self-awareness in a continuous process of creative exploration and critical reflection. Tutorials, workshops group critiques and independent reflective practice help to build specialist skills and the ability to communicate ideas in a wide range of contexts.
Emotionally Attuned	Be mindful of how my actions and emotions impact those around me so I can better navigate difficult situations and build effective interpersonal relationships.	Through interactive creative dialogues, group critiques and collaboration, the course helps to build a strong culture of respect, empathy and professionalism.
Inclusive Collaborator	Contribute independently to collaborative projects while working effectively with others, valuing diversity and respecting individual differences.	Through individual projects and collaborative activities that develop skills and values of inclusivity and positive diversity. These interactive dialogues help navigate the relationship between the individual photographer, their subject and audience. Collaboration through production, exhibition, publication and other collective activities helps to generate opportunities for students to develop skills in working with others and approaching these relationships with integrity and respect.
Adaptable Innovator	Embrace challenges, taking risks where needed and applying individual and collective problem solving.	Through an approach to photographic practice that encourages creative risk-taking and the development of innovative visual solutions at all stages of the course. Technical workshops and critical discussions support individual problem-solving and the development of specialist, innovative photographic language.
Critical Thinker	Keep an open mind, ask curious questions and think creatively to gain a deeper and broader understanding of global perspectives and the world around me.	Through the integration of critical research and creative practice within all aspects of the course. Intellectual curiosity in dialogue with reflective creative practice will help to develop deeper contextual understanding and critical insight.
Forward Thinker	Set goals, plan ahead and utilise resources to support my personal ambitions and achieve my own version of success.	Through student-centred learning that supports the development of individual creative identity in combination with transferable professional skills. The combination of autonomous creative exploration and the development of professional industry knowledge will support individual success and personal ambitions.
Ethical Leader	Act with empathy, making decisions grounded in ethical principles while advocating for sustainability and positive social change.	Through establishing ethical good practice as a central pillar of creative and professional activities at all stages of the course. Ethical principles, empathy and empowering positive contributions to society are embedded in all aspects of the course.
Responsible Self-Starter	Be accountable for my actions and decisions while demonstrating creativity, proactivity, and a focus on solutions.	Through the process of generating independent creative practice that is supported and strengthened by reflective discussion and critical dialogue with tutors and peers. Throughout the course, self-confidence, intuition, creative play and critical reflection are encouraged to help empower and strengthen independent thought and ambition. Engagement with professional industry contexts also supports this process throughout the course.
Compassionately Resilient	Respond to setbacks with a reflective and positive attitude, flexibility and a self-caring approach.	Through exercising key skills in problem solving in creative practice and developing positive approaches to challenging situations. Students are encouraged to work with flexibility, empathy, integrity and self-care throughout the course and to consider the value of peer support, community and professionalism as part of their creative practice.
Digitally Resourceful	Utilise and responsibly leverage existing and emerging technologies to solve problems and communicate.	Through a continuous engagement with a wide variety of analogue and digital technologies in the production and dissemination of photographic work. Through participation in technical workshops and independent use of resources that are provided for production and post-production of photographic projects throughout the course.

