PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION AND CURRICULUM MAP FOR MASTER OF ARTS IN PHOTOGRAPHY & VISUAL LANGUAGE

In partnership with
Middlesex University London

1. Programme title	Photography & Visual Language
2. Awarding institution	Middlesex University
3. Teaching institution	AKTO Art and Design (Athens)
4. Details of accreditation by professional/statutory/regulatory body	
5. Final qualification	MA Degree
6. Year of validation **Year of amendment**	2018 2024
7. Language of study	Greek
8. Mode of study	Full-time & Part-time

9. Criteria for admission to the programme

One can enroll in the course, via a special AKTO form, if they are already holders of a degree, (at least BA or equivalent, 1st or 2.1). Graduates of degrees of a lower level may be considered, should they prove that they possess the ability to correspond to the requirements of the programme, via a personal interview. In special circumstances, an applicant who is not a graduate may be accepted, should he have extensive professional experience supported by credible evidence. Applicants from the last two categories, may be required to commence with a lower level course. All applicants should submit a statement of purpose about the area of their research, a portfolio of selected works and undergo a personal interview. As the programme is taught in Greek, Greek language requirements for applicants who are not native speakers are of a B2 level. There is no maximum age limit for enrolment to the course.

10. Aims of the programme

Photographic excellence relies on the skills you have mastered, the modes of expression you select in a creative and communicative context, the good management and professionalism in disseminating your photographic works. The main goal of this programme is to enable you to demonstrate a wide knowledge of the visual language, able to research, produce and evolve as a critically reflective practitioner, professional photographer and visual designer.

It aims to enable you to demonstrate all aspects of excellence, evolving your practical and technical expertise, expanding your understanding of the visual language and enabling you to develop a strong and sustainable artistic practice, able to contextualise it and communicate it effectively. It provides you with a learning environment in which you can combine creative, professional and strategic knowledge with research skills and develop a solid understanding of Photography in the visual industry, incorporating contemporary technologies. Its Philosophy and content allow you to extend your boundaries through critical analysis, experimentation, research and creative exploration of contemporary image perspectives so as to be able to produce innovative ideas and high quality photographic and/or visual productions.

A range of transferable skills is incorporated into the programme, so as to assist you in achieving a successful career and constantly develop as creators and professionals. Independence of thought, originality of ideas and professionalism, at a higher level of achievement, are the key parameters that are enhanced through both the curriculum and the organized complementary activities that form the educational experience within the programme.

11. Programme outcomes - the programme offers opportunities for students to achieve and demonstrate the following learning outcomes.	
A. Knowledge and understanding On completion of this programme the successful students will be able to: 1. Assess the limitations and specificities of research, the introduction of new criteria and formulate new research targets. 2. Analyse image in a historical and cultural context and appraise a range of concepts for visual language. 3. Compare and contrast advanced visual practices and the communicative possibilities of different photographic genres. 4. Appraise inventive modes of photography in relation to contemporary technologies, conceptualizations and their expressive tools. 5. Assess a range of management concepts in relation to the practice of Photography and image production, and evolve skills culminating to the Main Project.	**Teaching/learning methods** Students gain knowledge and understanding through reading. **Assessment Method** Students' knowledge and understanding is assessed by coursework, classroom feedback as well as exams and research work.
B. Cognitive (thinking) skills On completion of this programme the successful students will be able to: 1. Critically combine innovative approaches, in undertaking research, evaluating data, rationalizing conclusions, and presenting results. 2. Appraise and synthesize concepts, principles and models to visual media works in different fields in the industry and justify the use of appropriate methods and technologies. 3. Demonstrate a capacity for critical reflection on new contexts and forms of image communication and the expanded uses of lens-based media. 4. Novel original wisdom, adopt a stance in relation to established systems of activity and synthesize creative strategies in innovative ways.	**Teaching/learning methods** Students learn cognitive skills through their research, the undertaking of creative projects and the participation in discussions and peer critiques **Assessment Method** Students' cognitive skills are assessed through feedback from discussions/critiques between student and tutor in the context of course and research work.
C. Practical skills On completion of the programme the successful students will be able to: 1. Defend their creative and research practice effectively by employing advanced verbal and/or other presentation skills and critically justifying their choices. 2. Select, combine and implement with professional capacity the appropriate means and technological approaches of photographic practice to support their career aspirations. 3. Demonstrate expertise in interpreting and building on the findings of research, in combination with practical, professional and academic skills. 4. Synthesize knowledge, employ advanced teamwork and collaborative practice skills and benefit from different backgrounds of peers.	**Teaching/learning methods** Students learn practical skills through studio practice, the undertaking of coursework-related projects, critique and assessment by other students in the classroom. **Assessment Method** Students' practical skills are assessed through coursework, practical tests, exercises, written essays and projects.

