



Foundation Degree

What is a Foundation Degree?

Foundation Degrees are university level degree courses that offer an exciting work-based alternative to the traditional university route. They are:

- A stand-alone recognised qualification.
- Equivalent to studying the first two years of an honours degree programme.
- Highly valued by employers.

How does this work?

Foundation Degrees in Hertfordshire are accessible through your local college, as part of the Hertfordshire Higher Education Consortium*. On graduation you will be awarded a University of Hertfordshire validated degree, and depending on your chosen course you even get letters after your name... FdA, FdSc.

Benefits to studying a Foundation Degree

- **real-life projects** which enable you to gain valuable work experience whilst allowing you to apply your skills and knowledge.
- **support** that's available throughout your course from tutors and advisors in College and mentors in your place of work.
- **affordable** because you can choose from one of four colleges to study at you will never be far from home, saving you money on living costs.
- **funding** through student tuition fee loans will cover the cost of your programme – so there's nothing to pay up front.

Who can study a Foundation Degree?

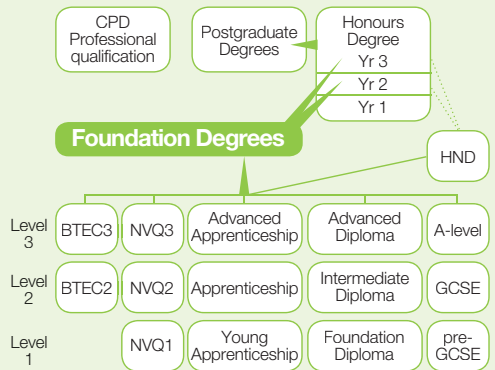
Foundation Degrees are suitable for all kinds of candidates including:

- Those with Level 3 qualifications (eg A Levels, Advanced Apprenticeships, BTECs, Access to Higher Education or City & Guilds).
- Those looking for a change in career.
- Those already employed but wanting to gain a Higher Education qualification either to progress their career or other aspirations.

What can I do with my Foundation Degree?

That really is up to you! Your degree will ensure that you are well equipped to start your career path and research shows that those with a Higher Education qualification earn 25% more than those without! However, if you have a taste for learning you can 'top-up' your Foundation Degree to a BA or BSc honours degree.

How do Foundation Degrees fit with other qualifications?



Hertfordshire Higher Education Consortium*

The Hertfordshire Higher Education Consortium is a partnership between the University of Hertfordshire, Hertford Regional College, North Hertfordshire College, Oaklands College and West Herts College.

The consortium provides innovative, high quality courses that support vocational higher education. Students get the best of both worlds – the benefits and support of studying at college, and access to University facilities including the libraries (LRCs), athletic and student unions all social activities, careers support and much, much more.



The table shows the structure of the Foundation Degree in Photography – illustrated as a full-time course.

Year One	Semester A	Work Based Learning: Developing Professional and Employability Skills (30 credits)	Historical and Contemporary Context (15 credits)	Creative Problem Solving (30 credits)
	Semester B		Creative Languages (15 credits)	Creative Vocational Practice: Photography (30 credits)
Year Two	Semester A	Work Based Learning: Professional Practice (30 credits)	Contextual Studies (15 credits)	Portfolio Development: Photography (30 credits)
	Semester B		Cultural and Ethical Debate (15 credits)	Final Major Project: Photography (30 credits)





This programme will provide you with the opportunity to develop your technical and photographic skills including experimental work. You will have the opportunity to explore and produce visual imagery to solve communication problems across a range of application such as fashion, documentary and advertising.

Year 1 modules – Semester A

Work Based Learning: Developing Professional and Employability Skills

This module will help you to focus on planning your career and developing employability and professional skills. You will take a closer look at the creative and culture sector to identify a route that best suits and reflects your strengths and preferences whilst preparing you for progression by looking at job-hunting techniques, networking and self-promotion. You will articulate your skills and knowledge to create an action plan for progression using appropriate writing skills.

Historical and Contemporary Context

This module will develop your creative, cultural and critical understanding of Photography and the creative work it can produce. You will be introduced to several historical and contemporary periods or movements and identify and examine the ways in which the time, place and conditions of their production influenced and shaped creativity and practice. This will enable you to develop your research abilities, critical faculties and academic skills so that you can investigate, analyse and present your case effectively.

Creative Problem Solving

This module has been designed to prepare you for further study and the workplace. You will gain an understanding of the key production processes and professional practices relevant to Photography and the cultural and creative industries, in addition to learning methods of conceptualising creativity and authorship.

Entry requirements

48 points, including one GCE A2, a BTEC National Diploma/Certificate or equivalent. Plus GCSE Maths and English Language at grade 4 or above. You may be asked to attend an interview with a portfolio of work.

Mature students with GCSE grade C or above English language and grade D or above in Maths or equivalent, but lacking traditional level 3 qualifications will be considered on the basis of relevant experience and an appropriate portfolio of work.

If English is not your first language, you will need an IELTS score of 6.0 or 80 IBT or equivalent.

How to apply

Applications are to be made through UCAS – www.UCAS.com. Institutional Code: Herts H36.

How will I be assessed?

The assessment of the programme is all based on coursework in the form of practical and written assignment. Coursework may be based on both individual work and group work.

