

PART ONE - PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Course Record Information	
Name and level of final award	BA (Hons) Contemporary Media Practice The BA (Hons) Contemporary Media Practice is a BA (Hons) degree that is Bologna FQ-EHEA first cycle degree or diploma compatible.
Name and level of intermediate awards	BA Contemporary Media Practice Diploma of HE in Contemporary Media Practice Certificate of HE in Contemporary Media Practice
Awarding body / institution	University of Westminster
Status of awarding body / institution	Recognised body
Location of Delivery	Harrow Campus
Language of delivery and assessment	English
Course / programme leader	Peter Dukes / P.J.Dukes@westminster.ac.uk
Course URL:	http://www.westminster.ac.uk/courses/subjects/television-film-and-moving-image/undergraduate-courses/full-time/u09fucmp-ba-honours-contemporary-media-practice
Mode and length of study	Full Time, three years
University of Westminster Course Code	BCMPPRM
JACS Code	P390
UCAS Code	W900 / E900
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies with additional consideration of Art and Design
Professional Body Accreditation	N/A
Date of course validation / review	2013
Date of Programme Specification	2013

Course Overview

Contemporary Media Practice is a unique course, built on our long tradition of teaching interdisciplinary media practice, working across moving image, photography and interactive media. Our approach combines the creative exploration of art school traditions with academic and professional excellence.

To support students in their ambitions we have extensive industry-level facilities and equipment. The course is taught through a broad mix of lectures, group and individual tutorials, crits, and workshops, supporting the development of skills across media to a level equivalent to single-discipline courses. We use a variety of assessment methods, including practical projects, presentations, written work, blogs, websites, research tasks and portfolios. Approximately two thirds of assessments are practical work in various forms.

This course is designed to set high standards for professional achievement in specific media industry roles and prepare students for the challenge and opportunity of a multi-skilled portfolio career. Graduates have a high employment rate in many aspects of the media industries, including film direction, production, editing and visual effects; broadcast television; new media; commercial photography and photojournalism; curating and film programming; and fine art practice.

Admissions Requirements

Applicants to Contemporary Media Practice come from diverse backgrounds, both nationally and internationally. A typical profile would include successful experience of creative practical work in one or more of the media that we teach on the course – moving image (film and video), interactive media and photography. Additionally we seek evidence of critical thinking (through written work), as well as broader skills in ideas-generation, organisation, initiative and team working.

Most applicants achieve this profile through A-Levels, BTEC qualifications, or equivalent in Art, Design or Media subjects. However, a significant number of our students are able to show either professional media experience (see below), or can demonstrate the relevance of other discipline skills and qualifications. The normal minimum qualifications entitling an applicant to be considered for admission to the course are as outlined in the University of Westminster's *Undergraduate Prospectus*.

We normally invite all applicants to attend an interview, and ask them to bring a portfolio of appropriate work (practical and written). Overseas applicants may be permitted to send in a portfolio of work, and may then be interviewed by phone.

In all cases we are seeking evidence of an applicant's interest in the subject area, and more specifically in the cross-media character of the course.

Applicants with English as a Foreign Language

All applicants whose first language is not English or who have not studied their secondary education in English must normally achieve a recognised English qualification. This should be at the equivalent of IELTS 6.0. Full details of equivalent scores can be obtained from the Harrow Campus Admissions & Marketing Office (contact information at the end of this Programme Specification).

Accreditation of Prior Learning

Mature applicants (who may not meet the above formal entrance requirements), applicants for entry other than at Level 4 (First Year), and those with appropriate prior experiential learning (e.g. relevant professional media experience) can be considered for admission on the basis of Accreditation of Prior (Experiential) Learning (APEL). We will discuss this possibility with appropriate applicants, and will offer guidance through the required formal APEL process. This guidance may include the allocation of a mentor from amongst the staff team, specifically to support an individual through the APEL process.

