CREATIVE PRACTICE AND DESIGN

This group of Masters courses brings together dynamic and prestigious programmes of postgraduate study in visual and sound arts: audio production, interactive media, visual communication, photographic arts, documentary photography, film and television. Taught by international practitioners, theorists, leading artists and industry professionals, we foster students’ capacities for developing creative media practices, drawing practice and theory together alongside media, industry and academic research.

In the creative environment of Westminster’s dedicated arts and media campus, our courses offer a unique combination of professional practice, critical inquiry, skills enhancement, and contextual, specialist or interdisciplinary knowledge. Several of the MAs in this group are the first of their kind in the UK, and all lead the way in establishing new avenues of practice and disciplinary thought.

Our Harrow Campus boasts wide-ranging multimedia facilities built and equipped to the highest standards. The University’s three public exhibition spaces Ambika P3, London Gallery West and Regent Street Cinema offer exciting and dynamic year round programmes of cinema, photography and multimedia art.

Our graduates go onto a wide range of careers in the arts and media industries: artists, photographers, designers, teachers, academics, editors, curators, writers, advertising, publishing, film and television distribution and production, film festivals, new media production and marketing, app development, museums and galleries and as entrepreneurs.

100% of our Audio Production students say the learning materials provided on their course are useful

Source: Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES) 2016

In line with constantly seeking to evolve our portfolio, we are currently finalising details to offer a two-year Film MFA. This exciting course will build on the University of Westminster’s international reputation in film-making courses. This two-year MFA programme will allow you to develop your skill and knowledge during a year of intensive teaching and production work in your specialist area, before you start a further year of supervised but self-directed ‘thesis project’ work. For the most up-to-date information, please visit our website.
AUDIO PRODUCTION MA

This well-established Masters is the world-leading course in audio production, highly regarded both nationally and internationally. It is accredited by the leading industry bodies, including APRS, and is the JAMES National Regional Centre – London, an Apple-accredited training centre and a Skillet Media Academy. The course is designed to meet and exceed professional standards, and will enable you to reach the highest level in the creative use of audio, and explore how creative ideas and new technologies can be combined, enhanced and redefined.

The University’s Harrow Campus includes 14 professional recording studios (three surround studios), a new teaching recording studio, Music Lab and an array of TV, post-production, radio, film and multimedia facilities built and equipped to the highest standards.

Course content
This innovative course develops your creative abilities in audio across music production, sound design, radio, TV, film and multimedia, all supported by a robust understanding of the technologies involved. You will be able to explore and expand as a creative artist while achieving control and experience of a professional audio environment.

Length of course: one year full-time or two years part-time, starting in September
Location: North-West London (Harrow)
Faculty: Westminster School of Media, Arts and Design
Course fees and funding: see course web page and westminster.ac.uk/fees
Entry requirements: see page 216

For full and most up-to-date information, see course web page: westminster.ac.uk/audio-production-ma

CREATIVE PRACTICE MRes

The Creative Practice MRes is an ideal stepping stone to further practice based PhD research, as well as a unique opportunity to realise an ambitious creative project with the support of research-led practitioners across the field of the arts and media, as part of the internationally renowned Centre for Research and Education in Arts and Media (CREAM) – the UK’s top-rated general art and design research centre.

In the most recent assessment of the quality of UK universities’ research (REF2014), CREAM excelled with a score of 4.5 per cent as ‘world leading’, 46 per cent internationally ‘excellent’ and 71 percent ‘recognised internationally’.

The Creative Practice MRes is a Masters level course based in the rich research culture of Westminster School of Media, Art and Design. Over one year full-time or two years part-time, you will develop and complete a major research project related to your creative practice, culminating in an exhibition presentation and a written reflection on your research.

The course offers access to the excellent resources of Westminster School of Media, Arts and Design, including the research culture of the Centre for Research and Education in Arts and Media (CREAM), our new Music Research Group and our internationally renowned Communication and Media Research Institute (CAMRI).

Course content
The course enables you to develop your practice and research skills in arts and media towards the completion of your research project, supported by expert supervision from eminent artists, theorists and designers, as part of CREAM’s extensive practice-based doctoral programme.

You will work in close supervision with a researcher practitioner in your field of specialism, to assist you in the development of your individual research project.