Modifications

Module-level modifications

Code	Title	Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect
		Change to formative and summative assessment components	Approved by Curriculum Committee on 16/06/2021	2021/22
PHO4000-20	Photographic Practice 1: <i>The Photographic Image</i>	Change to summative assessment components	Approved by Curriculum Committee on 16/06/2021	2021/22
PHO4001-20	Photographic Practice 2: <i>Identity and the Camera</i>	Change to summative assessment components	Approved by Curriculum Committee on 16/06/2021	2021/22
PHO4002-20	Photographic Practice 3: <i>Image and Context</i>	Change to summative assessment components	Approved by Curriculum Committee on 16/06/2021	2021/22
PHO4003-20	Photographic Practice 4: <i>Perception of Place</i>	Change to summative assessment components	Approved by Curriculum Committee on 16/06/2021	2021/22
PHO4004-20	Professional Contexts 1	Change to summative assessment components	Approved by Curriculum Committee on 16/06/2021	2021/22
PHO5000-20	Photographic Practice 5 <i>Narrative: Fact</i>	Change to summative assessment components	Approved by Curriculum Committee on 16/06/2021	2021/22
PHO5100-20	Photographic Practice 6 <i>Narrative: Fiction</i>	Change to summative assessment components	Approved by Curriculum Committee on 16/06/2021	2021/22
PHO5001-40	Photographic Practice 7: <i>Object, Figure, Space</i>	Change to summative assessment components	Approved by Curriculum Committee on 16/06/2021	2021/22
PHO5002-20	Professional Contexts 2	Change to summative assessment components	Approved by Curriculum Committee on 16/06/2021	2021/22
PHO6001-20	Individual Practice: Portfolio 1	Change to summative assessment components	Approved by Curriculum Committee on 16/06/2021	2021/22
PHO6002-20	Individual Practice: Portfolio 2	Change to summative assessment components	Approved by Curriculum Committee on 16/06/2021	2021/22
PHO6003-40	Individual Practice: Major Project	Change to summative assessment components	Approved by Curriculum Committee on 16/06/2021	2021/22
HAC4000-20	Introduction to Visual and Material Culture: <i>Art and Photography</i>	Deletion of module	Approved at SQMC March 2022	2022/23
HAC4004-20	Introduction to Visual and Material Culture: <i>Photography</i>	New Module	Approved at SQMC March 2022	2022/23
HAC6100-20	Visual and Material Culture - Final Study	Removal of all School of Design subjects from the module	SQMC March 2022	Academic Year 2022/23
HAC4004-20	Introduction to Visual and Material Culture: <i>Photography</i>	Module title change	Curriculum Committee March 2023	2023/24
HAC5107-20	Photography and Fashion Photography: Contemporary Issues and Practice	Module title changed to CST5107-20 We Are Here: Photography in the 21st Century	Curriculum Committee March 2023	2023/4

HAC6100-20	Visual and Material Culture - Final Study	Module replaced with CST6100-20	Curriculum Committee March 2023	2023/24
HAC4004-20	Introduction to Visual and Material Culture: Photography	Module replaced with CST4004-20 How Did We Get Here?: Contexts of Photography	Approved at SQMC March 2023	2023/24

Programme-level modifications

Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect
Modes of delivery	Approved by Curriculum Committee on 16/06/2021	2021/22

Attached as appendices:

1. Programme structure diagram
2. Map of module outcomes to level/programme outcomes
3. Assessment map
4. Module descriptors

Appendix 1: Programme Structure Diagram – BA (Hons) Photography

Single Honours	
Level 4	
Semester 1	Semester 2
Core Modules	
PHO4000-20 Photographic Practice 1: <i>The Photographic Image</i>	PHO4002-20 Photographic Practice 3: <i>Image and Context</i>
PHO4001-20 Photographic Practice 2: <i>Identity and the Camera</i>	PHO4003-20 Photographic Practice 4: <i>Perception of Place</i>
PHO4004-20 Professional Contexts 1	CST4004-20 How Did We Get Here?: Contexts of Photography
Level 5	
Core Modules	
PHO5000-20 Photographic Practice 5: <i>Narrative - Fact</i>	PHO5001-40 Photographic Practice 7: <i>Object, Figure, Space</i>
CST5107-20 We Are Here: Photography in the 21st Century	PHO5002-20 Professional Contexts 2
Optional Modules	
PHO5100-20 Photographic Practice 6: <i>Narrative - Fiction</i>	
Rule Notes:	
Optional Professional Placement Year 120 credits	
Level 6	
Core Modules	
PHO6001-20 Individual Practice: <i>Portfolio 1</i>	PHO6003-40 Individual Practice: <i>Major Project</i>
CST6100-20 Situating Practice: Final Project	PHO6004-20 Professional Contexts 3
Optional Modules	
PHO6002-20 Individual Practice: <i>Portfolio 2</i>	

