

# MA Photography and Urban Cultures

## Programme Specification

**Awarding Institution:**

University of London (Interim Exit Awards made by Goldsmiths' College)

**Teaching Institution:** Goldsmiths, University of London

**Name of Final Award and Programme Title:** MA Photography and Urban Cultures

**Name of Interim Exit Award(s):**

Postgraduate Certificate in Photography and Urban Cultures

Postgraduate Diploma in Photography and Urban Cultures

**Duration of Programme:** 1 year full-time or 2 years part-time

**UCAS Code(s):** Not applicable

**HECoS Code(s):** (100505) Sociology

**QAA Benchmark Group:** Not applicable

**FHEQ Level of Award:** Level 7

**Programme accredited by:** Not applicable

**Date Programme Specification last updated/approved:** December 2021

**Home Department:** Sociology

**Department(s) which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme:**

Not applicable

## Programme overview

This programme has been developed in collaboration with the Centre for Urban and Community Research in response to the increasing interest in urban theory and the visual representation of urban cultures and places.

It is designed to encourage creative interplay between practice and theory; you will have the chance to consider cutting-edge debates in cultural and social theory in a research setting that actively encourages the development of photographic practice.

The programme offers working photographers, visual artists and media practitioners space to reflect critically on their practice. It also offers those with a background in sociology, urban and cultural geography, cultural studies or anthropology the opportunity to combine visual forms of representation with standard forms of research techniques in investigating urban life and the physical environments of the city. The programme offers the following modules:

Through the lens (A), focuses on the relationship between urban space, the built environment, and urban cultures. Through the lens (B), focuses on urban identities and communities.

Talking Practice (A), focuses on students' visual projects relating to urban spaces and the built environment. Talking Practice (B), focuses on students' visual projects relating to urban identities and communities.

Urban Photographers, introduces students to key practitioners with urban photography and associated visual practices. Cities and Society, introduces students to key issues and debates within urban studies and research.

Theories and Debates in Visual Research, focuses on the relationship between sociological research methods and the visual. Dissertation, combining written and visual (final visual project) components.

The distinctive aspects of the programme are that it provides students with a set of learning experiences that combine cutting- edge debates about conceptual and practical aspects of urban photography and visual research, in conjunction with key sociological and urban theory debates focusing on the nature of contemporary urban societies.

## **Programme entry requirements**

Students will normally hold a first or second class degree in a related subject in the humanities, social sciences, or visual arts. Students will also be expected to have a basic competence in photographic practice. In exceptional circumstances, where students can demonstrate that they would be able to produce work of Masters standard, then practical experience in the field of photography and urban research may be considered as equivalent qualifying experience for the programme. Where equivalent experience is considered candidates may be asked to demonstrate their competence through written essay submission, portfolio review and interview.

IELTS 6.5 (with a minimum of 6.5 in the written element).

## **Aims of the programme**

The MA Photography and Urban Cultures aims to offer the unique opportunity for students to develop skills that engage with both the theory and the practice of the representation and evocation of contemporary city life. Students will have the chance to consider cutting edge debates in cultural and social theory in a research setting that actively encourages the development of photographic practice.

Alongside subject specific debates that the students will be introduced to throughout the modules, there is the opportunity to develop the practical skills of photographic work in a community of urban researchers that can be applied to a number of contexts, including local, regional, national and international research and visual practice environments.

The MA is designed so that it can be taken by practising photographers, visual artists, and urban researchers that wish to simultaneously develop a portfolio of work and an interest in the theoretical debates around representation of the city as well as by students wishing to develop a critical engagement with theoretical and cultural debates about representation of the urban within photographic practice. The programme is also intended to link directly to professional research outcomes, and many graduates have secured employment within urban research, ethnography, teaching, curatorial and arts practice, human rights, and architectural research. This programme aims to widen access to a specialised area of higher education, particularly urban ethnography and associated visual practices.

Students are expected to be highly motivated and to pursue independent study within the module areas, typically represented by field and library research, and the development of course project work.

The MA develops the core strengths of Goldsmiths, University of London. The module is located within the Sociology Department with close links to the Centre for Urban and Community Research (CUCR) at Goldsmiths. It forms part of the Department of Sociology's portfolio of Masters programmes. CUCR is an interdisciplinary research centre with interests in investigations of contemporary city life that cross the humanities and social sciences. This module complements the other MA programme linked to the CUCR, the MA Cities and Society. Students from both MA's have the opportunity, though not the obligation, to participate in the research culture of the Centre, which produces a running programme of seminars, conferences and screenings.