You will have the opportunity to select and attend seminar programmes alongside CREAM’s doctorate students and MA students in a range of different art subjects relating to your interests.

Our current range of research expertise includes photography, experimental and documentary moving image, digital art, curation, music and experimental sound, fashion and ceramics.
MA DESIGN FOR COMMUNICATION

This Masters reflects the multidisciplinary nature of contemporary communications, bringing together key subject disciplines in visual communication including graphic design, moving image, digital media and illustration. The course will help you to develop the analytical skills and generate conceptual thinking needed to prepare for high-level professional practice.

We are committed to having a broad scope of activities on the course, from traditional graphic skills to future communication delivery methods. The course offers strong links to new media industries, and we work in collaboration with them, and use their advice and expertise, in the ongoing development of the course content.

Course content
This is an ambitious programme for students who want to realise their creative potential and self-reliance, working as a freelance or small business operator in the challenging and changing world of the creative communication industries.

Core modules
• Business for Design
• Critical Debates in Design
• Design Project A: Visual Identity
• Design Project B: Design Authorship
• Design Research Methods
• Major Project/Exhibition

Associated careers
As a graduate from this course you will be well placed to work across all sectors of the design and visual communications industries.

You will have the knowledge and background to consider setting up your own design company, or to work on a freelance basis within this lively and expanding sector, building on your expertise and potential to be influential within the visual communication industry.

Length of course: one year full-time, starting in September
Location: North-West London (Harrow)
Faculty: Westminster School of Media, Arts and Design
Course fees and funding: see course web page and westminster.ac.uk/fees
Entry requirements: see page 216

For full and most up-to-date information, see course web page: westminster.ac.uk/design-for-communication-ma

DIGITAL AND INTERACTIVE STORYTELLING LAB MA

Digital and Interactive Storytelling LAB MA is an inspiring new and innovative course. It is designed to turn you into formidable digital storytellers making you invaluable for a wide range of industries. The course adapts to the popular and emergent media laboratory ethos, which means during the year you will be able to produce, test and spearhead a wide range of digital-first projects for multi-platform story formats. Your work will be supported by theoretical research, expertise on mobile platforms, digital interactive communication and engaging supportive staff.

The course delivers industry-level professional expertise in visual communication from photography to cinema journalism, interactive narratives and apps for change. You’ll be involved in creating content that extends beyond current ideas in multimedia and online productions – our aim is to advance storytelling.

We recognise how competitive the job market currently is, therefore this Masters has been created to develop your skills and knowledge in a way that will enhance your career.

Course content
The Digital and Interactive Storytelling LAB MA prepares you for a range of industries, present and future, as entrepreneurial content creators, mobile and platform producers, cinema and video journalists, interactive factual narratives, social marketers, and project managers.

The content is structured around a knowledge of platforms and three major fields: cinema (video) journalism, photographic communication and interactive factual narratives, which are seamlessly knitted together into five modules.

The course incorporates an agency media LAB approach to learning through knowledge sharing and project completion which is pragmatic. It underpins problem solving using evolving theories and practice. The goal is the production of digital stories and/or interactive factual narrative. The method is through iteration and collaboration.

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Faculty: Westminster School of Media, Arts and Design
Course fees and funding: see course web page and westminster.ac.uk/fees
Entry requirements: see page 216

Core modules
• Creativity, Design and Platforms
• Digital and Interactive Storytelling Core
• Ideas and Concepts in Digital and Interactive Storytelling
• Major Project
• The Business of Digital and Interactive Storytelling

Associated careers
The course is mainly geared at giving you the right support and methodology to develop your interactive project during the course.

The critical awareness and the iterative methodology that you will gain will then serve you to remain competitive in the digital creative industries you might enter in the future, regardless of the technologies they use.

For full and most up-to-date information, see course web page: westminster.ac.uk/digital-and-interactive-storytelling-lab-ma
DOCUMENTARY PHOTOGRAPHY AND PHOTOJOURNALISM MA

The course explores documentary practices and photojournalism as exciting and developing mediums, through a combination of practice-based teaching and discussion of critical contexts.

We take each applicant on their own merit. This can include students of documentary photography or photographers in general who are interested in specializing in this area. Also welcome are artists who wish to focus on their activities on a more social practice, and individuals from other disciplines, who wish to explore the subject area at postgraduate level.