Admissions and Equal Opportunities

In accordance with the University's Equal Opportunities Policy, applicants are assessed for admission according to the University Admissions Regulations for Taught Courses. The University will admit students to its courses on the basis of the following principles:

- a) Reasonable expectation that the applicant will be able to fulfil the objectives of the course and achieve the standard required for the award;
- b) The University requirements for admission to the course leading to a particular award;
- c) Equality of opportunity for all applicants.

Students with disabilities are welcome at the University and there are various ways in which support is provided. Students are actively encouraged to make known their requirements and disability in a timely manner so that appropriate services and practices can be provided where necessary.

An applicant who has declared a disability (other than Dyslexia) on their application form is automatically referred to the relevant Disability Adviser, or where necessary, to the University's Student Health Service. The purpose of this is to assess the applicant's needs in terms of any assistance that can be provided by the University, and allow the applicant to decide if the available support and accommodation meets their needs.

Aims of the course

- To enable students to develop creative media production skills across a range of disciplines, such as film, video, photography and interactive media.
- To promote an ability to adapt to the creative opportunities that follow from the emergence of new media forms and hybrids.
- To develop students' capacity to participate in contemporary cultural debates.
- To develop students' awareness of the political, ethical & aesthetic implications of their work.
- To enable students to locate themselves within changing professional media contexts & practices, with an emphasis on the benefits of interdisciplinarity.
- To enable students to develop the transferable skills applicable within a variety of media and other professional working environments.
- To prepare students for postgraduate study in related practical and theoretical disciplines.

Employment and Further Study Opportunities

Today's organisations need graduates with both good degrees and skills relevant to the workplace, i.e. employability skills. The University of Westminster is committed to developing employable graduates by ensuring that:

- Career development skills are embedded in all courses
- Opportunities for part-time work, placements and work-related learning activities are widely available to students
- Staff continue to widen and strengthen the University's links with employers in all sectors, involving them in curriculum design and encouraging their participation in other aspects of the University's career education and guidance provision
- Staff are provided with up-to-date data on labour market trends and employers' requirements which will inform the service delivered to students.

Overview of Graduate Achievements on this Course

Graduates from Contemporary Media Practice have a high employment rate in many aspects of the media industries, including film direction, production, editing and visual effects; broadcast television; new media; commercial photography and photojournalism; curating and film programming; and fine art practice.

We also have a strong record in preparing graduates for postgraduate study across a range of both practical and theoretical disciplines, as well as postgraduate teacher training.

Graduate employment and opportunities in the media industries are constantly shifting, and graduates from this course have demonstrated their responsiveness to these changes. We regularly monitor graduate career destinations, and reflect on this information in the planning of the course curriculum.

Employability & Skills Strategy

The course has an Employability & Skills Strategy, published in the Course Handbook. This is intended to provide a framework to guide students through their studies and prepare themselves for employment and further study. The specific modules for implementing this are 2MED512 Professional Practice (year 2), and 2MED616 Professional Launchpad (year 3).

All course modules incorporate Generic Skills, which are also integral to the course Employability & Skills Strategy. Generic Skills support students in seeking entry into the media industries, as well as into a broad range of other professions & employment.

A further element of our Employability & Skills Strategy is the use of Personal Development Planning (PDP). This enables students to reflect upon personal and career goals, and the means by which

these may be achieved. We build this process into the two modules already mentioned, as well as referring students to this through the Personal Tutorial system.

Work Experience

We require all students to undertake work experience in the Level 5 module Professional Practice. We encourage students to ensure that this is in an aspect of the professions most appropriate to their own career goals. Many students also undertake a very diverse range of professional experience at other stages of the course, often at a high professional level.

Our students are also encouraged to successfully integrate all such opportunities into the general programme of study. Our aim is to foster a culture of gathering expertise, building professional networks, and expanding academic learning with the knowledge and skills gained in live media environments.

Learning Outcomes

Learning outcomes are statements on what successful students have achieved as the result of learning. They are threshold statements of achievement and are linked to the knowledge, understanding and skills that a student will have gained on successfully completing a course.

Course learning outcomes are not delivered exclusively within individual modules, but the core modules identified in brackets below focus the delivery of particular course learning outcomes as shown.

