Module Specification

Exploring Practice in Photography 1

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Exploring Practice in Photography 1

Module code: UALBBV-30-1

Level: Level 4

For implementation from: 2025-26

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

College: College of Arts, Technology and Environment

School: CATE School of Arts

Partner institutions: None

Field: Lens and Moving Image

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: Exploring Practice in Photography 1 is a practice-based module designed to establish key concepts, processes, skills and methodologies fundamental to photographic activity, and to introduce students to a range of ideas that inform contemporary practice/s. Through assignment briefs, lectures and workshops students will explore approaches to idea generation and image creation. This introductory module will establish a strong skills set for exploration and development in future modules.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: The module aims are to introduce approaches to image production through responses to assessment briefs designed to develop practical and research skills relevant to photographic practices. The module will support students in developing approaches to visual and contextual research and focus on sets of technical processes that are key to forms of image generation and production, enabling students to develop a level of awareness and confidence in incorporating these practices into their creative process.

Outline syllabus: Students undertake a series of lectures and technical workshop activities and document their practical and research processes as a reflective tool and research aid. This provides students with an opportunity to explore knowledge and skills in photographic practices. Students engage in critical analysis of their outputs and process present the work within a group environment.

Indicative content:

Recording visual/other source information

Developing work from initial research

Introduction to technical processes relevant to photographic production

Exploring techniques to control and manipulate light

Processes of image generation and production workflow

Problem solving

Awareness of potential of tools/equipment, including appropriate health and safety processes and sustainable use of materials

Developing a sensitivity to appropriate media/materials to fit the idea/concept.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: The module is delivered via lectures, seminars, peer group presentations and critiques, workshops and independent study. Teaching sessions challenge students' pre-conceptions about their subject discipline, develop their awareness of the creative opportunities afforded within it and introduce a skills base that supports creative development.

Students are supported to develop an active approach to learning and studio practice using a variety of materials and methods. Emphasis is placed on activities that are intended to introduce new skills and experiences, develop an understanding of contemporary practice, establish studio routines and build a sense of group identity. The principle of 'learning through making' is approached in relation to practically-based studio activities, which are then expanded through an exploration of contemporary practice. Projects allow students to explore skills/methodologies and bring contextual understanding to the development of their own practice. Group work focuses on developing personal methodologies, timekeeping, critical awareness and organizational skills.

The development of analytical and evaluative skills as well as student progression and guidance is supported and encouraged through group discussion in group critiques and activities and through tutorials. Students are encouraged to develop personal skills and approaches, throughout the module, in order for them to understand the relevance of methodology.

Students can expect scheduled contact time for this module within the context of their other learning and teaching activities. This could include tutorials, lectures, seminars, site visits/field trips, studio-based sessions, inductions and workshops.

Module Learning outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

MO1 Employ effective research methods to explore and gather information related to specific areas of study.

MO2 Experiment with a range of approaches to overcome subject specific challenges.

MO3 Demonstrate proficiency in the use of tools, technologies, and techniques relevant to your field of study.

MO4 Effectively plan, organise, and execute projects, demonstrating self-direction and meeting established goals.

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 228 hours

Face-to-face learning = 72 hours

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at readinglists.uwe.ac.uk via the following link https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ualatg-45-1.html

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: This module will be assessed as Pass/Fail.
Referral assessments will be comparable to the first sit.

Assessment tasks will require the development of a portfolio that includes a body of creative practical work, along with supporting materials (that document analysis and reflections on research and practical processes) and a summative evaluation. Alternative formats for submission that have been agreed with the programme will be accepted for this module.

The module assessment strategy enables the student to demonstrate achievement across all the learning outcomes of the module. The principle of ‘learning through making’ is core to the learning strategies in the programme: these learning activities are then expanded into and through the exploration of contemporary practice in relevant and related subject areas.

The assessment type has been chosen to enable such outcomes as well as to provide flexibility in selecting appropriate and specific outputs. Formative feedback and summative assessments are designed to provide the opportunity for students to understand and reflect upon their achievements and to support the monitoring of progress by tutors and students.

Formative Feedback
Formative feedback activities that involve students participating in the evaluation of presented work (their own and others) take place throughout the module. All students will be expected to contribute to the critical evaluation of fellow students' work. Feedback (verbal and/or in writing) at regular points throughout the module provides students with a clear understanding of their progress and advice about how this can be improved.

Summative Assessment
Students produce a portfolio, the contents of which are confirmed in the Module Handbook. Indicative items include a body of developmental work, supporting materials and reflective self-evaluation of their module outcomes, which may be presented in a written or equivalent alternative format for submission.

Assessment tasks:

Portfolio (First Sit)
Description: Portfolio of work
Weighting: 0 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Portfolio (Resit)
Description: A portfolio of work
Weighting: 0 %
Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Photography [Bower] BA (Hons) 2025-26

Photography [Bower] BA (Hons) 2025-26

Photography {Foundation}[Bower] BA (Hons) 2024-25