The MA PUC programme also offers students the opportunity to attend a series of photographic and urban research workshops, walks, field-trips and seminars (in collaboration with CUCR). These workshops and seminars are designed to support student progression towards a successful realisation of their dissertations and final visual projects (FVPs). They provide formative rather than summative assessment, and provide a key component in supporting students' visual training and understanding of urban research cultures.

The programme also accords with the strategic aspiration of Goldsmiths, University of London to increase the size of the College particularly at postgraduate level. The students will add to the flourishing postgraduate population of the Department of Sociology and CUCR.

The programme will also contribute to the College's aspiration facilitate outstanding research outlined in the strategic plan. Through the MA students will be encouraged to produce a portfolio of photography that will also form the basis of an annual exhibition. Staff will both work with and through students to produce a visual research document focusing on urban and city life. We have already piloted this approach through the development CUCR's 'Visible Cities, Invisible Lives' stream of work. In the initial development period of the MA PUC, a number of highly successful visual projects were piloted in collaboration with the CUCR, including photographic exhibitions at the Spitz, Viewfinder, APT and Photofusion galleries in London. Since these programme initiatives, the programme has developed an international festival and conference for urban photographers and visual ethnographers, in collaboration with the CUCR and Tate Britain ([www.urbanphotofest.org](http://www.urbanphotofest.org)), and has extensive international links with a variety of media education, visual ethnography/sociology and urban research networks which continue to contribute to its highly successful overseas and home recruitment figures.

## What you will be expected to achieve

Students who successfully complete 60 CATS, and exit the programme with the Postgraduate Certificate in Photography and Urban Cultures will demonstrate the following knowledge and skills:

### Knowledge and understanding

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A1	Apply a conceptual understanding of the relationship between photographic practices and urban ethnography	Through the Lens A & B
A2	Select and use, a variety of visual methods to carry out sociological research and to present it in a coherent and meaningful manner	Talking Practice A & B
A3	Demonstrate conceptual and methodological knowledge of the key concepts and debates in urban studies	Talking through the Lens A & B Talking Practice A & B
A4	An advanced understanding of the theoretical debates around photographic practice in the city	Talking through the Lens A & B Talking Practice A & B
A5	Demonstrate a critical understanding of the interface between theory and practice in the representation of the city	Talking through the Lens A & B Talking Practice A & B

## Cognitive and thinking skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
B1	Understand and apply advanced skills in critical thinking and analysis, academic writing and presentation skills	These skills will be taught throughout the programme and specifically in the modules: Through the Lens A & B
B2	Critically evaluate urban ethnographies and research, including their own, in relation to research methods and appropriate theoretical issues	These skill will be taught throughout the programme and specifically in the modules: Talking Practice A & B
B3	Critically analyse the complex interaction of photographic approaches to urban life	Talking through the Lens A & B Talking Practice A & B
B4	Establish creative connections between previous academic and work experiences with themes emerging from the programme	Talking through the Lens A & B Talking Practice A & B
B5	Adapt concepts and methods flexibly and imaginatively to pursue future specific aims relating to career development or further research	Talking through the Lens A & B Talking Practice A & B

## Subject specific skills and professional behaviours and attitudes

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C1	Demonstrate sociological skills of analysis, understanding and use of research methods, social research design	These skills will be taught throughout the programme and specifically in the modules: Through the Lens A & B
C2	Demonstrate good literacy in using a variety of lens-based media including digital and analogue formats relevant to urban visual ethnography	These skill will be taught throughout the programme and specifically in the modules: Talking Practice A & B and the additional evening practice sessions
C3	Synthesise and analyse how sociological methods and concepts can relate to the representation of and intervention in urban life	Through the Lens A & B Talking Practice A & B
C4	Analyse and evaluate different kinds of knowledge in the context of core themes in urban cultures, development, cultural, politics, and change through individual research	Through the Lens A & B Talking Practice A & B

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C5	Compare, contrast and analyse sociological perspectives on photography and urban cultures with the perspectives of other disciplines	Through the Lens A & B Talking Practice A & B

