



FACULTY OF
FINE ARTS

Constituent college of Bareilly International University

Administrative Block, BIU Building, Rohilkhand Medical College Campus, Pilibhit Bypass Road, Bareilly-243006 (U.P.) INDIA

Phone : 0581-2526051/ 53, +91 9568 131000 Email : info@biu.edu.in Website : www.biu.edu.in

MASTER OF FINE ARTS (MFA) IN PHOTOGRAPHY

Duration: Two Years (Four Semesters)

Programme Philosophy

The Master of Fine Arts in Photography is an intensive, research-driven and practice-based postgraduate programme designed to foster artistic excellence, critical inquiry, and conceptual understanding of contemporary photographic practice. The programme encourages students to develop an individual visual language through experimentation, interdisciplinary engagement, and self-reflective methodologies.

The curriculum emphasizes photography not merely as a medium of image production but as a critical tool for understanding society, memory, identity, history, and culture. Students are encouraged to challenge conventional narratives and develop independent artistic voices through research, dialogue, and creative exploration.

The programme integrates:

- Studio-based practice
- Critical and theoretical studies
- Visual research and experimentation
- Documentary and photojournalistic practices
- Publication and exhibition methodologies
- Dissertation and professional practice

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

The programme aims to:

1. Develop an advanced understanding of photography as an artistic, social, and cultural practice.
2. Encourage experimental and interdisciplinary approaches to image-making.





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3. Foster independent artistic research and critical thinking.
4. Enable students to produce conceptually strong and socially relevant photographic projects.
5. Develop professional competencies in publication, curation, and exhibition practices.
6. Encourage students to articulate their practice through writing and research.

PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the programme, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate advanced conceptual and technical proficiency in photography.
- Apply historical and theoretical frameworks to contemporary photographic practice.
- Produce independent research-based photographic projects.
- Critically analyze visual culture and photographic discourse.
- Develop professional portfolios and exhibition practices.
- Undertake scholarly research and dissertation writing.
- Integrate interdisciplinary methodologies into photographic practice.

SEMESTER I

Foundations of Contemporary Photographic Practice

Course 1: Historical Philosophy in Photography

Course Objectives

To introduce students to the philosophical, historical, and cultural foundations of photography and examine its evolution as an artistic and documentary medium.





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Units

Unit I: Origins and Evolution of Photography

- Camera Obscura
- Early Photographic Processes
- Development of Modern Photography

Unit II: History of Photographic Movements

- Pictorialism
- Modernism
- Documentary Photography
- Postmodern Photography

Unit III: Philosophy and Aesthetics

- Representation and Reality
- Truth and Subjectivity
- Memory and Identity

Unit IV: Indian Photography

- Colonial Photography
- Studio Traditions
- Contemporary Indian Photography

Unit V: Contemporary Discourses

- Digital Revolution
- Photography and New Media
- Photography in Visual Culture

Learning Outcomes

Students will understand the historical, cultural, and philosophical foundations of photography and critically examine photographic practices across different periods.





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Course 2: Technical Philosophy in Photography

Course Objectives

To provide advanced understanding of technical processes and encourage experimentation with photographic technologies.

Units

Unit I

Advanced Camera Systems and Formats

Unit II

Digital Imaging Workflow

Unit III

Light and Exposure Systems

Unit IV

Advanced Editing and Post Production

Unit V

Experimental and Alternative Processes

Practical Exercises

- Camera-based experiments
- Advanced exposure studies
- Colour management
- Image sequencing
- Alternative printing techniques

Learning Outcomes

Students will acquire advanced technical skills and develop individual approaches to image-making.





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Course 3: Visual Studies in Photography

Course Objectives

To develop visual literacy and encourage critical engagement with images and visual culture.

Units

Unit I

Principles of Visual Perception

Unit II

Visual Language and Semiotics

Unit III

Composition and Narrative Structures

Unit IV

Photography and Visual Culture

Unit V

Interdisciplinary Visual Practices

Studio Projects

- Visual diary
- Personal narrative project
- Image and text exercises
- Collaborative visual projects

Learning Outcomes

Students will develop an understanding of visual language and create meaningful photographic narratives.





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SEMESTER II

Photography, Memory and Documentation

Course 1: Historical Reading and Theoretical Approaches

Course Objectives

To examine photography through historical and theoretical perspectives and introduce students to critical reading and research methodologies.

Units

Unit I

Introduction to Visual Theory

Unit II

Photography and Cultural Studies

Unit III

Memory and Archives

Unit IV

Photography and Historiography

Unit V

Contemporary Critical Approaches

Learning Outcomes

Students will develop the ability to critically interpret photography through historical and theoretical frameworks.