We also offer a range of option modules (sometimes termed 'electives') at levels 4 and 5 to expand skills and experience in specialised aspects of the course media.

Note that individual modules have module-specific learning outcomes (identified in Module Proformas, which are published in the Course Handbook).

* Alternate modules at Level 5 (students must take ONE of these modules)

Knowledge and Understanding

At the end of Credit Level 4 (Year 1) it is expected that students will be able to:

- K4.1 Demonstrate awareness of a range of key media technologies, including for moving image, photography and interactive media (*Contemporary Media Practice 1, Contemporary Media Practice 2*)
- K4.2 Demonstrate awareness of the history of the media culture industries, and current developments arising from changing practices and technologies (*All Level 4 modules*)
- K4.3 Draw from defined sources in preparation for the production and analysis of media products (*All Level 4 modules*)
- K4.4 Recognise the terminology and scope of theoretical study in the field of media culture (*Research & Critical Practice, Contemporary Media Theory 1, Contemporary Media Theory 2*)

At the end of Credit Level 5 (Year 2) it is expected that students will be able to:

- K5.1 Demonstrate knowledge of one or more media technologies in depth, with an awareness of the interconnections between media practices (*Media Frontiers, Convergent Media*)
- K5.2 Select and assimilate sources in preparation for the production and analysis of media products (*All Level 5 modules*)
- K5.3 Demonstrate awareness of current and emerging professional working practices and opportunities in the media industries (*Professional Practice*)
- K5.4 Comprehend the major theories of media culture, with some specialisation in one or more aspects (*Critical Theory 1, Critical Theory 2, Film Theory*, New Media Theory*, Photographic Theory**)

At the end of the Course (Credit Level 6 / Year 3) it is expected that students will be able to:

- K6.1 Demonstrate knowledge of one or more media technologies in comprehensive depth, including a detailed awareness of the interdisciplinary overlaps between media practices (*Exploration & Pre-Production, Major Project*)
- K6.2 Define and synthesise diverse sources in preparation for the production and analysis of media products (*All Level 6 modules*)

- K6.3 Demonstrate awareness of graduation opportunities for employment or further study, including the requirement for adaptability in the changing media industries (*Professional Launchpad*)
- K6.4 Understand encompassing and specialist theories of media culture, with an awareness of the provisional nature of critical approaches in the discipline (*Dissertation*)

Subject Specific Skills

At the end of Credit Level 4 (Year 1) it is expected that students will be able to:

- S4.1 Creatively employ a given range of media production practices, including moving image, photographic and interactive media (*Contemporary Media Practice 1, Contemporary Media Practice 2*)
- S4.2 Employ given methods for the research and planning of media products (*Research & Critical Practice, Contemporary Media Practice 1, Contemporary Media Practice 2*)
- S4.3 Develop ideas in response to defined themes and guidelines (*Contemporary Media Practice 1, Contemporary Media Practice 2, Research & Critical Practice, Contemporary Media Theory 2*)
- S4.4 Apply given tools for close reading and analysis of media culture (*Research & Critical Practice, Contemporary Media Theory 1, Contemporary Media Theory 2*)

At the end of Credit Level 5 (Year 2) it is expected that students will be able to:

- S5.1 Creatively and proficiently use one or more negotiated media production practices, with an emerging ability to make use of the interrelationships between media (*Media Frontiers, Convergent Media*)
- S5.2 Employ planning and conceptual development methods which draw upon a range of traditions and media disciplines (*Media Frontiers, Convergent Media*)
- S5.3 Identify a range of responses to broad themes and media-specific concerns, and select from this range (*Media Frontiers, Convergent Media, Critical Theory 1, Critical Theory 2, Film Theory*, New Media Theory*, Photographic Theory**)
- S5.4 Apply varied critical methods and perspectives appropriate to the analysis of media culture (*Media Frontiers, Convergent Media, Critical Theory 1, Critical Theory 2, Film Theory*, New Media Theory*, Photographic Theory**)

At the end of the Course (Credit Level 6 / Year 3) it is expected that students will be able to:

- S6.1 Flexibly, creatively and enterprisingly apply one or more chosen media production practices, with an ability to appropriately make use of the interrelationships between media, and working to appropriate professional standards (*Exploration & Pre-Production, Major Project, Professional Launchpad*)
- S6.2 Use planning and conceptual development methods to produce work that is situated within contemporary professional media practices (*All level 6 modules*)
- S6.3 Define themes, develop a range of complex responses to those themes, and select appropriate solutions (*Exploration & Pre-Production, Major Project, Dissertation*)
- S6.4 Select and apply complex critical approaches to the analysis of chosen examples of media culture (*Exploration & Pre-Production, Dissertation, Major Project*)

Generic Skills

At the end of Credit Level 4 (Year 1) it is expected that students will be able to:

- G4.1 Communicate in written, oral and audio-visual modes, to address given briefs with clarity and concision (*All Level 4 modules*)
- G4.2 Employ given methods for referencing and documentation (*All Level 4 modules*)
- G4.3 Manage study time and information, taking responsibility for your own learning, with external guidance (*All Level 4 modules*)
- G4.4 Work effectively with other students as a member of a group, and meet obligations to your peers and to staff (*Research & Critical Practice, Contemporary Media Practice 1, Contemporary Media Practice 2, Contemporary Media Theory 2*)
- G4.5 Evaluate your own strengths and weaknesses against given criteria, and guided by feedback (*All Level 4 modules*)
- G4.6 Apply given methods to solving defined problems (*All Level 4 modules*)

At the end of Credit Level 5 (Year 2) it is expected that students will be able to:

- G5.1 Effectively communicate in written, oral and audio-visual modes, to address negotiated briefs with clarity and concision (*All Level 5 modules*)

- G5.2 Employ appropriate methods for referencing & documentation (*All Level 5 modules*)
- G5.3 Manage study time and information, taking responsibility for your own learning, with limited guidance (*All Level 5 modules*)
- G5.4 Work effectively with others, demonstrating an ability to participate in an exchange of ideas and methods (*Media Frontiers, Convergent Media, Film Theory*, New Media Theory*, Photographic Theory**)
- G5.5 Evaluate your own strengths and weaknesses, integrate feedback, and challenge your own reflective strategies (*All Level 5 modules*)
- G5.6 Identify key issues, and select appropriate methods for their solution (*All Level 5 modules*)

At the end of the Course (Credit Level 6 / Year 3) it is expected that students will be able to:

- G6.1 Effectively communicate in written, oral and audio-visual modes, engaging in reasoned debate supported by detailed arguments (*All Level 6 modules*)
- G6.2 Employ given referencing and documenting procedures and protocols to a professional standard (*All Level 6 modules*)
- G6.3 Manage study time and information, taking responsibility for your own learning, and apply critical reflection to this process (*All Level 6 modules*)
- G6.4 Work effectively with others, recognising the varied contributions and roles that result in effective collaborative working, and offering of leadership or support as appropriate (*Exploration & Pre-Production, Major Project*)
- G6.5 Evaluate your own strengths and weaknesses, actively assimilating feedback, and identifying your personal needs for continuing professional development (*All Level 6 modules*)
- G6.6 Define problems, demonstrating flexibility in selecting appropriate methods for their solution (*All Level 6 modules*)

Learning, Teaching and Assessment Methods

Teaching and Learning

The Course responds to the rapidly changing media industries, with their demand for multi-skilled professionals, and the emergence of new means to distribute media work. Our teaching and learning strategy is designed to reflect this, and we aim to provide our students with a broad range of practical and conceptual knowledge and skills specific to the media studied, and also applicable to the wider skills required in the workplace.

The teaching and learning methods on the course are directly related to the aims and learning outcomes identified above. We have designed the course to lead students from a broad understanding and skills across all course media and key theoretical concepts, to focused knowledge and skills in depth by the end of the course. At the point of graduation we also intend that our students will have gained an ability to identify new and creative combinations of media, and importantly the professional opportunities open to them for their future careers.