## Transferable skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D1	Demonstrate the ability to do academic research, writing and visual presentation	These skills will be taught throughout the programme and specifically in the modules: Through the Lens A & B
D2	Demonstrate the ability to be independent and creative learners, able to exercise initiative combined with personal and professional responsibility in their work	These skill will be taught throughout the programme and specifically in the modules: Talking Practice A & B and supported by the additional evening practice sessions
D3	Design, formulate and conduct research on a topic relevant to contemporary debates in photography and urban studies	Through the Lens A & B Talking Practice A & B
D4	Effectively communicate, explain and debate in a wide range of contexts and with a broad range of interlocutors	Through the Lens A & B Talking Practice A & B
D5	Communication skills in the presentation of high quality work in written, oral and visual formats	Through the Lens A & B Talking Practice A & B

Students who successfully complete 120 CATS, and exit the programme with the Postgraduate Diploma in Photography and Urban Cultures will demonstrate the following knowledge and skills:

## Knowledge and understanding

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A1	Demonstrate conceptual and methodological knowledge of the key concepts and debates in urban studies	All modules
A2	An advanced understanding of the theoretical debates around photographic practice in the city	Through the Lens A & B Talking Practice A & B Urban Photographers

<b>Code</b>	<b>Learning outcome</b>	<b>Taught by the following module(s)</b>
A3	Demonstrate a critical understanding of the interface between theory and practice in the representation of the city	All modules
A4	An advanced fluency with current debates in critical cultural theory around the city	All modules
A5	Synthesise and critically analyse the literature on, photography and urban life in the context of the history of sociology and related academic areas	Through the Lens A & B Talking Practice A & B Cities and Society
A6	An advanced competence in assembling a portfolio of photographic images and reflect on their relevance to debates around processes of representation	Through the Lens A & B Talking Practice A & B
A7	A sophisticated understanding of contemporary debates around visual ethnography and the role of photography in the production of knowledges about the city	All modules
A8	Identify ways of using the study of urban life as a means of engaging disparate fields	Through the Lens A & B Talking Practice A & B Cities and Society Urban Photographers
A9	Distinguish and appraise a range of sociological research methodologies and their potential applicability as well as their possible limitations	Cities and Society Key Debates
A10	Recognise and account for sensitive ethical issues relating to research and representation	Through the Lens A & B Talking Practice A & B Cities and Society Key Debates
A11	Understand the positionality of cities from the viewpoints of other disciplines in the humanities and social sciences	Cities and Society
A12	A sophisticated understanding of different methodologies in carrying out research in complex urban settings	Through the Lens A & B Talking Practice A & B Cities and Society Key Debates



## Cognitive and thinking skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
B1	Critically analyse the complex interaction of photographic approaches to urban life	Through the Lens A & B Talking Practice A & B Cities and Society Urban Photographers
B2	Systematically and creatively engage debates on photographic representation, urban development, change, governance, culture and economy	Through the Lens A & B Talking Practice A & B Cities and Society Urban Photographers
B3	Rethink urbanising processes as applicable to various scales and entities of consideration that go beyond the “city”	Cities and Society
B4	Establish creative connections between previous academic and work experiences with themes emerging from the programme	Through the Lens A & B Talking Practice A & B Urban Photographers
B5	Adapt concepts and methods flexibly and imaginatively to pursue future specific aims relating to career development or further research	Through the Lens A & B Talking Practice A & B Cities and Society Urban Photographers

## Subject specific skills and professional behaviours and attitudes

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C1	Synthesise and analyse how sociological methods and concepts can relate to the representation of and intervention in urban life	Through the Lens A & B Talking Practice A & B Cities and Society Key Debates
C2	Analyse and evaluate different kinds of knowledge in the context of core themes in urban cultures, development, cultural, politics, and change through individual research	Through the Lens A & B Talking Practice A & B Cities and Society
C3	Compare, contrast and analyse sociological perspectives on photography and urban cultures with the perspectives of other disciplines	Through the Lens A & B Talking Practice A & B Urban Photographers
C4	Conduct research in situations where individuals, households, communities,	Cities and Society



Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
	cities, nations, regions, sectors, disciplines, and groups are no longer necessarily the predominant or most salient subjects	
C5	Critically assess the approaches and philosophies, structures and organisation of various urban formations and their concomitant cultural processes, as well as political systems and actors	Cities and Society