12. Programme structure (levels, modules, credits and progression requirements)

12. 1 Overall structure of the programme

The course is studied over one year (full-time) or two years (part-time). It is arranged in 3 semesters (if studied full-time) and 5 (if studied part-time). There are 13 study weeks per semester. Most of the course is based on individual study and research, where 10 hrs of College-based lectures per credit point and 10 hours of individual meetings between each student with their supervisor are allocated to the programme, throughout the year. The course is divided into study units called modules. Each of the first four modules has a credit value of 20 credits/10 ECTS, where the "Research Project" has a credit value of 40 credits/20 ECTS and the "Main Project" has a credit value of 60 credits/30 ECTS. The programme totals 180 credits/90 ECTS. Details of each module can be found further below.

12.2 Levels and modules	
COMPULSORY	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
Students must take all of the following: Semester I: - MDD111: Visual Culture & Research Methodologies - MDD121: Visual Experimentations & Photographic Practice - MDD131: Expanded uses of the lens- based media Semester II: - MDD112: Advanced Professional Photography - MDD122: Research Project & Ethics Semester III: - MDD113: Main Project	Following assessment and upon completion of the academic year, 180 credits/90 ECTS are required in order for students to graduate.

12.3 Non-compensatable modules
Compensation is not permitted in any module

13. A curriculum map relating learning outcomes to modules
See Curriculum Map attached.

14. Information about assessment regulations
Detailed information about assessment regulations that apply to the programme can be found in the handbook (Also see Middlesex University Regulations at www.mdx.ac.uk/regulations). Students must pass all components of each module, in order to complete the module successfully.

15. Placement opportunities, requirements and support
Not applicable

16. Future careers
The Careers Office looks after the professional provision of AKTO graduates. Various companies who have job vacancies contact it. By advising the student records and academic staff, it promotes, in line of priority, the most capable students. It also deals with graduate requests for employment and holds several reference material and information on professional requirements and employment opportunities. The programme also provides students with numerous opportunities for real life projects from the industry as well as a series of alumni benefits once they complete their studies (see section on "Alumni Benefits). Graduates of this course are expected to work within the creative and photographic industries, from commercial Photography, fashion Photography, photojournalism, to production, publishing and the arts.

17. Particular support for learning
The course is housed in the Athens Campus, with access to the Library of the college, the Green room, the Dark Room, the Photographic Studio, the Auditorium, and of course computer rooms which are equipped with all the relevant software and peripherals. The studios are at the student's disposal many hours during the week in order to practice and prepare their projects and there are always technicians and assistants to support them. The college is equipped with a variety of projection facilities which are used at lessons and seminars. Students may also loan equipment (e.g. laptops) for use in class. Availability and booking arrangements are done through the administration.

The library is are equipped with computers, photocopying machines, internet stations and video room. The Librarians also provide information on other libraries that the students can use and there is a database of relevant web-sites.

The course operates within the multidisciplinary setting of AKTO, offering students the opportunity to come into contact with students from other Art & Design programmes, attend common activities and explore the common ground and applications of their disciplines and their fellows'. The college has an outstanding tradition in establishing links with the market and the broader communities, thus students have the opportunity to work on projects assigned by the industry while they study.

AKTO provides support for students with disabilities and anyone who require counselling. Any disability which might affect your study should be disclosed to your Programme Leader and the MA Coordinator through the Administration services on commencement of your course. Students requiring counselling support should contact the Administration office to acquire information on public support services or visit Public Disability Support Services directly at: https://www.minedu.gov.gr/eidiki-agwgi-2/keddy-eidiki-ekpaideusi-4/16873-22-12-15

Lab support gives you supervised access to all workshops, computer labs, and studios, while personal tutorials are available to you when required and can be arranged through the Administration. For more information see section "Support services at AKTO".

