

Module specification

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Refer to guidance notes for completion of each section of the specification.

Module Code	ARD639
Module Title	Practice as Research: Photography
Level	6
Credit value	60
Faculty	FACE
HECoS Code	100063
Cost Code	GADC

Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Is the module core or option for this programme
BA (Hons) Photography	Core

Pre-requisites

None

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	72 hrs
Placement tutor support	0 hrs
Supervised learning e.g. practical classes, workshops	24 hrs
Project supervision (level 6 projects and dissertation modules only)	24 hrs
Total active learning and teaching hours	120 hrs
Placement / work based learning	0 hrs
Guided independent study	480 hrs
Module duration (total hours)	600 hrs

For office use only	
Initial approval date	15/05/2024
With effect from date	September 2024
Date and details of revision	
Version number	1



Module aims

The module "Photography Practice as Research" tasks students with elevating their individual creative pursuits into structured investigations through a practice-based research. This approach enables students to locate and establish a connection between their creative practice and their academic and reflective writing, enhancing their research skills to guide speculative photographic endeavors.

Objectives of this module include the creation of ambitious, self-directed photographic based works that seamlessly integrate with contextual insights and / or research questions derived from a sustained period of subject exploration. Engagement in Practice Research entails honing analytical skills to locate appropriate sources and employing suitable and sustainable methodologies linked to practical applications. The written components will necessitate students to cultivate insights into theoretical and historical / cultural implications related to technologies, techniques and concepts already inherent and / or emerging within the discipline. Encouraging the identification of target audiences / commercial and / or cultural market outputs and presentation strategies. It is crucial to incorporate these fundamental ideas of dissemination into the completed body of practice research work. The module encourages skills in resilience for establishing and promoting creative and innovative practices, both professionally and sustainably after graduation.

Overall, this module strives to nurture sophisticated idea generation, professional production skills, critical and theoretical grounding, written and communication skills, reflective practice, and ethical understanding across chosen area of study. It also fosters developing lifelong learning capacities, enabling students to have a meaningful impact as self-actualized photographic artists and professionals within research/writing praxes.

Module Learning Outcomes - at the end of this module, students will be able to:

1	Engage in innovative and self-directed photographic practice, responding to self-identified aims and objectives, and produce a body of work that exemplifies high professional standards.
2	Demonstrate an ability in the presentation of creative photographic work in an appropriate and professional manner, showcasing an understanding of effective visual communication.
3	Conduct a critical analysis of the interplay between form and content in the context of creative photographic practice, showcasing an advanced understanding of the relationship between artistic expression and conceptual meaning.
4	Identify and articulate areas within their photographic practice with the potential for future development, showcasing foresight and a strategic approach to advancing their creative inquiries.
5	Critically reflect upon situating personal photographic practice within a robust theoretical and critical context, identifying and understanding the intended audience for their work.

Assessment

Indicative Assessment Tasks:



This section outlines the type of assessment task the student will be expected to complete as part of the module. More details will be made available in the relevant academic year module handbook.

The module assessments will include a Practical based Coursework component of photography practice and a Curated Process & Context Portfolio gauging contextual, theoretical and research competencies. The coursework assessment will evaluate the full range of conceptual, technical, professional, analytical and developmental learning outcomes connected to practice refined through engaged 'hands on' inquiry. The Curated Process Portfolio will enable analysis of knowledge regarding theoretical and contextual awareness, critical analysis of their inquiry-driven investigation, and other capacities underpinning sustainable photographic research praxes.

Submission will include:

Practical based Coursework: Students will produce a substantial body of self-directed photographic works created through engaged research and exhibited to professional standards. This may include:

- The originality of concepts and ideas.
- Evidence of self-identification of aims and objectives.
- Technical experience within the context of photographic practice.
- Critical analysis of the interplay between form and content.
- Adherence to professional presentation

The practical coursework will be assessed by criteria including:

- Diverse examples showcasing creativity and originality.
- Clear articulation of personal creative goals.
- Evidence of a deliberate and intentional creative direction.
- Alignment of photographic works with self-identified aims and objectives.
- Evidence of skilful execution in the chosen medium.
- Mastery of technical aspects relevant to practice.
- Demonstrate a nuanced understanding of the interplay between aesthetic and content.
- Consistency in visual language and coherence in the overall presentation.