## Transferable skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D1	Design, formulate and conduct research on a topic relevant to contemporary debates in photography and urban studies	Through the Lens A & B Talking Practice A & B Cities and Society Urban Photographers
D2	Effectively communicate, explain and debate in a wide range of contexts and with a broad range of interlocutors	All modules
D3	Communication skills in the presentation of high quality work in written, oral and visual formats	Through the Lens A & B Talking Practice A & B
D4	Evaluate and assess a range of research methods and the use of computer applications for data collection and processing, bibliographic searches and the editing and production of visual work	Through the Lens A & B Talking Practice A & B Cities and Society Key Debates
D5	Provide concrete demonstrations on how different economic, cultural, political and historical differences are simultaneously brought to bear on cities	Cities and Society
D6	Exercise initiative and personal responsibility in effective independent work with the attendant skills of experimentation, work organisation, time planning, independent decision-making and keeping to deadlines under often complex and unpredictable circumstances	All modules

Students who successfully complete the MA Photography and Urban Cultures will demonstrate the following knowledge and skills:

## Knowledge and understanding

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A1	Demonstrate conceptual and methodological knowledge of the key concepts and debates in urban studies	All modules
A2	An advanced understanding of the theoretical debates around photographic practice in the city	Through the Lens A & B Talking Practice A & B Urban Photographers
A3	Demonstrate a critical understanding of the interface between theory and practice in the representation of the city	All modules
A4	An advanced fluency with current debates in critical cultural theory around the city	All modules
A5	Synthesise and critically analyse the literature on, photography and urban life in the context of the history of sociology and related academic areas	Through the Lens A & B Talking Practice A & B Cities and Society
A6	An advanced competence in assembling a portfolio of photographic images and reflect on their relevance to debates around processes of representation	Through the Lens A & B Talking Practice A & B
A7	A sophisticated understanding of contemporary debates around visual ethnography and the role of photography in the production of knowledges about the city	All modules
A8	Identify ways of using the study of urban life as a means of engaging disparate fields	Through the Lens A & B Talking Practice A & B Cities and Society Urban Photographers
A9	Distinguish and appraise a range of sociological research methodologies and their potential applicability as well as their possible limitations	Cities and Society Key Debates
A10	Recognise and account for sensitive ethical issues relating to research and representation	Through the Lens A & B Talking Practice A & B Cities and Society

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
		Key Debates
A11	Understand the positionality of cities from the viewpoints of other disciplines in the humanities and social sciences	Cities and Society
A12	A sophisticated understanding of different methodologies in carrying out research in complex urban settings	Through the Lens A & B Talking Practice A & B Cities and Society Key Debates
A13	Demonstrate the ability to conduct secondary and primary research in written and visual forms	Through the Lens A & B Talking Practice A & B Cities and Society Key Debates Dissertation

## Cognitive and thinking skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
B1	Critically analyse the complex interaction of photographic approaches to urban life	Through the Lens A & B Talking Practice A & B Cities and Society Urban Photographers
B2	Systematically and creatively engage debates on photographic representation, urban development, change, governance, culture and economy	Through the Lens A & B Talking Practice A & B Cities and Society Urban Photographers
B3	Rethink urbanising processes as applicable to various scales and entities of consideration that go beyond the “city”	Cities and Society
B4	Establish creative connections between previous academic and work experiences with themes emerging from the programme	Through the Lens A & B Talking Practice A & B Urban Photographers Dissertation
B5	Adapt concepts and methods flexibly and imaginatively to pursue future specific aims relating to career development or further research	Through the Lens A & B Talking Practice A & B Cities and Society Urban Photographers

## Subject specific skills and professional behaviours and attitudes

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C1	Synthesise and analyse how sociological methods and concepts can relate to the representation of and intervention in urban life	Through the Lens A & B Talking Practice A & B Cities and Society Key Debates
C2	Analyse and evaluate different kinds of knowledge in the context of core themes in urban cultures, development, cultural, politics, and change through individual research	Through the Lens A & B Talking Practice A & B Cities and Society Dissertation
C3	Compare, contrast and analyse sociological perspectives on photography and urban cultures with the perspectives of other disciplines	Through the Lens A & B Talking Practice A & B Urban Photographers
C4	Conduct research in situations where individuals, households, communities, cities, nations, regions, sectors, disciplines, and groups are no longer necessarily the predominant or most salient subjects	Cities and Society
C5	Critically assess the approaches and philosophies, structures and organisation of various urban formations and their concomitant cultural processes, as well as political systems and actors	Cities and Society

## Transferable skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D1	Design, formulate and conduct research on a topic relevant to contemporary debates in photography and urban studies	Through the Lens A & B Talking Practice A & B Cities and Society Urban Photographers
D2	Effectively communicate, explain and debate in a wide range of contexts and with a broad range of interlocutors	All modules
D3	Communication skills in the presentation of high quality work in written, oral and visual formats	Through the Lens A & B Talking Practice A & B

