

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	FdA Professional Photographic Practice
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 5
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	None
Credit Structure ²	240 Credits Level 4: 120 Credits Level 5: 120 Credits
Mode of Attendance	Full-time
Standard Length of Course ³	2 years full-time
Intended Award	FdA Professional Photographic Practice
Named Exit Awards	CertHE Professional Photographic Practice
Entry Requirements ⁴	80 UCAS tariff points (or above), CC (A-Level), MPP (BTEC). Applicants are expected to hold GCSE English and Mathematics at grade 4/C or above. Interview/portfolio accepted.
Delivering Institution	University of Suffolk at East Coast College (Great Yarmouth)
UCAS Code	W602

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the FdA Professional Photographic Practice course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 4 in the 2024-25 academic year⁵.

Course Summary

Photography provides a variety of opportunities to the commercially-aware practitioner. From fast-moving sports, photo-journalism, landscape, the natural world, promotional work through websites, magazines and brochures, to commissioned events such as portraiture and weddings. FdA Professional Photographic Practice provides the opportunity to develop your photography/post-production skills alongside your awareness of opportunities within the sector and the necessity of self-promotional work through marketing, social media and portfolio development. Academic skills will be developed through contextual study of genre/individual practitioners and progression to Level 6 is provided through BA (Hons) Arts Practice (progression route). Students will concentrate on their portfolio development and will

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

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](#).

⁵ The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the [Admissions Policy](#).

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have the opportunity to exhibit their work through the college's annual art exhibitions and other external promotional events.

Course Aims

- To promote a flexible reflective approach and the development of growing independence to support a career in photography;
- To develop the key academic skills which will broaden the range of opportunities for work, employment and self-employment within the photographic industry;
- To encourage the understanding that learning takes place in all areas of photographic activity;
- To develop the specific technical competencies required of a photographic practitioner;
- To encourage creativity within the context of professional practice;
- To promote understanding of the photographic sector;
- To encourage the assumption of responsibility and the ability to make informed decisions;
- To promote personal and inter-personal skills required for progression within the photographic industry;
- To promote widened participation and enable further progression within Higher Education;
- To create a strong foundation for lifelong learning.

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the FdA Professional Photographic Practice 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 5 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)⁶.

1. Demonstrate a critical understand of the main methods of enquiry underpinning the principles and development of the photographic industry and the roles within it.
2. Critically evaluate the responsibilities and values which influence photographers in their professional careers.
3. Evaluate the skills required for effective communication and peer working in the context of a working photographic practitioner.
4. Apply evaluation, critique and appraisal techniques to own work and that of others.
5. Locate, select and critically analyse information using appropriate conventions regarding attribution, referencing and presentation.

⁶ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

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6. Provide and evaluate solutions to problems and unforeseen circumstances encountered in projects.
7. Set and achieve realistic objectives in projects and establish the mechanisms required to monitor progress and action plans, demonstrating an increasing level of self-management and independence.
8. Demonstrate through research and work based learning the ability to create and exhibit professional quality photographic works.
9. Interact effectively with other artists and possible clients from conception to implementation and evaluation.
10. Demonstrate the ability to develop professional working relationships within photographic practice.
11. Select, manage, organise and retrieve information when investigating and researching photographic problems.

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmarks / Professional Standards:

- QAA Foundation Degree Qualification Benchmark (FDQB) – September 2015
- The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (FHEQ) – November 2014
- Subject Benchmark Statement: Art and Design – February 2017

Course Structure

The FdA Professional Photographic Practice comprises modules at levels 4 and 5.

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

	Module	Credits	Module Type ⁷
Level 4			
	Introduction to Photographic Equipment	20	Requisite
	Introduction to Photographic Software	20	Requisite
	Introduction to Photographic Genre Analysis	20	Requisite
	Personal Development and Planning	20	Requisite
	Photography for Publication	20	Requisite
	Photography for Exhibition (WBL)	20	Mandatory
Level 5			
	Advanced Digital Manipulation and Enhancement	20	Requisite
	Moving Image	20	Requisite
	Professional Inquiry	20	Requisite

⁷ Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards

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	Research and Critical Thinking	20	Mandatory
	Final Major Project (WBL)	40	Mandatory

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a FdA Professional Photographic Practice. Students who leave the course early may be eligible for a CertHE Professional Photographic Practice on successful completion of 120 credits including all mandatory modules at level 4.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at Great Yarmouth. Students studying full-time on FdA Professional Photographic Practice are likely to have approximately 288 contact hours for level 4 and 300 contact hours for level 5. The contact hours will be a mix of lectures, workshops and tutorials. Students will normally be expected to undertake 30-40 hours of independent study in an average week, 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 overall will be 100% coursework (including essays, reports, presentations, group work, research and practical portfolios).

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 FdA Professional Photographic Practice will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK	£8,220 per year
Part-time UK	Not applicable
Full-time EU/International	£14,610 per year
Part-time EU/International	Not applicable

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 trips, some equipment such as darkroom paper and photographic film. This will amount to approximately £50-80 per term depending on attendance to residential visits which will incur a higher cost.

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](#).