Curated Process and Context Portfolio (equivalent to 5000 words): Students will compile a portfolio selecting key writings that contextualise and articulate the theories, contexts, concepts, inquiries, and insights driving their speculative studio investigations. This may include:

- Initial proposal outlining research questions, topics, and trajectory
- Conceptual frameworks, material methodologies, and theoretical underpinnings.
- Annotated visual research pages connecting sources to practice
- Provide insights into the materials and methods employed in their artworks.
- Excerpts from written journals made during the research process
- Photo essays documenting stages of the studio-based journey
- Concluding statement and evaluation reflecting on overall significance

The portfolios will be assessed on criteria including:

- Structure, navigability, and logical connections
- Communication clarity and contextual fluency exhibited



- Critical thinking and analysis displayed
- Practice-led orientation convincingly conveyed
- Project realisations and difficulties captured

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting (%)
1	1-3	Coursework	75%
2	4-5	Portfolio	25%

Derogations

None

Learning and Teaching Strategies

In delivering the Photography Practice as Research module, a versatile range of teaching methods will be employed to align with the specified learning outcomes and indicative assessment tasks. The emphasis is on cultivating students' abilities to synthesize the diverse elements integral to the photographic process and respond with creativity and relevance, preparing them for real-world practice beyond the educational context. Through negotiation, students will actively plan, implement, and conclude a self-directed body of work, setting personalized aims and objectives that align with their individual aspirations. A crucial aspect of this module involves fostering clear and logical progressions throughout the negotiated study period. Responsible tutors will communicate the essential theme that a negotiated study module serves to celebrate the learner's achievements and learning trajectory during undergraduate study. Moreover, students will be encouraged, where relevant, to undertake residencies, commissions, engage communities or other external activities that complement their established working processes within the module structure. This flexible framework empowers students to organise a tailored and relevant program of work, potentially including residencies or commissions, individual development, and research. This comprehensive approach ensures that students establish a practice that informs the presentation of major pieces for the final year-end exhibition.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

- Overview of the module's objectives and structure
- Understanding the significance of practice-led research in photographic practice
- Negotiation and Planning
- Strategies for negotiating and planning a self-directed body of work
- Setting personal aims and objectives aligned with individual aspirations
- Translating aims and objectives into a tangible body of work
- Exploring and experimenting with various artistic and photographic processes and techniques
- Developing skills for critically analysing the interplay between form and content
- Evaluating the conceptual meaning within artistic expression
- Establishing a clear and logical progression throughout the negotiated study period
- Ensuring coherence and continuity in the development of the body of work
- Organising individual programs of work, potentially including residencies, commissions, community engagement and personal development

- Conducting research to inform the photographic practice
- Developing and refining individual research methodologies
- Emphasizing the integration of practice and theory in the context of photographic research
- Understanding the reciprocal relationship between creating and articulating artistic photographic work
- Academic writing conventions and research
- Professional practices and ethics
- Holistic development of practice
- Engagement: audiences, interactions, encounter

Indicative Bibliography:

Please note the essential reads and other indicative reading are subject to annual review and update.

Essential Reads

McIver Lopes, D. (2016), *Four Arts of Photography: An Essay in Philosophy (New Directions in Aesthetics)*. New Jersey: Wiley.

B, Bolt. E, Barrett. (2010), *Practice as Research: Approaches to Creative Arts Enquiry*. London: I.B. Tauris.

Other indicative reading

Flusser, V. (2000), *Towards a Philosophy of Photography*. London: Reaktion Books.

Adams, R. (2004), *Why People Photograph*. New York: Aperture

Current Journals

Aperture

British Journal of Photography

Source Magazine