<b>Code</b>	<b>Learning outcome</b>	<b>Taught by the following module(s)</b>
D4	Evaluate and assess a range of research methods and the use of computer applications for data collection and processing, bibliographic searches, and the editing and production of visual work	Through the Lens A & B Talking Practice A & B Cities and Society Key Debates Dissertation
D5	Provide concrete demonstrations on how different economic, cultural, political and historical differences are simultaneously brought to bear on cities	Cities and Society
D6	Exercise initiative and personal responsibility in effective independent work with the attendant skills of experimentation, work organisation, time planning, independent decision-making and keeping to deadlines under often complex and unpredictable circumstances	All modules

## How you will learn

The Department of Sociology and the Centre for Urban and Community Research recognise the importance of developing support for students working in small groups on MA modules. Compulsory modules and options are taught on the basis of small group seminars, reinforced where relevant with tutorial support.

The specific specialist skills listed above constitute central components of the teaching components of the compulsory modules of the degree. Students are encouraged to develop presentational and communication skills as part of the seminar structure of the teaching programme.

Students will be encouraged to work independently, and to work as part of a team. Students are encouraged to attend seminars, workshops and conferences in the Department and elsewhere in the College, where research students, staff and invited speakers present their work. They will be given the opportunity to benefit from the wealth of academic libraries available to students from the University of London.

## How you will be assessed

As outlined below, summative assessment on the programme takes a variety of forms, designed to test different skills and evaluate different learning outcomes. The fit between

each module on the programme, learning outcomes, the relation between formative and summative assessment, and the mix of forms of assessment are addressed by the module convenor and reviewed annually by the department PG Learning and Teaching Committee.

The programme is assessed as follows:

Through the Lens A: one essay of 2500-3,000 words. This essay can take three different forms: firstly, it can be a written commentary/ analysis of practical work produced within the course (2000) words; or secondly, it can be a critical examination of an existing body of photographic texts (2500-3000 words); or thirdly, a theoretical exposition on some aspect of photographic theory or cultural theories of representation (2500-3000 words). The assessment offers the opportunity for students to develop a thoughtful and elaborated argument, and the expectation is that the student will pay attention to structure and presentation

Through the Lens B: one essay of 2,500-3,000 words. This essay can take two different forms: firstly, it can a critical examination of existing body of photographic texts; or secondly, a theoretical exposition on some aspect of photographic theory or cultural theories of representation relating to contemporary urban life. The Assessment offers the opportunity for students to develop a thoughtful and elaborated argument, and the expectation is that the student will pay attention to structure and presentation

Theories and Debates in Visual Research: one 2500-3500 word essay

Cities and Society: one 5000-6000 word essay

Talking Practice A: one 1000-1500 word theoretically-informed practice report and a visual project of 10-15 images. This develops and assesses the capacity of students to work independently, to define a research problem, design and implement the research and communicate the findings

Talking Practice B: one 1000-1500 word theoretically-informed practice report and a visual project of 10-15 images. This develops and assesses the capacity of students to work independently, to define a research problem, design and implement the research and communicate the findings

Urban Photographers: A Discussion Series: a 2500-3000 word essay based on a specific photographer whose work addresses issues relating to contemporary urbanism

Dissertation: either a 5-6000 word dissertation + final visual project portfolio with 20-30 images or a 12,000 word written dissertation, the evaluation of which will be informed by a series of compulsory critical presentations in the third term with peer and academic

formative feedback. Although the results of the review will not contribute directly to the final mark, it is intended to further cultivate skills in research, dissemination and group presentation. The final project promotes and tests the ability to construct a clear argument on a complex and extensively treated topic combining visual and written material.