The course builds on the international stature of the photographic and journalism departments of the University and is designed to equip you with an awareness of contemporary documentary and photojournalism, drawing on a variety of related media.

Course content

The Documentary and Photojournalism MA allows you to explore ideas of society through photographically related practice and within critically informed ways that maintain connections with the issue, yet also consider fresh visual approaches to the subject matter.

We approach photography as a social practice, situated within its own history, but also drawing on various discourses. We explore the idea that documentary practice and photojournalism may take many forms in the 21st Century. Importantly, from your arrival, we emphasise the development of your own practice, through experimentation, critique and theory, and encourage analysis of practice through contemporary perspectives.

The course leads towards the Final Major Project, which is a consolidation of student learning into a high profile event in a central London exhibition space.

You will be taught by practising professional photographers, artists and writers, within a supportive course atmosphere. Technically, the course resources are equipped to the highest professional standards for both analogue and digital production of still and moving image. All modules involve classroom teaching, tutorials, seminars, workshops, group work and your own fieldwork and are designed to equip you with advanced ways of working and negotiating your practice. We take the view that the work you make from the beginning of your studies with us is potentially valid currency for external use.

INTERACTIVE MEDIA PRACTICE MA

This exciting multidisciplinary programme is fully designed to reflect the needs of contemporary interactive media industries, bringing together creative technologies, interactivity and design practices within digital cultures with the user in mind.

The course combines a wide range of digital creative technologies primarily combining digital literacies design, technology and interaction, through user-centred design for commercial outputs to an industry standard. The Interactive Media Practice MA places the user at the centre of the experience and focuses on design and content creation in areas such as: mobile app development, wearables, games, rich media websites, interactive guides and installations, immersive VR, next generation advertising augmented reality media, through to social media powerful eMarketing and entrepreneurship through innovation protocol.

The course embraces a hackathon culture with specialist hack labs boasting newly designed flexible learning spaces for students to work more collaboratively on innovation protocols fostering cross-pollination of new ideas creatively. Many students will be working on live industry briefs as well as their own projects independently within and outside our course clusters. This collaborative approach to learning and research often leads to successful projects, which are commercially viable, and quickly gain industry recognition.

Course content

This multidisciplinary course prepares you to work in a wide range of industries combining theory, practice, and bringing together technical, creative perspective on new media systems, interactive technologies and digital culture as well as exploring new emerging creative technologies, producing an industry professional who can produce as well as explore future creative technologies.

Core Modules

- Final major project/Dissertation
- History and Theory of the Published Page
- Independent Practice
- Orientation
- The Photo Book
- Writing Photography

Option Modules

If you wish, you may also choose one optional module run by the Photography Arts MA (either/or):

- Contemporary Debates
- Photography and Aesthetics

Associated careers

Our graduates will be well-rounded and confident individuals with adaptability facilitating new ways of seeing. In addition to the skills acquired of photographers enabling the production of works, this will also involve proficient use of a variety of hardware, software, social media, presentation and production skills. The course will offer the development of various hardskills such as:

- Curation and Management of large and small scale projects
- Direction (either within film or theatrical modes)
- Advocacy, (such as in educational or community roles)
- Experience of group and collaborative working.

Students will be highly employable as still photographers, documentary film-makers, educators, activists, artists and writers, and much more, as well as having preparation for further doctoral study.

For full and most up-to-date information, see course web page: westminster.ac.uk/documentary-photography-and-photojournalism-ma

INTERACTIVE MEDIA PRACTICE MA

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- Independent Practice
- Orientation
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Option Modules

If you wish, you may also choose one optional module run by the Photography Arts MA (either/or):

- Contemporary Debates
- Photography and Aesthetics

Associated careers

There are many highly desirable careers that students from this course can go on into such as: interactive media, app development, new media production, interactive development, advanced web producer, content manager, UX designer, project management, media, digital marketing, media design, online branding, interactive game design, web production, game designer, media advertising, information design, digital production, strategic development, online advertising, UX architect, digital SAM, mobile UX, front end development, web development, email marketing executive, ecommerce digital marketing manager,.net developer, UX researcher, social media executive, digital designer, digital advertising, SEO consultant, content marketing specialist, interaction designer, digital project manager, optimisation manager and digital content production, digital maker, creative technologist, rich media website developer, games producer, social media manger, museum installation, VR gaming, VR & AR advertising for print and screen.