What will I learn?

This course is the perfect opportunity to develop your technical and photography skills to a high level. It places a strong emphasis on experimental work, giving you the freedom to discover your own individual style. The practical elements are supported by visits to exhibitions and museums, helping to expand your industry knowledge.

Where will I study?

The Foundation Degree in Photography is only offered at West Herts College. For more information visit www.westherts.ac.uk

Progression routes

Students who pass the Foundation Degree may progress to study the BA Professional Studies, the BA Photography or BA Fine Art at the University of Hertfordshire. In order to progress you must be awarded the Foundation Degree, have a recommendation from your tutor and you may be required to attend a guidance tutorial.



Year 1 modules – Semester B

Work Based Learning: Developing Professional and Employability Skills

This module will help you to focus on planning your career and developing employability and professional skills. You will take a closer look at the creative and culture sector to identify a route that best suits and reflects your strengths and preferences whilst preparing you for progression by looking at job-hunting techniques, networking and self-promotion. You will articulate your skills and knowledge to create an action plan for progression using appropriate writing skills.

Creative Languages

This module is all about creativity in action. You will investigate several well-known practitioners in the field of Photography, concentrating on their expressive languages and comparing them with each other. You will relate them to your own ideas and produce a body of your own work ready to be incorporated into project work in other modules.

Creative Vocational Practice: Photography

This module focuses on building the professional and creative skills used by photographers in the sort of professional brief you are likely to encounter working as a photographer today. In the process you will gain an understanding of the requirements made of a photographer when fulfilling a vocational brief: audience / client needs and expectations, time management, internal and external constraints and the application of aesthetic judgements.





Year 2 modules – Semester A

Work Based Learning: Professional Practice

In this module you will further your professional skills to undertake and communicate a project plan and present the outcomes successfully to employers and/or potential clients. This will involve working with an employer on a project to meet their needs. Dependent on the type of project this may be conducted on the employer's premises.

Contextual Studies

This module provides an introduction to contemporary critical perspectives in the theory and practice of the creative arts to provide a frame of reference for Photography. Through the examination of creative practices within a variety of historical, socio-political, aesthetic and institutional contexts you will learn the basis for critical examination in practice.

Portfolio Development: Photography

This module prepares you for your career in the photographic workplace. You will identify and develop a range of professional and personal skills to produce an investigative portfolio of work, whilst exploring a range of creative, technical and physical processes.



Year 2 modules – Semester B

Work Based Learning: Professional Practice

In this module you will further your professional skills to undertake and communicate a project plan and present the outcomes successfully to employers and/or potential clients. This will involve working with an employer on a project to meet their needs. Dependent on the type of project this may be conducted on the employer's premises.

Cultural and Ethical Debate

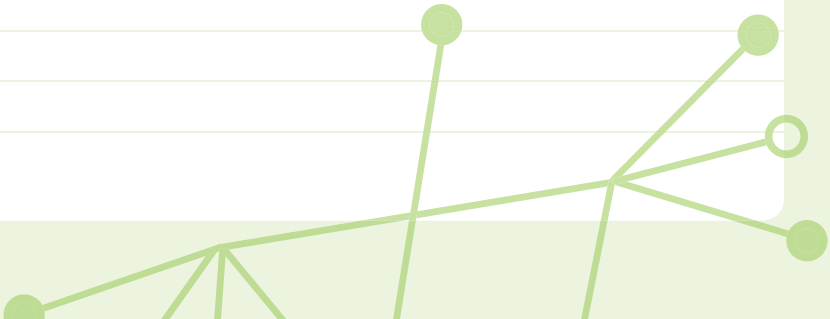
This module will cover theme based explorations of the influences that shape creative messages in a range of contexts. You will develop awareness of how social and cultural constructs are formed, evolved and are challenged and used to influence future developments considering issues such as: consumption globalization, sustainability, race, gender diversity and the role of stereotypes.

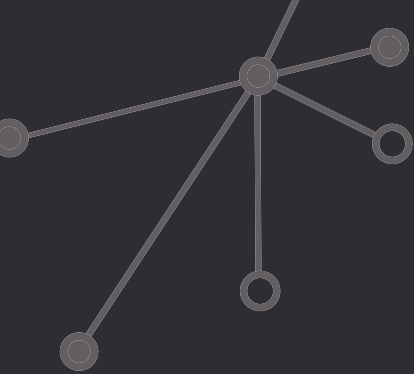
Final Major Project: Photography

This module will provide the opportunity to put all your experience and learning in a project that confirms your role as a creative professional photographer. To ensure that you meet the module requirements the brief will be negotiated between you and your tutors. The product will focus on an area of photography that is of significant personal interest. It is expected that the project will form the main part of your end of course show. This is your opportunity to create a significant body of work that consolidates the range of skills that you have acquired during this programme. You will use this to demonstrate the skills and understanding that you have refined in camera usage and photographic production processes with particular consideration given to the aesthetic values in your work to a professional standard.



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For further information

West Herts College

tel +44 (0)1923 812345

admissions@westherts.ac.uk

www.westherts.ac.uk

University of Hertfordshire

Admission Service

tel +44 (0)1707 284800

ask@herts.ac.uk

go.herts.ac.uk