## Marking criteria

Mark	Descriptor	Specific Marking Criteria
80-100%	Distinction (Outstanding/ Exceptional)	Represents the overall achievement of the appropriate learning outcomes to an exceptionally accomplished level. A mark in the 80s or even the 90s will be awarded in the case of really accomplished work, demonstrating high levels of scholarship and originality, although grades in the 90s should be reserved for work deemed to be outstanding and of publishable quality.
70-79%	Distinction	Represents the overall achievement of the appropriate learning outcomes to an excellent level. Candidates show evidence of an excellent application of appropriate knowledge, understanding and skills as specified the module learning outcomes. Typically, this involves extensive reading and grasp of questions and their context and an exceptional degree of clarity in argument and use of evidence. Knowledge and understanding will have been presented critically, with insight and independence of thought. Argument and analysis of reading will demonstrate the candidates own reasoning and be exceptionally clear, critical, well-focused and cogent.
60-69%	Merit	Represents the overall achievement of the appropriate learning outcomes to a good level. Candidates show a good application of appropriate knowledge, understanding and skills as specified in the module learning outcomes. This involves consistency and fluency in discussing and evaluating reading from a range of sources and an ability to relate this reading to the assessment tasks.
50-59%	Pass	Represents the overall achievement of the appropriate learning outcomes to a threshold level. There is clear evidence of a satisfactory application appropriate, knowledge, understanding and skills as specified in the module learning outcomes. Typically this involves evidence of knowledge and understanding where there is a limited development of ideas and critical comment.
30-49%	Fail	Represents an overall failure to achieve the appropriate learning outcomes. There is not a satisfactory application of



Mark	Descriptor	Specific Marking Criteria
		appropriate knowledge, understanding and skills as specified in the module learning outcomes. There may be confusion and incoherence and unfocused comment on the literature.
10-29%	Bad fail	Represents a significant overall failure to achieve the appropriate learning outcomes. Only some but not all of the learning outcomes specified for the module have been achieved. Typically, a candidate in this position will not have satisfied the examiners that they have read and understood the essential texts of the module. Research involved in the writing of module work or the dissertation will be poorly organised and inadequately discussed.
1-9%	Very bad fail	A submission that does not even attempt to address the specified learning outcomes.
0%	Non submission or plagiarised	A categorical mark representing either the failure to submit an assessment or a mark assigned for a plagiarised assessment.

## How the programme is structured

The programme will consist of compulsory five compulsory modules and a research based dissertation completed with a complementary major visual project.

Cities and Society (30 CATS over 1 term): This module addresses significant issues in the contemporary organisation of urban landscapes, urban life and connections between cities as well as the interface between human and architectural fabric. Drawing on specific empirical examples in based in China, Hong Kong, the US, London and parts of mainland Europe this module examines key debates in urban sociology and research. There is a strong focus on visual apprehension of cities and ways of accessing and researching cities through photography. It offers a short tour of 'urban theory' from the Chicago School to the present day. This sets up the conceptual basis for the session following which, although empirically focused on specific cities, illuminate different conceptual frameworks for understanding urbanism. Assessment: One 5-6,000 word essay.

Through the Lens A (Imaging the City) & Through the Lens B (Urban Identities) (30 CATS over 2 terms): These modules aim to introduce students to contemporary examples of photographic practice and city life. They offer students a range of critical perspectives on photographic practice from within sociology, anthropology, cultural studies and visual arts theory. They also include discussions of the work of contemporary media practitioners and photographic artists and examine issues in relation to visual ethnography, the place of photography in news media and visual arts practice. The modules are complemented by the

MA PUC practice-based workshops that explore aspects of urban and spatial culture. The modules take place over ten weeks (5 weeks in the Autumn term and 5 weeks in the Spring term) and consists of ten one-hour lectures, ten one-hour small group seminars and one reading week in each term. Assessment: Two essays of 2,500-3,000 words incorporating either primary or secondary visual materials.

Talking Practice A & Talking Practice B (30 CATS over 2 terms): These modules will provide the main visual practice critique for the spring and autumn terms of the MA PUC. Building on a successful background, the modules will facilitate a critical engagement between students' visual projects and the wider theoretical components of the programme. These modules will introduce students to core themes within visual urbanism and urban photography. They will focus on the production of a visual project linked to the TTL A & TTL B modules as well as the Cities and Society compulsory module. Students will be asked to produce a short visual project in response to a core theme within urban sociology. Assessment: Two practice reports of 1000 words combined with photographic portfolios.

Urban Photographers: A Discussion Series (15 CATS over 1 term): This module will focus on presentations given by expert urban photographers and artists whose work directly engages with core sociological thematics within urban research and visual urbanism. The main focus will be include a one hour presentation by the visiting photographer/artist, followed by a one hour discussion-based seminar. Students will be expected to do background research on the visiting speaker before the session in the form of library, gallery, museum and other forms of relevant new media. Assessment: one essay of 2500 words.