For full and most up-to-date information, see course web page: westminster.ac.uk/interactive-media-practice-ma

Length of course: one year full-time, starting in September
Location: North-West London (Harrow)
Faculty: Westminster School of Media, Arts and Design
Course fees and funding: see course web page and westminster.ac.uk/fees
Entry requirements: see page 216

For full and most up-to-date information, see course web page: westminster.ac.uk/documentary-photography-and-photojournalism-ma

Length of course: one year full-time or two years part-time, starting in September
Location: North-West London (Harrow)
Faculty: Westminster School of Media, Arts and Design
Course fees and funding: see course web page and westminster.ac.uk/fees
Entry requirements: see page 216
MENSWEAR MA

It is essential in this time of creative ambiguity that we develop and empower the individual. Therefore, this entrepreneurial Menswear MA will recruit ambitiously envisioned designers to work on their creative expression through personal research, process development and informed professionalism.

In order for our students to establish their aspirations and to define a sustainable career path within a global design context the course is delivered by the most inspiring influential and informed design professionals. We develop and empower the individual. Therefore, it is essential in this time of creative ambiguity that we develop and empower the individual.

Course content
This unique two-year course is the destination for the most creative, driven and original thinkers who will shape the contemporary within menswear and the design-based industries. Entry is based on a combination of formal qualifications, industry experience, portfolio, garments and demonstration of commitment through a considered study proposal.

This taught project-based curriculum has two core modules that progressively develop students’ confidence in an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary context and encourages imaginative, practical and theoretical knowledge to the highest level of strategic and tactical competence.

Year One: MA Menswear I:
This module is based upon a programme of personal and collaborative projects aimed at bringing research, design, specialist abilities and thinking to postgraduate level. There will be continuous tutor, peer and self-reflective evaluation with each project feeding into a final synoptic grade-only assessment that champions a diagnostic, reflexive and critical approach.

Year Two: MA Menswear II:
The second-year module is self-directed with essential industry related work aimed at developing the highest level of creative thinking, specialised process and professionalism aligned to each students’ individual aspirations. This summative module is designed to enable students to generate their own perspective on originality, the creation of the appropriate specialist techniques and a working process and context that establishes them as influential and informed design professionals.

For full and most up-to-date information, see course web page: westminster.ac.uk/menswear-ma

ASSOCIATED CAREERS

• Fashion and Textile Design
• Graphic Design
• Textile Design
• Surface Design
• Print and Pattern Design
• Personal Stylist
• Visual Merchandising
• Digital Media Design

MULTIMEDIA JOURNALISM – BROADCAST OR PRINT AND ONLINE MA/Postgraduate Diploma

The course offers a hands-on curriculum that allows you to develop your core journalistic skills. In both pathways, you will learn to master a broad variety of media formats from writing and reporting to social media and video or audio. Besides writing and broadcasting, the course emphasises contemporary digital skills which will place you in high demand in an ever-changing world of content creation and distribution. Being partly taught at our Regent Campus in the heart of London you will get the opportunity to report stories of this dynamic city in walking distance of one of the BBC or Buzzfeed. You will be given full training in using our up-to-date media resources, ensuring that you graduate from the course as a multi-skilled journalist being competent in digital media and written journalism and in video.

Both pathways of this MA have been accredited by the Broadcast Journalism Training Council (BJTC) which means we provide industry backed journalism training for online, TV and radio. Our students regularly win BJTC awards, and the course has been awarded the BJTC award for excellence in teaching.

Our teaching staff are highly experienced journalism professionals, and our graduates go on to work with a variety of leading media organisations including BBC TV and Radio, BBC News Online, CNN, ITN, Russia Today, Al Jazeera, the Financial Times and The Guardian, Condé Nast, and many other media houses in Britain and around the world.

Course content
There’s a strong emphasis on learning through ‘hands-on’ practice, in small class groups, using our professional standard facilities. Most of your assessed coursework will be ‘real’ journalism assignments, a preparation for the world of contemporary journalism. As well as regular classes taught by experienced journalists on our staff, we also invite other media professionals as guest speakers or to critique student work.

