

# Potential Course Changes for September 2021-Summary for Students

Course Names:

Documentary Photography and Photojournalism MA

**We are excited to be planning our return to campus next academic year and look forward to welcoming both new and returning students. It remains our firm intention that we will be returning to campus with our facilities and resources open as normal in September 2021.**

**Your wellbeing, health and safety remain our primary concern and, while we cannot predict the future, our learning from the last 18 months have enabled us to make contingency plans for your education delivery to ensure that we are able to respond to any future COVID-19 related changes.**

**This document sets out how we intend to deliver your course should there be a change in circumstances which require us to respond to new government restrictions in relation to the coronavirus pandemic.**

We have listened to feedback from students on their experiences of the last academic year and have used these experiences to plan for all eventualities. Should we need to implement social distancing and/or reduce our onsite presence the following steps would be likely to take place:

- Tutorials and other teaching would be delivered online except for the onsite activity outlined below
- Workshops and technical support will also be online and with a bureau service operating for leaving and collecting work (like print or 3D materials) or an outsourcing arrangement (like specialist machinists)
- Our equipment loans service will enable booking, collection and return of specialist equipment required to complete your assignments (like cameras, sewing machines, or midi controllers)
- Any examinations on your course would be delivered as online timed assessments
- Course teams would provide virtual alternatives to field trips and visits
- Work placement opportunities might need to be postponed or alternatives offered, depending on the workplace environment
- Travel restrictions might require us to cancel or limit opportunities for studying and working abroad, particularly in the 2021/22 academic year.

Your course involves practical elements and access to specialist teaching and resources. If COVID-19 restrictions were in place that limit what we can do on campus, we anticipate that you would receive regular onsite activity once a week. This may be subject to change depending on the restrictions in place.

**All courses in the Westminster School of Arts have significant practical components. Practical work is a priority for students and our School is geared to support this. Our alternatives are based on experience of the 18 months in lockdown, where students did much of their practical work from home, but also had good access to equipment, expertise, training, resources and even studios. We don't know what a future lockdown might look like, but we have experience now of supporting students through the pandemic and we are confident in supporting students to meet the learning outcomes on their courses.**

Students will be able to access specialist resources (including editing suites, library spaces, recording studios and studio time) using a booking system. You will also have online access to a vast range of new learning support material, including technical explanations and lecture material to support your studies as well as an expansion in the digital resources available from the Library. In most cases we

were able to supply equipment and materials for students to complete their work including computers and software. We are very impressed and proud about what students achieved in 20/21. The School's Online Degree Show shows what is possible under difficult conditions, but we also managed physical shows for Fine Art and Photography courses, a stunning set of films for Fashion Design a spectacular website for Contemporary Media Practice and performances from Music students. All this reflects our commitment to making creative work whatever the pandemic brings. We will convene a meeting of student representatives from all courses should we be compelled to change our normal delivery patterns.

Please be reassured that these steps will only be implemented if COVID-19 restrictions are in place. However, if you are unsure about this we have set out some options for you below, in line with our Student Terms and Conditions:

- For **new students** joining in September 2021, you can either defer your entry until September 2022 or withdraw your application.
- For **continuing students** returning in September 2021, you can interrupt your studies until the 2022/23 academic year or withdraw from your course. If you withdraw, you will receive a transcript of the credits you have achieved so far.

To withdraw or defer your studies without incurring fees, you must notify us before the start of teaching week three (**midnight on Sunday 10 October 2021**). New students should contact admissions as set out in their offer letter and continuing students should contact their [Campus Registry Office](#) to complete the [process](#). If you need any support or have questions regarding deferrals you can contact the Students Union who can offer impartial advice to students at [uwsu.com/advice](http://uwsu.com/advice).

We do hope you will continue your studies with us over the coming year. You will receive the highest quality of education whether this is delivered on campus, online or a blend of the two. We wanted to send this letter to reassure you that we are prepared for any eventuality. We look forward to welcoming you in September 2021.