Theories and Debates in Visual Research (15 CATS over 1 term): Visual sociology has taught sociology that text is not the only medium to be used for sociology. The module "Theories and Debates in Visual Research" introduces students to the problems of visibility and representation in sociology, beginning with classical debates in visual sociology, but expands from there to more recent debates surrounding the notions of media, translation and the studio to discuss how sociology can represent the social. The module will introduce the students to the complexity of decisions to be taken in inventive sociology once the primacy of text is relinquished. Assessment: one essay of 2,500-3,500 words.

Dissertation (60 CATS): Students will produce a portfolio of photographic images of the city that would become the subject matter for a 5-6,000 word critical discussion in their research-based dissertation. Students would be expected to provide for assessment a 5-6,000 word dissertation and provide evidence of a sustained and coherent body of photographic work focusing on an aspect of urban culture (approximately 20-30 images) or a 12,000 word written dissertation. Assessment: 5-6000 word dissertation combined with visual portfolio (20-30 images) or a 12,000 word dissertation.

Progression Requirements:

Full-time students will normally be expected to pass all taught components before proceeding to the dissertation.

### Full-time mode

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Status	Term
Through the Lens A (Imagining the City)	SO71070C	15	7	Compulsory	1
Theories and Debates in Visual Research	SO71117B	15	7	Compulsory	1
Talking Practice A	SO71123A	15	7	Compulsory	1
Cities and Society	SO71042C	30	7	Compulsory	1
Through the Lens B (Urban Identities)	SO71070D	15	7	Compulsory	2
Urban Photographers: A Discussion Series	SO71122A	15	7	Compulsory	2
Talking Practice B	SO71124A	15	7	Compulsory	2
Project/Dissertation	SO71071A	60	7	Compulsory	2&3

### Part-time mode

Part-time students will normally be expected to pass compulsory modules Talking Practice A & B and Through the Lens A & B in their first year before proceeding to the second year.

### Academic year of study 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Status	Term
Through the Lens A (Imagining the City)	SO71070C	15	7	Compulsory	1
Talking Practice A	SO71123A	15	7	Compulsory	1
Through the Lens B (Urban Identities)	SO71070D	15	7	Compulsory	2
Talking Practice B	SO71124A	15	7	Compulsory	2

## Academic year of study 2

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Status	Term
Theories and Debates in Visual Research	SO71117B	15	7	Compulsory	1
Cities and Society	SO71042C	30	7	Compulsory	1
Urban Photographers: A Discussion Series	SO71122A	15	7	Compulsory	2
Project/Dissertation	SO71071A	60	7	Compulsory	2&3

## Academic support

Support for learning and wellbeing is provided in a number of ways by departments and College support services who work collaboratively to ensure students get the right help to reach their best potential both academically and personally.

All students are allocated a Personal Tutor (one in each department for joint programmes) who has overall responsibility for their individual progress and welfare. Personal Tutors meet with their student at least twice a year either face-to-face, as part of a group and/or electronically. The first meeting normally takes place within the first few weeks of the autumn term. Personal Tutors are also available to students throughout the year of study. These meetings aim to discuss progress on modules, discussion of the academic discipline and reports from previous years if available (for continuing students). This provides an opportunity for progress, attendance and assessment marks to be reviewed and an informed discussion to take place about how to strengthen individual learning and success.

All students are also allocated a Senior Tutor to enable them to speak to an experienced academic member of staff about any issues which are negatively impacting their academic study and which are beyond the normal scope of issues handled by Programme Convenors and Personal Tutors.

Students are provided with information about learning resources, the [Library](#) and information available on [Learn.gold \(VLE\)](#) so that they have access to department/programme handbooks, programme information and support related information and guidance.

Taught sessions and lectures provide overviews of themes, which students are encouraged to complement with intensive reading for presentation and discussion with peers at seminars. Assessments build on lectures and seminars so students are expected to attend all taught sessions to build knowledge and their own understanding of their chosen discipline.

All assessed work is accompanied by some form of feedback to ensure that students' work is on the right track. It may come in a variety of forms ranging from written comments on a marked essay to oral and written feedback on developing projects and practice as they attend workshops.

Students may be referred to specialist student services by department staff or they may access support services independently. Information about support services is provided on the [Goldsmiths website](#) and for new students through new starter information and induction/Welcome Week. Any support recommendations that are made are agreed with the student and communicated to the department so that adjustments to learning and teaching are able to be implemented at a department level and students can be reassured that arrangements are in place. Opportunities are provided for students to review their support arrangements should their circumstances change. The [Disability](#) and [Wellbeing](#) Services maintain caseloads of students and provide on-going support.