You will have the chance to air your work on Smoke Radio, the University’s multi-award-winning internet radio station, or post items onto the MA’s own news site.

For full and most up-to-date information, see course web page: westminster.ac.uk/multimedia-journalism-broadcast-ma
westminster.ac.uk/multimedia-journalism-print-and-online-ma

Broadcast Pathway
Core modules
• Broadcast News
• Digital Journalism Production
• Documentary Skills
• Issues in Journalism
• Multimedia Journalism Skills
• Final Project (60 credits, MA only, to be chosen among: Final Project Emerging Journalism; Final Radio or Video; Documentary Project; Dissertation)

Option modules
• Emerging Journalism
• Health and Medical Journalism
• Investigative Journalism
• Magazine Project
• Sociology of News
• Specialist Journalism: Sports
• Travel Journalism

Print and Online pathway
Core modules
• Digital Journalism Production
• Issues in Journalism
• Multimedia Journalism Skills
• News and Feature Writing
• Final Project (MA only. 60 credits, to be chosen among: Emerging Journalism Final Project; Final Journalism Project; Dissertation)

Option modules
• Emerging Journalism
• Health and Medical Journalism
• Investigative Journalism
• Magazine Project
• Sociology of News
• Specialist Journalism
• Travel Journalism

Associated careers
Though designed to prepare you for a career in journalism, this course could also lead to a career in public relations, communications, or any other professional pathway which requires effective communication skills, and the use of convergent media.
PHOTOGRAPHY ARTS MA

The Photography Arts MA offers a dynamic mix of photography practice and research to support your development as an artist. In an open-minded educational environment you will expand the boundaries of your photography, advancing your own distinct visual and conceptual approach. You are fully supported by our internationally renowned photography staff and inspired by an exciting range of prominent visiting photographic artists and thinkers.

The course has an open definition of photography, encompassing a wide range of approaches and forms. We encourage free experimentation in the development of ideas. You will advance your practical work choosing new or traditional techniques, digital or analogue forms, in work that may extend beyond the traditional boundaries of wall, page or screen into other modes including moving image, installation and performance.

The research components of the course are tailored for the needs of the contemporary artist photographer, and allow you to focus on the lines of inquiry that will be most productive for your own development. Your progress through the course will be supported with one-to-one tutorials with a personal tutor.

Course content

The course is structured to develop your practice, informed by research. Throughout the course, you will make work with great attention to how it will be presented in a range of modes including exhibition, book and/or screen.

The practice modules provide a framework for developing and testing new approaches and establish a foundation for your future independent work. You will write three short research essays during the course, each aimed at broadening knowledge of photography, contemporary art and related histories, theories and criticism. Content for these assignments is led by your own research interests.

The course is unusually flexible in that a dissertation is not required, but can form an optional part of the final Masters project. The course enables you to become independent practitioners, generating up-to-date, informed work.

You will be empowered with visual, critical and practical skills that culminate in the Masters Project, exhibited in a central London degree show at the end of the course.

PhD opportunities

A range of PhD opportunities is available within your subject area.

For full and most up-to-date information, see course web page:
westminster.ac.uk/photography-arts-ma

Core modules

• Photography Practice
• Research Methods
• Dissertation/Masters Project

Option modules

• Contemporary Debates
• Photography and Aesthetics
• Theories of the Image

Option modules from Documentary Photography and Photojournalism MA

• History and Theory of the Published Page
• Writing Photography

Associated careers

The course prepares graduates for a range of career paths in the arts, media and photography.

Many successful graduates work as artists/photographers and also develop careers in related fields, including art writing, publishing, curation, research and picture agency work.

Many also pursue careers in lecturing and teaching photography. Graduates have a high success rate in developing their research work at doctoral level and the MA also has a high reputation amongst potential employers within the sector.

Length of course: one year full-time or two years part-time, starting in September
Location: North-West London (Harrow)
Faculty: Westminster School of Media, Arts and Design
Course fees and funding: see course web page and westminster.ac.uk/fees
Entry requirements: see page 216

For full and most up-to-date information, see course web page:
westminster.ac.uk/photography-arts-ma