To achieve these objectives we deliver a series of practical modules that support increasing depth of skills and knowledge across the three years of the course. These develop innovative and creative possibilities both for specialisation within a chosen medium, or in the forging of new links across media and through cross-disciplinary projects.

A parallel process in theoretical study accompanies the practical modules, with students encouraged to integrate theory and practice throughout. Modules at levels 5 and 6 (2nd and 3rd year) address work-related skills to support career development, including a short period of work experience in level 5. Students can also apply to study part of their second year abroad with one of our overseas exchange partners.

At all levels teaching includes lectures and seminars on one hand, and practical media workshops, group activities and tutorials on the other, together with supervised use of facilities. The scheduled / supervised time represents only a proportion of study for each module (approximately one third). The remaining time is self-managed by students, so offering scope for creative experimentation, exploration and the emergence of the autonomy required in professional life.

Core lectures in levels 4 & 5 (years 1 and 2) address the whole year group, whereas practical workshops are generally limited to less than twenty-five students. Production groups for major project tutorials vary from individuals to groups of five on moving image productions.

We support our modules with online material through Blackboard, the University's Virtual Learning Environment. This material may include practical examples, technical support, key references, discussion groups, blogs, and many other functions.

Assessment

Our assessment strategy reflects the philosophy of the course, aiming to develop the creative, flexible and thoughtful media practitioners of the future. Assessment is integral to the overall learning process, and we offer a range of assessment methods on both practical and theoretical modules. This allows our students to demonstrate their skills and understanding in a variety of ways. The benefit is that this provides a range of activities in which to excel, so supporting and encouraging a variety of preferred learning styles. All modules are assessed through coursework (we do not use exams).

Practical modules are typically assessed through a combination of summative crits (presentations of practical work to staff, normally with other students present), and submitted media artefacts and planning / research material (eg sketchbooks / production folders / blogs etc).

Theoretical modules (and some practice-theory modules) draw upon a range of assessment methods, including written work, seminar presentations, research plans, visual essays and online study tasks.

Clear Assessment Criteria are stated in module documents, and these are linked to the module Learning Outcomes.

Students receive written feedback from all assessments, and this directly relates to the assessment criteria for each module. Students also have an opportunity to discuss the outcome with module staff. Feedback is also given throughout modules in tutorials, and group discussions, and in the final crit in practical modules. It is designed to inform students of areas for improvement, and of current strengths which are to be nurtured and developed.

Some modules may be partly or wholly peer assessed (by groups of your fellow students, but under staff supervision) to support you in developing skills in critical judgement and self-evaluation.

Methods of Assessment

These methods of assessment are used in core modules at each level and over the whole course:

Type	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Overall
Practical Project	65%	41%	32%	45%
Portfolio (practical)	14%	18%	21%	18%
Essay	21%	25%	0%	15%
Dissertation	0%	0%	25%	9%
Presentation	0%	7%	10%	6%
Report	0%	9%	12%	7%

Course Structure

This section shows the core and option modules available as part of the course and their credit value. Full-time Undergraduate students study 120 UK credits per year.

Credit Level 4				
Module code	Module title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
MCMP401	Contemporary Media Practice 1	Core	30	15
MCMP402	Contemporary Media Practice 2	Core	30	15
2MED442	Research & Critical Practice	Core	15	7.5
MCMP403	Contemporary Media Theory 1: Producers and Consumers	Core	15	7.5
MCMP404	Contemporary Media Theory 2: Representing Space and Time	Core	15	7.5
2FLM407	Experimental Film & Video	Option	15	7.5
MCMP405	Exploring Interactive Media	Option	15	7.5
2MED445	Exploring Photography	Option	15	7.5
Award of Certificate of Higher Education available				