Please also refer to sections "library" and "student support" of this Handbook, as well as "Fees and Scholarships" at **http://aktocollege.com/fees-and-scholarships/** for more information on learning support.

18. JACS code (or other relevant coding system)	-
19. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)	Art & Design

20. Reference points

The following reference points were used in designing the programme:
1. Subject Benchmark Statements for Art and Design programmes as issued by the QAA (2017).
2. Benchmark Statements for Masters programmes as issued by the QAA (2015).
3. Descriptors of the National Qualifications framework for MA in Design level (2010).
4. Middlesex University regulations (2018-2019).
5. AKTO College mission statement (2013).
6. The framework for higher education qualifications [FHEQ] (2008).

21. Other information

Students also benefit from:
-Qualifications and expertise of teaching staff: Most members of the programme team have completed university studies and/or postgraduate studies. All of them are practicing professionals with notable experience in the field and are all holders of the certification of the teaching qualifications of trainers for adults (Greek Dep. of Education).
-Educational experience of the teaching staff: all members of staff have substantial educational experience since they have been teaching in advanced levels of undergraduate programmes for a number of years.
-History and experience of the college: AKTO, which is the largest provider in the field of Art & Design education in Greece, has been running successfully a number of undergraduate programmes in the field, validated by Middlesex University since 1992 and the first postgraduate course at Master's level since 2003. The college has a long-standing good reputation for the quality of its provision.
-The validation by Middlesex University ensures implementation of all quality factors and procedures officially referring to academic programmes of such standards.
- Educational excursions and visits to areas of interest, so as to enrich the students experience.

The programme is evaluated and improved in the following ways:
- Student feedback in surveys (end of first semester) and board of studies (once per semester).
-External Examiner arrangements: Future reports on the operation and standards of the MA Level will assist in the evaluation and improvement of the Programme.
-Feedback from the employment market, whereby there is a demand for AKTO graduates by employers, is very positive, and the very good reputation of AKTO graduates in the industry.

Please note programme specifications provide a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information about the programme can be found in the rest of your programme handbook and the university regulations.

Curriculum map for MA in Photography & Visual Language

This map shows the main measurable learning outcomes of the programme and the modules in which they are assessed.

Module	Code	Programme outcomes												
		A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	B1	B2	B3	B4	C1	C2	C3	C4
Visual culture & research methodologies	MPH111	x	x				x						x	
Visual Experimentations & Photographic Practice	MPH121			x				x			x	x		x
Expanded uses of the lens- based media	MPH131	x			x				x				x	
Advanced Professional Photography	MPH112				x					x				x
Research Project & Ethics	MPH122	x	x			x	x			x	x	x		
Main Project	MPH113		x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Programme learning outcomes

A. Knowledge and understanding	
1	Assess the limitations and specificities of research, the introduction of new criteria and formulate new research targets.
2	Analyse image in a historical and cultural context and appraise a range of concepts for visual language.
3	Compare and contrast advanced visual practices and the communicative possibilities of different photographic genres.
4	Appraise inventive modes of photography in relation to contemporary technologies, conceptualizations and their expressive tools.
5	Assess a range of management concepts in relation to the practice of Photography and image production, and evolve skills culminating to the Main Project.
B. Cognitive skills	
1	Critically combine innovative approaches, in undertaking research, evaluating data, rationalizing conclusions, and presenting results.
2	Appraise and synthesize concepts, principles and models to visual media works in different fields in the industry and justify the use of appropriate methods and technologies.
3	Demonstrate a capacity for critical reflection on new contexts and forms of image communication and the expanded uses of lens-based media.
4	Novel original wisdom, adopt a stance in relation to established systems of activity and synthesize creative strategies in innovative ways.
C. Practical skills	
1	Defend their creative and research practice effectively by employing advanced verbal and/or other presentation skills and critically justifying their choices.
2	Select, combine and implement with professional capacity the appropriate means and technological approaches of photographic practice to support their career aspirations.
3	Demonstrate expertise in interpreting and building on the findings of research, in combination with practical, professional and academic skills.
4	Synthesize knowledge, employ advanced teamwork and collaborative practice skills and benefit from different backgrounds of peers.