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Course 2: Photography and Documentation

Course Objectives

To explore photography as a tool of documentation, memory, and social engagement.

Units

Unit I

Concept of Documentation

Unit II

Photography and Memory

Unit III

Archival Practices

Unit IV

Re-Photography and Historical Reconstruction

Unit V

Photo Books, Handmade Books and Zines

Practical Projects

- Personal archive project
- Family history documentation
- Community documentation
- Photobook creation
- Handmade zine production

Learning Outcomes

Students will understand photography's role in preserving memories and documenting personal and collective histories.





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Course 3: Documentary and Photojournalism

Course Objectives

To introduce students to documentary practices and visual storytelling.

Units

Unit I

History of Documentary Photography

Unit II

Principles of Photojournalism

Unit III

Ethics and Representation

Unit IV

Visual Narrative and Story Construction

Unit V

Multimedia Documentary Practices

Practical Projects

- Photo essay
- Documentary project
- Community engagement project
- Long-form visual narrative

Learning Outcomes

Students will develop documentary methodologies and understand ethical responsibilities in visual storytelling.





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Course 4: Practical Submission and Viva Voce

Components

- Portfolio Presentation
- Documentation Project
- Reflective Journal
- Oral Presentation and Viva

SEMESTER III

Research, Discourse and Professional Practice

Course 1: Documentary and Photojournalism II

Units

- Advanced Documentary Practices
- Long-term Projects
- Editorial Photography
- Multimedia Storytelling
- Independent Field Research

Course 2: Photography Discourse

Course Objectives

To introduce advanced theoretical and critical discussions surrounding photography.

Units

Unit I

Contemporary Photographic Theory

Unit II

Photography and Politics





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Unit III

Photography and Identity

Unit IV

Photography and Ethics

Unit V

Photography in Contemporary Art Practice

Learning Outcomes

Students will engage with current debates and critically position their practice within contemporary photographic discourse.

Course 3: Practical Project

Components

- Research Proposal
- Literature Review
- Project Conceptualization
- Mid-Term Project Submission
- Artist Statement

Research Methodology Component

Students will learn:

- Research Methods and Methodologies
- Dissertation Writing
- Art-Based Research
- Academic Writing and Citation
- Publication Processes
- Grant and Funding Applications





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- Portfolio Development
- Professional Practice

Learning Outcomes

Students will develop research capabilities and prepare for their final project and dissertation.

SEMESTER IV

Final Project and Professional Consolidation

Course 1: Dissertation

Components

- Research Thesis
- Visual Research
- Literature Review
- Methodology
- Analysis and Conclusions

Dissertation Length

15,000–20,000 words.

Course 2: Viva Voce

Assessment based on:

- Dissertation
- Portfolio
- Research Methodology
- Conceptual Understanding
- Professional Practice





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Course 3: Final Project

Students will produce a significant body of original work in one of the following areas:

- Documentary Photography
- Photojournalism
- Fine Art Photography
- Conceptual Photography
- Experimental Photography
- Interdisciplinary Visual Practice

Deliverables

- Final Portfolio
- Artist Statement
- Project Documentation
- Exhibition Catalogue
- Public Presentation
-

Course 4: Exhibition

The final exhibition represents the culmination of two years of artistic and intellectual development.

Components

- Curatorial Planning
- Exhibition Design
- Installation
- Public Presentation
- Exhibition Documentation
- Catalogue Production





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STUDIO PRACTICE

Studio Practice forms the foundation of the programme and includes:

- Individual Tutorials
- Group Critiques
- Studio Assignments
- Workshops
- Collaborative Projects
- Peer Reviews
- Research Presentations
- Exhibition Development

CRITICAL STUDY

Critical Study includes:

- History and Theory Seminars
- Reading Groups
- Writing Workshops
- Curatorial Studies
- Artist Presentations
- Research Discussions
- Professional Practice Seminars

PEDAGOGICAL APPROACH

The programme adopts:

- Practice-based Learning
- Research-led Teaching
- Experiential Learning
- Interdisciplinary Approaches
- Studio-Based Inquiry
- Field Research





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- Mentorship and Critique
- Industry Engagement

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Graduates may pursue careers as:

- Documentary Photographer
- Fine Art Photographer
- Photojournalist
- Curator
- Photography Educator
- Visual Researcher
- Photo Editor
- Photography Critic and Writer
- Gallery Professional
- Publisher
- Entrepreneur and Studio Owner
- Independent Artist
- Media Professional

IMPORTANT NOTE

In this **programme**.

Guest lectures, masterclasses, workshops, special events and 1 Educational tour, are **mandatory and included in the programme fee**.

