



**DE MONTFORT  
UNIVERSITY  
LEICESTER**

**BA (Hons)  
Photography**

**Welcome  
Pack  
2023/2024**

## *Welcome to BA Photography!*

On behalf of the programme team, I would like to warmly welcome you to the BA (Hons) Photography at De Montfort University. We look forward to meeting you on Monday 25<sup>th</sup>, September 2023.

We are looking forward to welcoming you on campus and to our brilliant facilities - and excited to begin a new journey with you! We ask that you take some time to prepare by reading through this welcome pack, and familiarising yourselves with the programme and some of its requirements. It is an exciting time for the programme, with some exciting developments that should enhance your studies with us.

During Welcome Week in September (week beginning 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023), you will meet all of the critical members of the course team and attend some talks and workshops to help you settle into your exciting new environment. The Photography programme sits within the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> floors of the VJ Patel Building. To facilitate this process and create opportunities for you to get to know your peers, we ask that you do some light preparatory work over the summer, details of which are below.

In this pack, you will also find other relevant information about the course prior to meeting you during Induction Week. Please also note that there will be additional opportunities during the first teaching weeks that will allow you to familiarize yourself with the new processes and ways of working at and in this exciting campus.

Above all, we hope that you enjoy your experience here at DMU and that you feel free to express your creativity in a new creative environment that embraces and values the individual image-maker and strongly encourages experimentation and risk-taking. You will have supportive tutors, great technical resources with an excellent level and standard of equipment - and a great Library in the Learning Hub to help sustain your studies.

**Dr. Mark Kasumovic**  
***Programme Leader***  
***BA ( Hons) Photography***

# Programme structure

To gain a BA Honours award, a student must accumulate 360 credits over three years. There are 120 credits at each level/year. That means that you must meet the learning outcomes for each module to pass and accumulate the credits.

Every module listed below has a module leader (ML) responsible for the organization of the module and coordinates the teaching of all staff (module tutors) on the module. If you have a specific query to a module, you should see the module leader in the first instance. Further information and more details can be found in the module handbooks.

At Level 4 (full-time year 1), all four modules are worth 30 credits and run consecutively over four blocks, each of seven weeks. This means you only take one module at a time, and complete all of your assessments for one module before moving to the next one.

FOTO 1001 - Photography Ideas and Concepts (ML: Mark Kasumovic)	<i>30 credits</i>	Block 1
FOTO 1002 - Moving Image Ideas and Practice (ML: Dave Soden)	<i>30 credits</i>	Block 2
FOTO 1003 - Critical and Visual Research (ML: Mark Kasumovic)	<i>30 credits</i>	Block 3
FOTO 1004 - Presenting and Contextualising Your Work (ML: M. Pell)	<i>30 credits</i>	Block 4

At Level 5 (full-time year 2), there are four 30-credit modules. The first two modules are studied sequentially, and the final two modules are studied concurrently, meaning, you will study them together over the course of 14-weeks.

FOTO 2001 - Studio Practice: Themes and Techniques (ML: Matthew Pell)	<i>30 credits</i>	Block 1
FOTO 2002 - Curation and Exhibition (ML: Sally Hossack)	<i>30 credits</i>	Block 2
FOTO 2003 - Experimental and Emerging Practice (ML: Dave Soden)	<i>30 credits</i>	Block 3/4
FOTO 2004 - Critical Research and Contemporary Visual Culture (ML: Andrea Jaeger)	<i>30 credits</i>	Block 3/4

At Level 6 (full-time year 3), there are four 30-credit modules. You will study two modules in block 1 and 2, and two modules in block 3 and 4. This means that there are two 14-week blocks of study

FOTO 3001 - Final Major Project Development (ML: Mark Kasumovic)	<i>30 credits</i>	Block 1/2
FOTO 3002 - Critical Research (ML: Andrea Jaeger)	<i>30 credits</i>	Block 1/2
FOTO 3003 - Final Major Project (ML: Mark Kasumovic)	<i>30 credits</i>	Block 3/4
FOTO 3004 - Professional Practice (ML: Sally Hossack)	<i>30 credits</i>	Block 3/4

# Critical programme and module information

## **Level 4 (full-time year 1)**

At level 4, you will investigate different approaches to making both still and moving images work, and apply a broad palette of methods and techniques as you tackle the project briefs. Lectures and screenings to put work into context and inspire you; workshop demonstrations will allow you to see how equipment and software work and the projects briefs will let you put what you have learned into practice. Tutorials, either individually or in small groups, will help you develop your creative thinking and solve problems. There will be seminars to discuss work, presentations and written work to help build your critical thinking.

