

UAL Level 3 Diploma and Extended Diploma in Creative Practice: Art, Design and Communication (Photography Pathway)

Study Mode: Full Time

Is this course right for me?

Start your creative career in photography!

The UAL Level 3 Diploma and Extended Diploma in Creative Practice: Art, Design and Communication (Photography Pathway) at City of Wolverhampton College is the ideal course for school leavers passionate about photography. You'll gain the technical, creative and visual skills to develop as an image-maker, while exploring both contemporary and historical photography.

Taught by practicing photographers and artists, the course combines creativity with technical training in photography and digital print. You'll also work on projects that build transferable skills and prepare you for higher-level study, apprenticeships or a career in the creative industries.

You'll develop a varied portfolio of work and benefit from expert guidance on your next steps.

Work Experience

As part of the course, you'll complete 30 hours of work experience, with support from tutors to find placements. Opportunities include:

- Overseas work experience in Florence, Italy through the Turing Scheme (for over 18s).
- Local collaborations with music venues for gig and events photography.

City of Wolverhampton College is an approved centre for UAL Awarding Body Level 3 Diploma and Extended Diploma in Creative Practice: Art, Design and Communication (Photography Pathway)

Entry Requirements

For external applicants:

To access this course, you are required to:

- Have four or more GCSEs at Grade C / 4 or above (ideally including English and maths)* or a Level 2 qualification in a related area, such as art and design, media or photography
- Have an interview and show a selection of work to demonstrate your suitability for the course
- Demonstrate how you have previously had good attendance and punctuality and a good attitude to learning

*If you do not have a Grade C/4 in English and maths, you will attend lessons to achieve these qualifications alongside your Level 3 qualification

For internal progression learners (already studying with us):

Learners must be able to demonstrate that they:

- Have successfully completed a relevant course that naturally progresses onto this programme, achieving a good standard
- Have improved their English and maths grades since enrolment
- Have maintained good attendance and punctuality
- Show a consistently positive attitude to learning

What will I learn?

- **Digital and Analogue Photography:** Understand the full range of photography, from modern digital techniques to the timeless art of shooting with film.
- **Creative Composition and Lighting:** Learn how to compose visually stunning images, using light to shape your subject and tell your story.
- **Studio Techniques:** Work with professional studio equipment, mastering lighting setups for portraits, product photography, and more.
- **Post-Production and Editing:** Get hands-on with industry-standard editing software like Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom, perfecting your images to a professional standard.
- **Photography Styles:** Explore different genres of photography, including portraiture, landscape, documentary, fashion, and fine art photography.
- **Building a Professional Portfolio:** Develop a high-quality portfolio that showcases your best work to potential employers or higher education institutions

What skills will I gain?

By studying this course you will:

- Develop your creative potential while improving your understanding of visual communication
- Learn how to use a wide range of artist and studio equipment, software and cameras
- Gain skills that can be applied in the industry, and learn what industry opportunities are available
- Gain valuable team working and communication skills
- Improve your employability skills

How will I be assessed?

The course is mainly project/assignment based, however there are exams in year 1 that are externally assessed. In year 2 there are no exams, and work is internally assessed and external moderated.

Throughout the course you will be continually assessed and it will culminate in a final project which will be graded as a pass, high pass, merit, high merit or distinction.

What can I do next?

The skills you will learn from this course will enable you to:

- Progress to Further Education including our HND in Art and Design (Photography) Level 5 course.
- Pursue an apprenticeship in photography, media production, or digital arts.
- Potential career paths include:
 - **Professional Photographer** (Portrait, Wedding, Fashion, Product, Event)
 - **Photojournalist** (Documentary, News, Editorial)
 - **Studio Assistant** (Supporting roles in professional studios)
 - **Photography Assistant** (On-location and in-studio support for professional photographers)
 - **Photo Editor** (Working for magazines, media outlets, or agencies)
 - **Digital Retoucher** (Enhancing and manipulating images for print or online use)
 - **Visual Content Creator** (Creating imagery for social media, blogs, websites, and online platforms)
 - **E-commerce Photographer** (Capturing high-quality product images for online retail)
 - **Videographer/Content Producer** (Expanding into video and multimedia content creation)
 - **Social Media Manager** (Creating and curating visual content for online brands)
 - **Advertising & Marketing Creative** (Working on campaigns with strong visual elements)

Delivery

Location: City Learning Quarter

Start Date: 07/09/2026

Day:

Time:

Course Fee:

Course Code: CP0016

Study Mode: Full Time



Apply online: www.wolvcoll.ac.uk/apply