Appendix 2: Map of Intended Learning Outcomes

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C,R,R*,O) ^[4]	Intended Learning Outcomes												
				Subject-Specific Skills and Knowledge						Cognitive and Intellectual Skills			Skills for Life and Work			
				A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	B1	B2	B3	C1	C2	C3	C4
4	PHO4000-20	Photographic Practice 1: <i>The Photographic Image</i>	C	X	X	X	X	X		X			X			X
4	PHO4001-20	Photographic Practice 2: <i>Identity and the Camera</i>	C	X		X	X	X			X		X			X
4	PHO4002-20	Photographic Practice 3: <i>Image and Context</i>	C	X				X		X	X			X	X	X
4	PHO4003-20	Photographic Practice 4: <i>Perception of Place</i>	C	X		X	X			X			X		X	X
4	PHO4004-20	Professional Contexts 1	C		X				X		X	X	X	X	X	X
4	CST4004-20	How Did We Get Here: Contexts of Photography	C				X			X	X	X			X	
5	PHO5000-20	Photographic Practice 5 <i>Narrative: Fact</i>	C		X	X	X	X	X			X	X		X	X
5	PHO5100-20	Photographic Practice 6 <i>Narrative: Fiction</i>	O		X	X		X			X	X	X			X
5	PHO5001-40	Photographic Practice 7: <i>Object, Figure, Space</i>	C	X	X		X	X		X		X	X			X
5	PHO5002-20	Professional Contexts 2	C	X					X		X	X		X	X	X
5	CST5107-20	We Are Here: Photography in the 21st Century	C				X		X	X	X	X			X	
5	PPY5100-120	Professional Placement Year	O										X	X	X	

6	PHO6001-20	Individual Practice: Portfolio 1	C	X		X	X	X	X	X			X			X
6	PHO6002-20	Individual Practice: Portfolio 2	O	X	X		X	X		X			X	X	X	X
6	PHO6003-40	Individual Practice: Major Project	C	X	X	X	X	X		X			X	X	X	X
6	PHO6004-20	Professional Contexts 3	C													
6	CST6100-20	Situating Practice: Final Project	C					X				X	X		X	

^[4] C = Core; R = Required, R* = Required*, O = Optional

Appendix 3: Map of Summative Assessment Tasks by Module

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C,R,R*,O) ^[5]	Assessment method												
				Coursework						Practical				Written Examination		
				Dissertation	Dossier	Essay	Journal	Portfolio	Report	Exhibition	Live Project	Presentation	Publication	Set exercises	Written Examination	In-class test (seen)
4	PHO4000-20	Photographic Practice 1: <i>The Photographic Image</i>	C					X								
4	PHO4001-20	Photographic Practice 2: <i>Identity and the Camera</i>	C					X								
4	PHO4002-20	Photographic Practice 3: <i>Image and Context</i>	C										X			
4	PHO4003-20	Photographic Practice 4: <i>Perception of Place</i>	C										X			
4	PHO4004-20	Professional Contexts 1	C		X							X				
4	CST4004-20	How Did We Get Here?: Contexts of Photography	C					X								
5	PHO5000-20	Photographic Practice 5: <i>Narrative-Fact</i>	C					X								
5	PHO5100-40	Photographic Practice 6: <i>Narrative-Fiction</i>	O				X	X								
5	PHO5001-20	Photographic Practice 7: <i>Object, Figure, Space</i>	C					X								
5	PHO5002-20	Professional Contexts 2	C		X					X						
5	CST5107-20	We Are Here: Photography in the 21st Century	C					X								
5	PPY5100-120	Professional Placement Year	O				X	X								
6	PHO6001-20	Individual Practice: Portfolio 1	C					X								
6	PHO6002-20	Individual Practice: Portfolio 2	O					X								
6	PHO6003-40	Individual Practice: Major Project	C					X								
6	PHO6004-20	Professional Contexts 3	C		X			X								
6	CST6100-20	Situating Practice: Final Project	C					X								

^[5] C = Core; R = Required, R* = Required*, O = Optional