

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography education at the University of Westminster has a tradition dating back to 1839, and the world's first photography degree was delivered at our predecessor, the Regent Street Polytechnic. Our photography teaching is delivered in one of the finest facilities in the country, by leading academics and practitioners.

The Photography Centre offers six large, professionally equipped studios, industry-standard post-production facilities, a selection of medium-format digital backs, two Hasselblad Flextight drum scanners, over a hundred medium-format film cameras and much more. In addition, there are well-equipped laboratories for post-production, image analysis, sensitometry, colour evaluation and colour profile and management.

Alongside all of these facilities, our highly experienced technical staff are there to provide you with expert advice and support. And our photography courses are all based at the Faculty of Media, Arts and Design at Harrow, where you will have the chance to collaborate with artists, producers, journalists, designers and musicians.

"The best things about my course are the availability of the facilities and equipment; the range of different modules that allow you to find yourself as a photographer; independence; and lecturers and technicians who are always there to help you, whatever situation you are in."

PATRYCJA PRAZMOWSKA
Photographic Arts BA Honours,
third year

>> See also: Art and Design p48 • Journalism and Mass Communication p124
• Television, Film & Moving Image p198



Photography studios
Harrow Campus

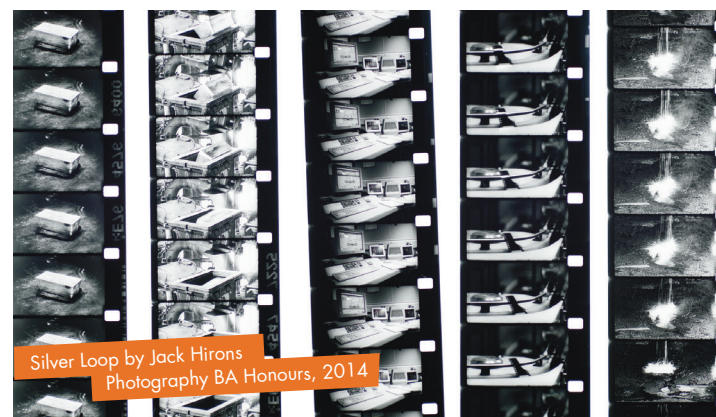


Photography darkroom
Harrow Campus



Outside entrance
The Forum, Harrow Campus

Westminster
pioneered the
teaching of
photography
in **1839**



Silver Loop by Jack Hirons
Photography BA Honours, 2014



Digital imaging
technologies, Harrow Campus

IMAGING ART AND SCIENCE BA/BSc HONOURS

This innovative course, unique in the UK, offers breadth and depth in the study of imaging techniques, histories and applications, from multiple perspectives of art, science and technology. You will explore the rich and visually complex world of imaging in a dynamic, creative and interdisciplinary environment. Covering key technological developments, applications and cultural creation, the course combines the study of all aspects of imaging, including photography, optics, media arts, visual communication, imaging science and technologies, incorporating aspects of psychology and computing.

The course is suitable for applicants who have a background in science subjects with a strong interest in visual arts, or with a background in arts subjects and a strong interest in science and technology, and is particularly aimed at those studying a combination of arts and science subjects. Graduates from the BSc pathway may progress into careers in digital post-production, digital special effects, imaging education, industrial research and development, processing laboratory management, professional photography, scientific, forensic and medical imaging, technical consultancy, and TV and cine camera work. Graduates from the BA pathway may progress into careers in commercial image production as well as gallery, museum or editorial work, arts management, and independent arts practice.

Course content

The course focuses on image production for scientific and artistic applications, with an emphasis on technical excellence. Trans-disciplinary study is developed throughout the course, alongside an art or science specialism. After a shared first year, introducing the ideas, perspectives and methods of both arts and sciences, you will follow the BA or the BSc pathway. Years 2 and 3 consist of a combination of pathway-specific modules and shared interdisciplinary modules; the modules detailed below are subject to final approval.

Year 1 (Credit Level 4)

A core year taken by all students, covering practical photography and imaging techniques, visual literacy, research methods for art and science, creative and critical thinking, and history of science and art.

Modules include:

- Imaging Innovations
- Photography and Digital Culture
- The Good Image?

Year 2 (Credit Level 5)

You will follow either the BA or BSc disciplinary pathway, and study shared modules for advanced practice, core modules for science and art pathways, plus a menu of optional modules.

BA specific modules:

- Imaging in Context
- Vision and Technology

BSc specific modules:

- Colour Science and Application
- Imaging System Performance

Shared and option modules:

- Art/Science Collaboration
- Beyond Perception
- Data
- Media Frontiers
- Media Technologies and Practices
- Visualisation and Representation

Length of course
Three years full-time

UCAS code
21W3

Campus
Harrow (See p20)

Typical offer for September 2015

A Levels – BCC, including at least one, and preferably a combination of priority subjects such as Photography, Media, Art, Maths and Science; International Baccalaureate – 28 points; Edexcel BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma – DMM in related subjects. Plus grades A to C in a minimum of 5 GCSEs including a Grade B in Maths, English and a science.

Applicants without a photographic qualification will be asked to demonstrate photographic skills via an online portfolio. Candidates may also be asked to demonstrate their interest in art, science and visual communication by means of assignment or portfolio.

Year 3 (Credit Level 6)

In the final year you will focus on the completion of a substantial practical project in a subject of your choice, alongside specialised modules in advanced aspects of imaging.

