

Photography Higher

Why take this course?

Higher Photography is both a technical and aesthetically based course which requires an interest and enthusiasm for the subject and its processes. It allows you to develop a deeper understanding of how a camera works and how you can produce creative imagery whilst improving and learning technical skills and expertise in digital photography. This qualification will allow you to consolidate and extend creative skills developed through, for example, the National 5 Art and Design Course. It is a fully recognised Higher for University and College applications. Photography careers are critical to a wide range of industries often requiring knowledge of modern imaging technology as well as traditional photographic equipment.

To succeed in this course, you need...

You are required to work independently, meet deadlines, plan, organise and evaluate your work in order to produce a body of work which conveys your chosen theme. The standards and qualities expected for this course are similar to any other higher level course and are therefore demanding of time and commitment. You should be working at a Higher English level as the literacy demands are considerable and carry weight in the overall assessment.

Course structure and Content (subject to change by the SQA)

The year begins with the investigation of 'Basic Camera Techniques' through a series of assignments, building confidence in photographic processes, before embarking on your Course Assessment. Throughout the year you will plan, develop, produce and present creative photographic work using a range of photographic media and techniques. You will learn to communicate personal thoughts, feelings and ideas in your photographic work. You will analyse the impact of outside influences on photographers and photography. You will use creative and technical problem solving skills and be able to critically reflect on and evaluate your own work and the work of others.

Course Assessment

The course assessment takes the form of two components. There is a one hour written exam which includes a multiple choice section. The second component is the 'Final Project', which will include opportunities for personalisation and choice through research of photographers and practical photography. It will include planning and carrying out a negotiated photography project. You will research and investigate your agreed project topic before producing and presenting your photographic images. You will also be required to evaluate your photographic work and practice.

Essentials

A small number of department digital SLR cameras will be available for use in this course so there is no requirement or necessity for you to buy one. If you already own your own entry level digital SLR camera then you may use this if you wish. This can be discussed with the department in advance. There will be an initial cost for embarking on the course of approximately £25 due to the high printing costs the course incurs. You will also be required to buy and use your own SD card to store your photographic images which will cost approximately £10. A suitable memory stick is also useful to transfer and backup images.

Where might this course take me?

With a career in photography or as part of your skill set you can be creative, follow your passion and see the world in a different way. Freelance photographers benefit from managing their own schedule, working from home or travelling and living abroad. Editing skills gained from this course could see you in a career as a picture editor for product photography or visual publications. Commercial photographers can specialise in helping clients market their products or services, taking pictures of everything for media such as catalogues, advertisements and websites. Photojournalists document people and events for newspapers and magazines. Fashion, Graphic Design, Architecture, Film and Cinematography - whichever your career path you will benefit from looking at the world 'close up'. Though it can be challenging to establish yourself in the business, the constant variety of assignments means you'll never be bored.