Credit Level 5				
Module code	Module title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
MCMP501	Media Frontiers	Core	15	7.5
MCMP502	Convergent Media	Core	30	15
2MED512	Professional Practice	Core	15	7.5
2MED521	Critical Theory 1: Modernism and Postmodernism	Core	15	7.5
2MED524 ‡	Critical Theory 2: Research and Synthesis ‡	Core ‡	15	7.5
MCMP503 *	Film Theory: Contemporary Perspectives*	Alternate core*	15	7.5
MCMP504 *	New Media Theory*	Alternate core*	15	7.5
MCMP505 *	Photographic Theory: Contemporary Perspectives*	Alternate core*	15	7.5
2ANM501	Animation	Option	15	7.5
MCMP506	Curating, Distribution and Dissemination	Option	15	7.5
2MED525	Scriptwriting for Media	Option	15	7.5
2MED515	Sound Studies	Option	15	7.5
* Students must take ONE of these modules				
Award of Diploma of Higher Education available				

Credit Level 6				
Module code	Module title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
2MED614 ‡	Dissertation ‡	Core ‡	30	15
MCMP600	Exploration and Pre-production	Core	30	15
2MED613	Major Project	Core	45	22.5
2MED616	Professional Launchpad	Core	15	7.5
Award of BA available				
Award of BA Honours available				
For both awards at this level the module 2MED613 Major Project is a requirement and must be passed.				

Please note that not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year

‡ Pre-requisites

One module has a pre-requisite (a module that MUST be passed first):

2MED614 Dissertation

Pre-requisite: 2MED524 (Critical Theory 2: Research and Synthesis)

Academic Regulations

The BA (Hons) Contemporary Media Practice and its intermediate awards operate in accordance with the University's Academic Regulations & the *Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland* published by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA).

All students should make sure that they access a copy of the current edition of the general University handbook called **Essential Westminster**, which is available at westminster.ac.uk/essential-westminster. The following regulations should be read in conjunction with the *Modular Framework for Undergraduate Courses* and relevant sections of the *Handbook of Academic Regulations*, which is available at westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations

Award

To qualify for the award of BA (Hons) Contemporary Media Practice, a student must have:

- obtained at least 360 credits including:
 - passed 75 credits at credit Level 4 or higher and achieved at least a condoned credit in each of the remaining modules worth 45 credits at Level 4; and
 - passed a minimum of 120 Credits at credit Level 5 or higher; and
 - passed a minimum of 120 credits at credit Level 6 or higher.
- attempted modules with a maximum value of 330 credits at credit Levels 5 and 6; and
- achieved a pass in 2MED613 Major Project

The class of the Honours degree awarded is decided by two criteria: the average of the best 105 credits passed at credit Level 6 being in the range of the class to be awarded; and the average of the next best 105 credits passed at credit Levels 5 and 6 provided the next best 105 credits passed are no more than one classification below this.

Support for Students

Upon arrival, an induction programme will introduce students to the staff responsible for the course, the campus on which they will be studying, the Library and IT facilities and to the Faculty Registry. Students will be provided with the Course Handbook, which provides detailed information about the course. Students are allocated a personal tutor who can provide advice and guidance on academic matters.

Learning support includes four libraries, each holding a collection of resources related to the subjects taught at their Faculty. Students can search the entire library collection online through the Library Search service to find and reserve printed books, and access electronic resources (databases, e-journals, e-books).

Students can choose to study in the libraries, which have areas for silent and group study, desktop computers, laptops for loan, photocopying and printing services. They can also choose from several computer rooms at each campus where desktop computers are available with the general and specialist software that supports the courses taught at their Faculty. Students can also securely connect their own laptops and mobile devices to the University wireless network.

The University uses a Virtual Learning Environment called Blackboard where students access their course materials, and can communicate and collaborate with staff and other students.

Student Affairs provide advice and guidance on accommodation, financial and legal matters, personal counselling, health and disability issues, careers and the chaplaincy providing multi-faith guidance. The Student Affairs Hub is located at 101 New Cavendish Street, Cavendish House (1st Floor), with an additional office located at the Harrow Campus. The University of Westminster Students' Union also provides a range of facilities to support all students during their time at the University.

The Faculty of Media Arts and Design has a Senior Tutor who oversees the Faculty Personal Tutorial policy. The Senior Tutor also acts as a key point of contact for students with specific study needs.

Key Reference Points for the course

Internally: Faculty

The course design incorporates the research, professional practice and scholarship of teaching staff, including the contributions made by visiting lecturers (who are often practicing professionals).

