

# CLINICAL PHOTOGRAPHY BSc HONOURS

THIS COURSE IS THE ONLY FULL-TIME DEGREE IN CLINICAL PHOTOGRAPHY IN THE UK. IT HAS BEEN DESIGNED WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL ILLUSTRATORS (IMI) TO DIRECTLY MEET THE NEEDS OF THE MEDICAL PHOTOGRAPHY PROFESSION. THE COURSE COMBINES ACADEMIC STUDY IN PHOTOGRAPHY AND CLINICAL THEORY AND PRACTICE WITH WORK-BASED LEARNING IN NHS HOSPITALS.

The Clinical Photography BSc Honours launched in 2009 and emanates and runs alongside the distinguished BSc in Photography course and Digital Imaging Technologies, which has been delivered by the University of Westminster for over 30 years. The course enjoys the support of many medical photography departments in NHS hospitals throughout the UK where our students have extended periods of work placement. The University of Westminster has a well-established reputation in photography and is the only university in the UK delivering full-time undergraduate degrees blending technical practice with the study of the underlying sciences related to imaging. Our association with IMI has guaranteed a relevant curriculum design and professional guidance to our students.

The focus of the course is primarily to reflect the nature of the medical photography profession. Clinical Photography is multidisciplinary and requires expertise in photography, digital imaging, ophthalmic imaging and video together with knowledge of human physiological systems and essential communication skills for employment in clinical settings. Our overriding aim is to deliver high quality education in all relevant subjects, coupled with professional practice in clinical environments. The course will prepare you for a successful career in clinical photography, whilst equipping you with a number of Higher Education and carriers-related transferable skills, relevant to other professions in commercial and scientific photography.

Teaching staff come from a range of professional backgrounds and are involved in imaging research, commercial photography, video, biomedical science, forensic imaging, medical photography and illustration. A number of our staff are authors in the classic textbooks *Manual of Photography* and *Langford's Advanced Photography*. The course also gains input from the Imaging Technology Research Group, an interdisciplinary group specializing in various areas in imaging sciences, colour imaging, digital archiving, image quality and human vision.

## CONTACT DETAILS

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Front image: Marie Jones  
Back image: David Bishop

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5324/11.11/MP/XX

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# COURSE OVERVIEW

You will undertake a continuous learning curve throughout this course. Emphasis is placed upon developing a solid technical understanding in photography and digital imaging, knowledge of human biological systems and the necessary communication and interpersonal skills for working in clinical environments.

The course is structured as part of the University modular system. This ensures that you are fully informed about your progress as you move through the different levels. The specialist and interdisciplinary nature of the course means that the syllabus is highly focused and all modules are core.

An important aspect of the programme is the work placement component, which accounts for 500 hours. You will undertake simulated work placements in dedicated photographic studios and the University's 'Polyclinic' and actual work

placements in selected quality controlled medical photography departments within NHS hospitals. In year three you will have the opportunity to complete a research project, which will be based on your own ideas and chosen topic, whilst being supported by the specialist staff team.

Throughout the years we have introduced a number of well-respected speakers from industry, presenting exciting opportunities to further inform and enhance the learning experience. Our association with the Institute of Medical Illustrators (IMI) and the Royal Photographic Society (RPS) will allow you to attend a number of conferences during your study in photography, imaging science and medical illustration for reduced fees. Upon graduation you will be eligible to apply for the award of Graduate Imaging Scientist from the RPS, as well as for IMI Membership, Associate Grade.



Image by Marie Jones

# COURSE CONTENT

## YEAR ONE (Credit Level 4)

The first year modules provide a fundamental underpinning of the relevant core and basic photographic theory and practice modules, providing a solid foundation to move comfortably into self-directed learning. During a one-week work placement you will have the chance to observe clinical photography practitioners at work. Modules include:

- Digital Image Management
- Physiology & Anatomy
- Photographic Theory & Practice
- Skills and Contextual Studies



Image by Marie Jones

## YEAR TWO (Credit Level 5)

The second year further develops both the practical and academic application of the skills and knowledge introduced in year one. The expectation is that the additional expertise gained will enable you to undertake a successful 2-week work placement involving hands-on work experience in hospital departments.

Modules include:

- Career Management & Professional Practice
- Clinical Theory & Practice
- Imaging Practice (Photography & Video)
- Imaging Technology
- Patient Centred Communication
- Scientific & Biomedical Imaging

## YEAR THREE (Credit Level 6)

This year is the synthesis of all prior learning that culminates in the development and completion of a self-assigned research project, as well as the acquisition of a wealth of experience in a range of different areas of clinical photographic practice in hospitals during a 6-week period of work placements.

Modules include:

- Current Debates in Clinical Photography
- Major Project
- Project Planning & Research Methods
- Work Placement

In addition to the level 5 modules, you may choose to become involved with the 15-credit Broad Vision module. This is a multidisciplinary module that is offered to all students in our School; you will be working together and sharing expertise and experiences with students from other courses.

# ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To apply to the BSc in Clinical Photography course at the University of Westminster you will need to meet the minimum entry requirements:

Grades A to C in a minimum of 5 GCSEs including minimum Grade B in Maths, or Science, plus either:

- International Baccalaureate 26 points (minimum) that includes the subject of Biology
- A levels CCC including Biology and preferably Photography
- BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma-MMM

Applicants who do not possess an A level in Biology (or equivalent) but have an A level in Photography and minimum grade B in both Maths and Science GCSE will be considered for application on a preparatory summer short course in Biology. Satisfactory completion of the short course will allow admission onto the course.

Applications must be made through the University and Colleges Admission Service (UCAS). You can access their website at [ucas.com](http://ucas.com)

UCAS course code WB69



Image by David Bishop