BA specific modules:

- Dissertation

BSc specific modules:

- Advanced Imaging System Performance
- Image Processing and Analysis

Shared modules:

- Creative Coding
- Major Project
- Professional Practice and Public Engagement



Motion analysis of aerosol particles, Cyan Crosby

PHOTOGRAPHIC ARTS BA HONOURS

This is a course in the creative and critical practice of photography. You will develop your own visual practice through an appreciation of the history of the medium and a critical understanding of its wider social and cultural significance. You will also explore a wide range of relevant contemporary theories and debates through critical reading and writing. The course aims to produce informed practitioners who are well prepared for a range of related careers.

Many of our graduates go on to work as photographers and photographic artists, but equally they pursue a range of careers within the broader photographic and creative sectors, as designers, historians, magazine editors, museum and gallery curators, picture editors and researchers, teachers, and writers. Many also go on to postgraduate study.

Course content

Practical modules are designed to equip you with the techniques and craft skills of a variety of digital and analogue photographic media including video. You are encouraged to develop a creative, critically informed and self-reflective approach to your practical work.

Alongside this, theory modules reflect on the history and criticism of photography, drawing on a number of related fields including art history, media and cultural theory, and sociology. You will learn to form independent, informed opinions of your own work and that of others. There is a continual emphasis on personal and professional development throughout the course.

Year 1 (Credit Level 4)

This level provides you with an intensive grounding in the key photographic techniques, theories and concepts, forming the basis for later learning. Areas of practical study include: digital and analogue image processing, printing, and image manipulation; key photographic skills (a full range of analogue camera formats and DSLR cameras); and studio lighting and electronic flash.

Key historical and critical concepts in the first year include modernity and modernism, semiotics, the history and role of the photograph in society, and visual languages.

Year 2 (Credit Level 5)

At this level you are encouraged to push the boundaries of your own photographic practice, and experiment and explore new ways of working including video, camera-less photography and alternative processes. You will also produce project work for specific contexts such as the gallery, magazine, the photobook or the screen.

Students are offered options in work placements, group exhibitions, study abroad and collaborative interdisciplinary modules. Theory modules explore issues of identity and meaning in photographic imagery, the relationship between new technologies and vision, power and social control, and the contribution of the unconscious in the perception of images. There is a series of advanced lectures informed by the latest research in photography theory on topics such as photography and ethics, globalisation and landscape photography, and photography and abstraction.

Length of course
Three years full-time

UCAS code
W640

Campus
Harrow (See p20)

Typical offer for September 2015

A Levels – BB/CCC, including Photography; International Baccalaureate – 28 points (minimum); Edexcel BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma – MMM. Applicants should also have a good portfolio of practical work. See also entry requirements on p233.



Photographic Arts darkroom, Harrow Campus

PHOTOGRAPHY BA HONOURS

This is one of the only four-year, part-time photography degrees in the UK. It is aimed at school leavers and mature applicants who use photography in their work, and who are concerned with issues of photographic representation.

The course is designed to equip you with a range of critical skills for understanding the uses, functions and meanings of images in relation to art, society and culture. In addition to our experienced and highly respected teaching staff, a team of dedicated technicians and a wide range of visiting lecturers and guest speakers support the course.

Many of our graduates go on to work as photographers and photographic artists or pursue a range of careers within the broader photographic sectors, such as community project workers, designers, magazine editors, museum and gallery curators, picture editors and researchers, teachers, and writers, and many go on to postgraduate study.

Course content

Year 1 (Credit Level 4)

Key historical and critical concepts in the first year include modernity and modernism, semiotics, the history and role of the photograph in society, and visual languages. You are provided with a thorough grounding in key techniques of digital and analogue image processing, printing and image manipulation; studio lighting and electronic flash; and image and conceptual strategies, which form the basis for later learning.

Year 2 (Credit Level 5)

Theory modules explore issues of identity and meaning in photographic imagery, the relationship between new technologies and vision, power and social control, and the contribution of the unconscious in the perception of images. You are encouraged to develop a creative, critically informed and self-reflective approach to your practice.

Year 3 (Credit Levels 5 and 6)

This year of study is research and project based, and you are supported in working in real-world contexts through work placements and public exhibitions. Optional modules allow you to develop specialist skills in publishing, gallery practice or video. Students are offered further options in work placements, group exhibitions, study abroad and collaborative interdisciplinary modules, and a series of advanced lectures informed by the latest research in photography theory.

Credit Level 6 begins in the second semester, and modules are designed for you to develop a more independent approach to coursework. Professional Futures encourages the development of professional skills and networks for future careers through the creation of portfolios, and talks from guest artists, photographers and industry professionals.

Length of course

Four years part-time (flexible)

Application

Apply direct to the University at westminster.ac.uk

Campus

Harrow (See p20)

Entry requirements

Applicants must demonstrate a strong interest in both practice and theory, have a high standard of oral and written English, and submit a portfolio. A short essay may be set for applicants interviewed.



Year 4 (Credit Level 6)

The final year of the course focuses on the production of two major pieces of self-directed work: the Dissertation and the Major Project, both supported by regular tutorials and workshops. The degree show exhibition in a prestigious London venue acts as a launch pad for your career.

The course is taught one day a week for four years with further access to facilities. Your prior experience or learning may be credited, and applicants with exceptionally advanced qualifications or experience may be granted admission at Credit Level 5 of the degree.

"The atmosphere at Harrow is great, and the Photographic Department has fantastic facilities and specialist equipment, including our own darkrooms, print finishing rooms and studios."

Simon Westgate

Photographic Arts BA Honours, graduated in 2014



British Subculture by Lewis Simpson
Photography BA Honours 2014