The [Careers Service](#) provides central support for skills enhancement, running [The Gold Award](#) scheme and other co-curricular activities that are accredited via the Higher Education Achievement Report ([HEAR](#)).

The [Academic Skills Centre](#) works with academic departments offering bespoke academic literacy sessions. It also provides a programme of academic skills workshops and one-to-one provision for students throughout the year.

## **Links with employers, placement opportunities and career prospects**

Graduates of the programme have progressed to the following areas and careers: Doctoral studies Professional photographic practices (including architectural, fine art, photojournalism) Visual arts practice Curating Publishing Graphic design Digital media Film-making Advertising Public relations Journalism Community arts development Urban planning

Human rights

Education (primary, secondary, further and higher education, professional training) Social research Skills

This MA develops skills in urban photography, visual ethnography and urban research, communications for urban planning, community arts and visual arts practice. Graduates have found employment in a wide range of areas and a number have become members of

the growing international association of urban photographers  
([www.urbanphotographers.org](http://www.urbanphotographers.org))

The programme actively supports work placements and internships where relevant and appropriate as a means of supporting student learning and this has included placements at Photofusion, Tate Britain, The Photographers' Gallery, Urban Photo Fest, The Horniman Museum, and various community organisations and NGOs.

## **The requirements of a Goldsmiths degree**

All taught postgraduate degrees have a minimum total value of 180 credits and involve one calendar year of full-time study. Some programmes may extend over more than one calendar year and, when this is the case, they have a higher total credit value. Programmes are composed of individual modules, each of which has its own credit value. Part-time students normally take modules to the value of 90 credits each year. If a programme has a part-time pathway, the structure will be set out in the section “How the programme is structured” above. Normally, all modules are at level 7 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications.

More detailed information about the structure and requirements of a Goldsmiths degree is provided in the [Goldsmiths Qualifications and Credit Framework](#).

## **Modules**

Modules are defined as:

- “Optional” – which can be chosen from a group of modules
- “Compulsory” – which must be taken as part of the degree

## **Progression**

Some programmes may require students to pass specific modules prior to completion of the dissertation/major project (or equivalent). Additionally, where a programme of study extends beyond one calendar year, students may be required to pass specific modules in their first year of study before progressing to the second year. Where this is the case, these requirements will be set out in this Programme Specification.

## **Award of the degree**

In order to graduate, students must successfully complete all modules specified for the programme, as set out within the section “How the programme is structured” above.

## **Classification**

Final degree classification is calculated on the basis of a student's mean average mark (based on credit value) across all modules on the programme.

Masters degrees are awarded with the following classifications:

Distinction – 70%+

Merit – 60-69%

Pass – 50-59%

More detail on the [calculation of the final classification](#) is on our website.

## **Interim exit awards**

Some programmes incorporate interim exit points of Postgraduate Certificate and/or Postgraduate Diploma, which may be awarded on the successful completion of modules to the minimum value of 60 credits or 120 credits respectively. The awards are made without classification.

When these awards are incorporated within the programme, the relevant learning outcomes and module requirements will be set out within the “What you will be expected to achieve” section above.

The above information is intended as a guide, with more detailed information available in the [Goldsmiths Academic Manual](#).

## **Programme-specific rules and facts**

### **General programme costs**

In addition to your tuition fees, you will be responsible for meeting standard costs associated with your study. Find out more information at [gold.ac.uk/programme-costs](http://gold.ac.uk/programme-costs).

### **Specific programme costs**

Not applicable.



## **How teaching quality will be monitored**

Goldsmiths employs a number of methods to ensure and enhance the quality of learning and teaching on its programmes.

Programmes and modules are formally approved against national standards and are monitored throughout the year, such as in departmental committees, a variety of student feedback mechanisms and through the completion of module evaluation questionnaires. Every programme has at least one External Examiner who reviews comments annually on the standards of awards and student achievement. External Examiner(s) attend Boards of Examiners meetings and submit an annual written report.

Modules, programmes and/or departments are also subject to annual and periodic review internally, as well as periodic external scrutiny.

Quality assurance processes aim to ensure Goldsmiths' academic provision remains current, that the procedures to maintain the standards of the awards are working effectively and the quality of the learning opportunities and information provided to students and applicants is appropriate.

Detailed information on all these procedures are published on the [Quality Office web pages](#).