

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	BA (Hons) Photography and Visual Media
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 6
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	N/A
Credit Structure ²	360 Credits Level 4: 120 Credits Level 5: 120 Credits Level 6: 120 Credits
Mode of Attendance	Full-time and Part-time
Standard Length of Course ³	3 years full-time
Intended Award	BA (Hons) Photography and Visual Media
Named Exit Awards	BA Photography and Visual Media DipHE Photography and Visual Media CertHe Photography and Visual Media
Entry Requirements ⁴	112 UCAS tariff points (or equivalent): All applicants will be required to submit a digital portfolio as part of the application process and will be offered the opportunity to attend an in-person interview. Decisions will be made based on the strength of the portfolio and, where applicable, performance at interview
Delivering Institution(s)	University of Suffolk
UCAS Code	

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the BA (Hons) Photography and Visual Media course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 4 in the 2026/27 academic year.

Course Summary

Here at the University of Suffolk, we are rethinking how we engage with visual imagery, while nurturing a new generation of critical thinkers, independent practitioners and creative individuals that have something to say. From day one, we encourage our students to begin developing your creative voice through research, critical debate, in-class discussion, and use this new knowledge to contribute to the rich visual tapestry of our society. The course

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2024\)](#)

² All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the [Higher education credit framework for England](#).

³ Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#).

⁴ Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the [Admissions Policy](#) and further details about Disclosure and Barring Checks (DBS) can be found on the [University's DBS webpage](#).

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provides a suitable base for a wide variety of potential employment types, whether that relates to working as an employee, becoming self-employed, or working as a freelancer across a range of creative disciplines. The teaching of creative and analytical thinking, research skills, problem solving, communication skills, time-management, and self-organisation, are all embedded within the delivery of the course.

Our unique BA (Hons) Photography and Visual Media programme takes pride in empowering its students using our state-of-the-art analogue, digital facilities and emerging technologies to enable each of you becoming strong independent visual thinkers. Our holistic process to learning will enable you to rise above the daily creative noise from social media and create high quality, thought provoking, and meaningful work that brings personal development, artistic authorship, and individual identity to the forefront of your practice.

Course Aims

The aims of the BA (Hons) Photography & Visual Media course are to:

- Offer an integrated approach to theoretical, critical, practical and creative work in photography, relevant to students' futures in work or further study.
- Engage critically with the analysis, theory and history of photography in ways which complement, inform and underpin creative photographic practice and production.
- Develop the practical, critical and conceptual skills involved in the making of creative photographic work.
- Provide opportunities to initiate, negotiate, deliver and reflect upon independent research, including critical and practical projects.
- Develop a range of subject-specific and generic skills to facilitate the continuing growth of professional and personal identities, the capacity for lifelong learning and a sustainable career.

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the [INSERT FULL COURSE TITLE] course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 4/5/6 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)⁵.

1. Synthesise theoretical, critical, practical and creative approaches to produce a range of photographic artefacts that demonstrate ongoing and personal development.

⁵ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2024\)](#)
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2. Create an independent body of photographic work that demonstrates innovation, experimentation and a critically self-reflexive response to a self-initiated enquiry.
3. Undertake sustained period of independent research, drawing on a range of relevant historical and contemporary sources, demonstrating advanced critical skills of analysis, interpretation and/or evaluation.

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmarks: **Subject Benchmark Statement. Art & Design. December 2019**

Course Structure

The BA (Hons) Photography and Visual Media comprises modules at levels 4, 5 and 6.

Module Specifications for each of these modules is included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

	Module	Credits	Module Type ⁶
Level 4			
	Documentary, A.I. and Emerging Technologies	30	R
	Photography: Environmentalism and Activism	30	R
	Photography: Histories and Contemporary Legacies	30	R
	Photography: Storytelling and the Narrative	30	R
	Photographic Techniques	0	M
Level 5			
	Independent Practice	30	R
	The Photobook	30	R
	Collaboration as Practice	15	R
	Professional Practice 1	15	R
	Context and Critique: Dissertation Preparation	30	R
Level 6			
	Degree Project: Preparation	30	R
	Dissertation	30	M
	Degree Project: Resolution	30	R

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	Professional Practice 2	15	R
	Degree Project: Exhibition	15	R

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded BA (Hons) Photography and Visual Media. Students who leave the course early may be eligible for a BA Photography and Visual Media award on successful completion of 300 credits including all mandatory modules at levels 4 and 5 and at least 60 credits at level 6. A DipHE Photography and Visual Media on successful completion of 240 credits including all mandatory modules at levels 4 and 5. A CertHE Photography and Visual Media on successful completion of 120 credits at level 4.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at Ipswich. Students studying full-time on the BA (Hons) Photography & Visual Media course are likely to have approximately 8 tutor-structured learning hours per week for level 4, consisting of lectures, presentations, technical workshops, and tutorials. These will be a blend of campus and online contact. At level 5 an average week consists of approximately 8 hours of teaching, comprising lectures, workshops, tutor set learning, critiques, seminars, and tutorials, which will be a blend of campus and online contact. At level 6 an average week consists of approximately 8 hours of lectures and student presentations in addition to individual tutorials, which will be a blend of campus and online contact. In addition to the tutor-structured learning hours, students will normally be expected to undertake approximately 1000 hours of independent study per academic year, but should be prepared for this to vary, based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

Course Assessment

A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assess each module's intended learning outcomes. Assessment on the course will be 100% coursework (including imagery, essays, reports, presentations, group work, reflective learning journals and research projects).

Course Team

The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute.

Course Costs

Students undertaking BA (Hons) Photography and Visual Media will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

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Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK/EU	£9,790 per year
Part-time UK/EU	£2,448 per 30 credit module
Full-time International	£16,440 per year
Part-time International	£4,110 per 30 credit module

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

Students will be required to pay additional costs for national and international trips, amounting to a maximum of £1500 payable at a later date (this is at the discretion of the travel company).

Students are likely to incur other costs for e.g. equipment, materials, printing, print finishing, optional field trips, exhibitions amounting to approximately from £100-400 per year.

Academic Framework and Regulations

This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the [website](#).