## **Level 5 (full-time year 2)**

At level 5, the process is as important as the product. You will be expected to research and develop project briefs in much more depth than you have previously. This will involve you in a lot of experimentation, which means being unafraid of making some mistakes - and learning from them! We want you to explore our subject and begin to consider where your interests lie within this fascinating field. We will work with you to develop skills to reflect on your work and achievements and evaluate your progress. This will be an exciting year as you contend with questions such as how to identify and engage your audience, your working methods, your goals and your creativity.

## **Level 6 (full-time year 3)**

During your final year, you will work towards producing your final major project, which you will showcase in your degree show. The four modules at level 6 are interwoven so that critical professional and visual practices meld together to inform and enrich each other and your work. There are four modules:

Two 30-credit modules centred around giving you the freedom, time and support to create a high-quality body of work in an area of practice defined by you. Final Major Project will build on the emerging strengths and interests you worked on at level 5. A 30-credit critical research module will support you in developing research skills and help build your confidence with writing critically and analytically. Finally, A 30-credit creative professional practice module will build upon the year two experience and asks you to consider an area of practice that you may want to move into when you leave - whether that is working for an employer, working as a freelance, working as an artist, teaching, setting up your own business or moving into further study.

# Learning and Teaching Information

**Active Blended Learning (ABL)** - Each module comprises of blended learning components that include face-to-face activities and online learning via the Learning Zone platform, which can be completed on or offsite, and you will be advised on when they are best to achieve. We are aiming to deliver 100% of your teaching and learning on site in a face-to-face format.

**Seminars and Seminar presentations** – allow students to test ideas against those of staff and other students and more formal presentations and discuss contemporary and historical photography.

**Practical demonstrations and Workshops** – Workshop practices are a significant part of all the production modules. In addition to transferring technical skills and expertise, they offer hands-on instruction to students and guidance to complete specific technical or production tasks.

**Projects** – The project is essential in teaching and learning in that it encourages the definition of problems and their appropriate solution and evaluation. All projects have clearly defined learning outcomes and assessment criteria related to the content, which provide the framework for exploration, experiment, research, development, presentation and communication. As you progress through the course, you are expected to take a more active role in directing your work and ideas and designing your project briefs through negotiation with staff. Since studio practice is the main element of the course, staff closely monitor the implementation, management and intellectual development of all projects.

**Briefing meetings/Progress critiques** – to launch projects and discuss current progress and anticipated requirements.

**Personal Tutors & Tutorials** – Each student will be allocated a Personal Tutor (PT). The tutorial system enables exploration through pastoral issues, discussing topics such as current work and progress, including new ideas and possibilities, and providing analysis and exchange. Some modules also include scheduled one-to-one tutorials with you, Module Tutor, where you can discuss module-related projects and briefs intensively.

**DMU Global and Study Visits** – DMU offers students the opportunity to expand their studies via DMU Global. These opportunities will be communicated to you as they arise. Given the current circumstances, DMU Global has been reduced significantly. However, we often go on more local trips to visit galleries and exhibitions. These aim to foster group dynamics, peer group learning, and broadening student experience of different cultural and contextual perspectives. Further, visits to museums, galleries and other appropriate institutions complement student awareness and understanding of the contemporary commercial and artistic photographic practice.

**Visiting speakers** – carefully selected speakers relevant to the course contribute through presentations on their practice and specialism.

# List of Suggested Equipment for BA Photography and Video

We realise that a photography and video course makes several financial demands upon you. We have put together a list of some of the things we would see as essential items with that in mind.

Students can expect to spend an average between £150-£200 per academic year on materials during their studies. You may spend more or less depending on how you work, but this covers items such as notepads, small accessories, film (that we do not stock in the department), photographic paper, prints (digital and conventional) and mounting.

## Essential Items:

- Paper – writing (lined and plain)
- 3-4 A4 ring binders for workshops/seminars/ technical folder OR a portable drive to store electronic copies
- Pens, pencils, highlighter pens
- Memory Sticks (to transfer files from computers on campus)
- SD cards (*loaned cameras come with cards, but good to have your own.*)

There is an Art Shop on the ground floor of the VJP building, where you will be able to purchase all the usual items. **Although you are welcome to do so, you will NOT need to purchase your own camera immediately.** It would be more sensible to explore the range of cameras available within the A/V Loans stores within DMU and see if they are appropriate to your needs. Someone interested in sports photography may need a camera that can store information quickly. In contrast, someone interested in studio work may prefer larger file sizes to attain better detail. Please be aware that our stocks of digital cameras are primarily Canon and Sony, and we have a range of lenses that will fit this make.

There is also a stock of tripods, lighting equipment and other items available on loan from the equipment store.

The following is a shortlist of recommended equipment you will need within your first year on the course:

### **Portable external hard drive for backing up all work.**

Suggested makes include Iomega, Freecom, LaCie, Hitachi, Western Digital. Suggested size 1TB/2TB, ensure Mac compatible- as the computers within the department are Macs. **Your own SD cards-** we suggest 1-2 which have at least 32GB of memory. These are *helpful* if you are borrowing our DSLRs and video equipment. Suggested makes include SanDisk, Lexar.

