

London College of Communication

<http://www.lcc.arts.ac.uk>

Photography is situated within the School of Media in the London College of Communication, part of the University of the Arts London. The School also encompasses Programme Areas in Film & Television, Animation, Sound Arts, Journalism, Multimedia and Media & Cultural Studies. The School is based in a new purpose built Media Block on the Elephant & Castle campus with excellent facilities for both traditional and digital photography. Being in London, the College is well situated for access to the arts and media industries and has many active links with both organisations and individuals. The Photography Programme Area includes courses from professional training through to MPhil/PhD. There is a long-established three-year undergraduate programme, the BA (hons) Photography, on which there are always a number of students from the Nordic countries, and two Masters programmes, the MA Photography and the MA Photojournalism and Documentary Photography.

The Victor Fellowship winner shall be attached to one of the MA programmes, emerging with an MA qualification.

MA PROGRAMMES

The two Masters programmes, MA Photography and MA Photojournalism and Documentary Photography, are both one year full-time programmes. They have a January start date and completion is in December of the same year. While running as separate dedicated programmes, they also have elements in common, notably Symposia on topics of common interest, the electives programme and professional studies seminars.

MA Photography

This is an arts based programme established in 1997 and oriented around the production of a major body of work proposed by the student and developed over the three phases of the course. It is supported by a programme of critical studies, which enables the student to develop an independent critical stance pertaining to their body of work. Students work equally across traditional and digital photography, most often a combination of the two. Practice is tutored by an experienced team of permanent staff and established practitioners including artists and photographers such as Tom Hunter, Melanie Manchot and Bettina von Zwehl, and through crits with leading curators and other professionals. At the end of the course, students produce work for a public exhibition. Each year the 'best in show' as selected by external professionals receives the Sproxton Memorial Award.

The course has strong links with institutions such as the Victoria & Albert Museum, the Tate Modern and the Photographers' Gallery, photography agencies such as Millennium, and magazine and book publishers such as Photoworks, Phaidon and Steidl. Each year we invite a select group of curators and publishers for a guided tour of the show. Many students and alumni successfully practice in the fertile crossover area between arts-based and commercial photography.

MA Photojournalism and Documentary Photography

The MA Documentary and Photojournalism has developed out of the longstanding and highly successful Postgraduate Diploma in Photojournalism. The programme is focused within a photojournalistic professional context while allowing students to develop a practice more akin to art documentary if they wish. The first two phases are structured around short projects and supporting studies in history and criticism, digital developments and professional studies, culminating in the third and last phase of the course in the production of major project and a portfolio. The course draws upon professional photojournalists

and media professionals for tutorials, seminars and crits. Students have been successful in winning many awards in recent years.

Common Elements

The Photography Department runs regular symposia on topics of common interest. Notable topics have included 'Czech Photography' and 'Photography and Social Media'. Students from all photography courses are encouraged to attend. There are also opportunities for MA students to present their work to each other, and to attend seminars on professional studies together. There is an Electives programme in Phase Two in which students are able to select two short courses to attend. These may be held within their own area of study. Those offered by MAP include: 'The Photographic Book' and 'Approaches to Media Curating'; and by MAPJD: 'Sound and Image' and 'Visual Style'. They may also be held by other Schools within the college, such as the School of Creative Enterprise. They may also attend each other's visiting speaker programmes, as well as public talks.

College and University Wide

Within LCC there is also college wide provision of short courses (PDAs) of which full-time students are able to attend three free of charge. The photography ones include such technical topics as digital photography, large format cameras, studio lighting, colour printing and web design for photographers. PDAs are also offered by other Schools including Graphic Design and Printing & Publishing. Students have access to University wide libraries and learning resource centres at all UAL colleges. Students also benefit from The Enterprise Centre for the Arts (ECCA) situated at LCC which gives business advice to UAL students and graduates. There is also a UAL Language Centre offering tuition in English.

Research in LCC

Both courses benefit from being situated within the LCC research context, of which Photography is an active part. There is a Research Centre directed by Dr. Janice Hart, co-editor of 'Photographs Objects Histories' (Routledge 2004).

Research Fellows include Elizabeth Edwards, author of 'Anthropology and Photography' (Yale University Press 1992), and Mark Haworth-Booth, former Curator of Prints and Photography at the Victoria & Albert Museum. Situated nearby is the new 'Research Centre for Photography and the Archive' (PARC), directed by Professor Val Williams, well-known author and curator. Events are held on a regular basis which postgraduate students are encouraged to attend. Topics have included 'The Visual Archive: History, Evidence and Make Believe', a series of seminars held in collaboration with and located at the Tate Modern, and 'Inside and Outside the Codes of the Photo Archive', a symposium held in collaboration with and located at the National Portrait Gallery. Professor Williams and the curator Susan Bright were also responsible for the recent Tate Britain exhibition of British photography, 'The Way We Are'.

Professional Connections

LCC has connections with AoP, The Association of Photographers, a professional body representing commercial photographers of all kinds and offering advice on employment and professional issues. They hold regular talks and workshops, as well as having a photographers' assistants' register.

As the College is based in London, it is relatively easy for students to find part-time work assisting photographers of all kinds from commercial to fine art should they so wish. It provides a flexible and occasional form of employment which does not interfere with studies and can be a valuable way of gaining experience and making contacts.

The college also has close contact with all major museums and many private galleries and it may also be possible to arrange work experience or internships.

There are also many photography-related exhibitions and events taking place constantly in London galleries and museums, which are either free or to which students have concessionary access.