The experience of students and recent graduates is another key aspect in maintaining the currency of the educational experience delivered by the course.

In addition we are aligned alongside other courses delivered in the Faculty:

- BA (Hons) Photography
- BA (Hons) Photographic Arts
- BA (Hons) Film and Television Production
- BA (Hons) Television
- BA (Hons) Mixed Media Fine Art

Internally: University

The course has been designed to take account of the University's mission to provide education for professional life and to meet the requirements of the University Policies on Skills Development and Employability. The course structure meets the requirements of the modular frameworks and the academic regulations of the University.

Externally

We have incorporated key current thinking in the sector and discipline, including Subject Benchmark statements for:

- Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies
- Art and Design

The course design acknowledges the QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, and the SEEC credit level descriptors.

We seek the informed opinion of representatives from the media industries, our external examiners, and from sector organisations such as funding bodies and distribution networks.

Quality Management and Enhancement (QME)

Course Management

Contemporary Media Practice is managed by a Course Leader within the Department of Photography and Film, one of the four Departments in the Faculty of Media, Arts and Design on the Harrow Campus. The Head of Department and Dean of Faculty provide support and management at their respective levels, enhancing the specific role of the Course Leader.

We also have Level Coordinators who oversee details of delivery at each level of the course (i.e. years one, two and three). The staff team also collectively support the management of the course through responsibilities for individual modules, workshop areas and contributions to planning.

All staff in the Faculty and Department participate in annual appraisal and observation of their teaching by their colleagues. This can inform staff development through course attendance or research / professional activity.

Course approval, monitoring and review

The course was reviewed by a University Validation Panel in 2013. The panel included internal peers from the University and external subject specialists from academia and industry to ensure the comparability of the course to those offered in other universities and the relevance to employers. Periodic course review helps to ensure that the curriculum is up-to-date and that the skills gained on the course continue to be relevant to employers.

The course is monitored each year by the Faculty to ensure it is running effectively and that issues which might affect the student experience have been appropriately addressed. Staff will consider evidence about the course, including the outcomes from each Course Committee, evidence of student progression and achievement and the reports from External Examiners, to evaluate the effectiveness of the course. The Annual Monitoring Sub-Committee considers the Faculty action plans resulting from this process and the outcomes are reported to the Academic Council, which has overall responsibility for the maintenance of quality and standards in the University.

Student involvement in Quality Management and Enhancement

Student feedback is important to the University and student views are taken seriously. Student feedback is gathered in a variety of ways. The most formal mechanism for feedback on the course is the Course Committee. Student representatives will be elected to sit on the Committee to represent the views of their peer group in various discussions. The University and the Students' Union work together to provide a full induction to the role of the Course Committee.

All students are invited to complete a Module Feedback Questionnaire before the end of each module. The feedback from this will inform the module leader on the effectiveness of the module and highlight areas that could be enhanced. The University also offers an annual Student Experience Survey (1st and 2nd years) and the National Student Survey (graduating 3rd years) which elicit feedback from students about their course and University experience.

Students meet with review panels when the periodic review of the course is conducted to provide oral feedback on their experience on the course. Student feedback from course committees is part of the Faculty's quality assurance evidence base.

Staff Research and Industry Advisors

The professional and research practice of course staff is employed in improving the delivery of the course to ensure that we reflect current and emerging 'real-world' concerns and demands. Regular staff meetings ensure this, as well as formal and informal interaction between the staff and outside industry professionals. Key course staff are members of the Higher Education Academy, the professional body for academics in higher education.

In early 2013 we consulted with media industry professionals (including graduates from this course) to inform the periodic review process. This is seen as a key element in ensuring the maintenance of educational quality, the currency of the course and its ability to prepare students for their future careers.

For more information about this course:

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020 350 68298

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020 7911 5903

Please note: This programme specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. This specification should be read in conjunction with the Course Handbook provided to students and Module Handbooks, which provide more detailed information on the specific learning outcomes, content, teaching, learning and assessment methods for each module.

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