**Archival/Portfolio Photographic Boxes** - for presentation and storage of photographic prints. (These are recommended, but you can discuss this with a tutor and pick them up after you start the course).

**Memory sticks/USB Flash drives- 16/32GB-** for transferring files and storing lecture slide presentations. Amazon are very cheap for these.

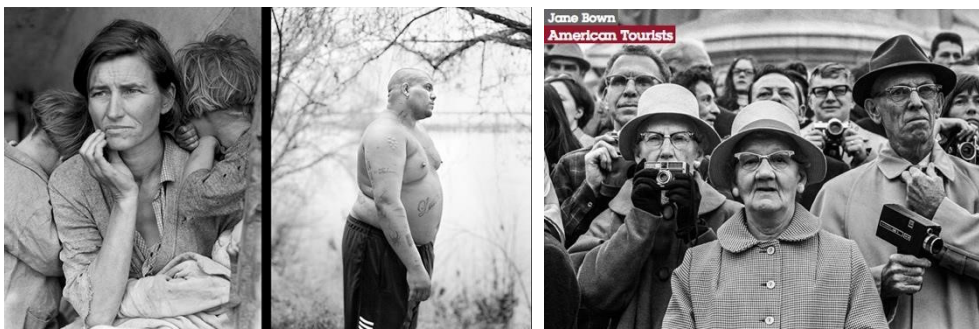
Please remember it is often cheaper to buy online- watch for deals.

**Some 'Useful Tips' from our current students:**

- Boots sells film and usually has it in stock (even medium format), but remember that you can get Black and White film from our tech team for free!
- If you need any colour or unique BW darkroom film, look for deals on Ebay and Amazon, it's much cheaper.
- If you want your own film camera, buy from Ebay. I got one (plus a 50mm lens) for £50.

## Summer Project

During Welcome Week in September (week beginning 25th September 2023), you will meet the course team and attend a few talks to help you to settle in to your exciting new environment. To facilitate this process and to create opportunities for you to get to know your peers, you are required to do some preparatory work over the summer.



## Practical Project #1: Gallery Visit

An important part of your learning process involves an on-going awareness of current exhibitions and contemporary themes around photographic practice. You are therefore encouraged to try to visit at least one gallery during the summer, whether in Leicester, a city closer to you or indeed something further afield that you encounter on your travels.

Read about current exhibitions online first to determine which show appeals to you, and you can also choose to develop your knowledge further through researching suitable links on websites and sourcing relevant books and articles.

Document your visit and write a short evaluative review (approximately 300 words). You should make good use of additional texts about the artists/photographers featured in the exhibition.

There are a number of sites that offer information about the exhibitions currently on show in the UK, Europe and further afield. **You will put this in your first assessment on the programme!** Some places to find shows are listed below:

- <https://www.timeout.com/london/art/top-10-photography-exhibitions-in-london>
- <https://www.visitlondon.com/things-to-do/whats-on/art-and-exhibitions/photography>
- <http://www.photography-now.com/exhibition/?type=A&country=GB>
- <http://thephotographersgallery.org.uk/>
- <https://www.vam.ac.uk/>
- <https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2018/event/dorothea-lange-vanessa-winslip>
- <http://www.whitechapelgallery.org/>
- <http://photography-now.com/exhibition>

## Practical Project #2: Significant Image

For the module FOTO1001 Photography Ideas and Practice, we would like you to consider one image that is particularly significant to you. This could be a a photograph that is personally poignant to you, a photograph you have taken, or an image made by someone else that you feel strongly about.

You need to be prepared to speak about your choice(s), and bring these in on the first day of FOTO1001 (a week after Welcome Week). Note that even if it includes website images, you will need to print this out and bring it along. The prints can be photocopy quality. We really want to learn what excites you about images!



# Reading List

You are not required to read or purchase all of these books by the time you arrive in September, but you are advised to source at least one text dealing with photographic history and theory (choose any one from the first three on the list), and one text covering technical and practical aspects of photography (next three on the list below).

You can begin to explore these texts and develop a sense of what may be covered in your first year at University:

## **Photographic history and theory**

- Bate, D. (2016) *Photography: The Key Concepts*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Oxford: Berg.
- Clarke, G. (1997) *The Photograph*. Oxford University Press.
- Wells, L. (2015) *Photography: A Critical Introduction*. 5<sup>th</sup> Edition. Oxford: Routledge.

## **Technical**

- Farrell, I. (2017) *A Complete Guide to Digital Photography*. London: Quercus.
- Freeman, M. (2017) *The Photographer's Handbook: Equipment, Technique, Style*. London: ILEX.
- Silber, M. (2017) *Advancing Your Photography: Secrets to Amazing Photos from the Masters*. Miami: Mango.