



Higher National Unit specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Specialist Illustration

Unit code: DV93 34

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to provide candidates with the skills and knowledge in an area of specialist illustration. This will be achieved through the analysis of professional specialist illustrations; and, the research and development of a specialist illustration brief in an area such as 3D, archaeological, architectural, botanical, children's book, commercial, concept art, editorial, fashion, forensic, medical, natural history, ornithological, technical, zoological.

On completion of the Unit the candidate should be able to:

- 1 Identify and explain specialist illustrations.
- 2 Research and develop solutions for a specialist illustration brief.
- 3 Produce finished illustrations for a specialist illustration brief/s.

Credit points and level: 1 HN credit at SCQF level 7: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7*)

**SCQF credit points are used to allocate credit to qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Each qualification in the Framework is allocated a number of SCQF credit points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from Access 1 to Doctorates.*

Recommended prior knowledge and skills: Access to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Communication* and *Problem Solving* at SCQF level 6 in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

Context for delivery: If this Unit is delivered as part of a Group Award, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the Group Award to which it contributes.

Assessment: Outcome 1 should be assessed by a single instrument of assessment. Analysis of professional specialist illustration case studies is suggested.

Outcomes 2 and 3 should be assessed holistically. A single brief which demands research, development, experimentation and the production of a finished specialist illustration is suggested.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Specialist Illustration

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The sections of the Unit stating the Outcomes, knowledge and/or skills, and Evidence Requirements are mandatory.

Where evidence for Outcomes is assessed on a sample basis, the whole of the content listed in the knowledge and/or skills section must be taught and available for assessment. Candidates should not know in advance the items on which they will be assessed and different items should be sampled on each assessment occasion.

Outcome 1

Identify and explain specialist illustrations

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Function of specialist illustrations
- ◆ Media
- ◆ Techniques
- ◆ Styles

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ explain the function
- ◆ identify the range of media and techniques used
- ◆ explain why the range of media and techniques identified are appropriate
- ◆ identify the range of styles used
- ◆ explain why the range of styles identified are appropriate

Each candidate must produce at least 10 correctly annotated specialist illustration case studies. The case studies should be presented in the form of a sketchbook/logbook where each case study should have a written annotation of a 100 words (minimum).

Assessment Guidelines

The Tutor should provide at least 10 specialist illustration case studies for candidate analysis. The case studies should be appropriate to the Group Award.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Specialist Illustration

Outcome 2

Research and develop solutions for a specialist illustration brief

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Research/references
- ◆ Compositional sketches
- ◆ Development drawings
- ◆ Media
- ◆ Techniques
- ◆ Styles
- ◆ Analysis and evaluation

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ apply a minimum of two research techniques/reference sources such as library, reference photography, and observational sketches
- ◆ produce a substantial and varied range of compositional sketches
- ◆ select appropriate solutions for development and produce a progressive series of developmental drawings, media, technique and stylistic experiments
- ◆ analyse and evaluate their illustration solutions

The assignment should create a minimum of six A3 worksheets or an equivalent development book of research, compositional sketches, and development drawings which are appropriate for a specialist illustration brief. The analysis should be presented in the form of a 500 word written report or by a short oral presentation within a group critique lasting 5 minutes.

Assessment Guidelines

The assessment of Outcomes 2 and 3 is through practical assignments working from a specialist illustration brief.

For this Outcome candidates should plan and undertake relevant research; collect relevant reference material; and produce compositional sketches, developmental drawings; media, technique and stylistic experiments for the specialist illustration brief.

Analysis and evaluation could be assessed through observation, questions and answer or written/annotated response.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Specialist Illustration

Outcome 3

Produce finished illustrations for a specialist illustration brief/s

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Selection of appropriate composition
- ◆ Selection and application of appropriate media, technique and style
- ◆ Production of finished illustration
- ◆ Presentation

Evidence Requirements

Candidates must provide evidence of their ability to make appropriate judgements in the selection of composition, media, techniques, style and presentation of the finished illustrations by showing that they can:

- ◆ produce finished, specialist illustrations (minimum of two) that reflects the developmental work in Outcome 2 and fulfils the requirements of the specialist illustration brief/s
- ◆ select and effectively apply appropriate media, techniques and style
- ◆ deliver analysis and evaluation of their illustration solutions
- ◆ present the finished specialist illustrations in accordance with the requirements of the specialist illustration brief/s

Assessment Guidelines

The assessment of Outcomes 2 and 3 is through practical assignments working from a specialist illustration brief/s. The Tutor should specify presentation methods within the brief/s.

For this Outcome candidates should produce and present finished specialist illustrations using appropriate media, techniques and style.

Analysis and evaluation could be assessed through observation, questions and answer or written/annotated response.

Administrative Information

Unit code: DV93 34
Unit title: Specialist Illustration
Superclass category: JB
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History of changes:

| Version | Description of change | Date |
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| 02 | Inserted information on 'Recommended prior knowledge and skills'. | 25/04/08 |
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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Specialist Illustration

This part of the Unit specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 40 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

The Unit is intended to provide the candidate with an introduction to an area of specialist illustration such as 3D, archaeological, architectural, botanical, children's book, commercial, concept art, editorial, fashion, forensic, medical, natural history, ornithological, technical, zoological.

Outcome 1 should introduce the candidate to a specialist area of illustration working from professional case study examples supplied by the Tutor. The selected case studies should be produced by practising illustrators and enable the candidate to analyse a diverse range of illustration functions, media, styles and techniques typical to the specialist area.

The specialist illustration area studied in this Outcome should continue in the practical brief/s specified for Outcomes 2 and 3.

Outcomes 2 and 3 will allow the candidate to apply knowledge acquired in Outcome 1 in a practical situation through the research, development, experimentation and production of a finished specialist illustration.

Potential sources of research/references might include:

- ◆ library
- ◆ internet
- ◆ photo libraries
- ◆ reference photography
- ◆ close-up photography
- ◆ observation sketches

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

The Unit can be delivered as a stand-alone Unit. Where it is delivered as part of a Group Award it is envisaged that it would be delivered in the latter stages and draw upon knowledge and skills acquired in the mandatory Units.

It is recommended that it is taught in sequence with Outcome 1 providing an introduction to the specialist illustration area; and, Outcomes 2 and 3 requiring practical application and experimentation in response to a brief/s.

It is recommended that Outcome 1 is delivered by: lecturer exposition introducing the specialist illustration area; group activities analysing case study examples for formative assessment; and individual student case study example analysis activities for summative assessment. Re-assessment would be by different case studies.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Specialist Illustration

This could be supported by guest speakers/practising specialist illustrators.

For Outcomes 2 and 3 candidates should be provided with a brief/s by the Tutor, who should act as client. This assessment should consist of a substantial amount of development work and experimentation; and, the production and presentation of a finished specialist illustration.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

All elements of the Core Skill of Problem Solving, namely planning and organising, critical thinking, and reviewing and evaluating, should be fully developed and further enhanced as candidates undertake the Unit, applying knowledge and skills to produce specialist illustrations in a range of media. Identifying, selecting and maximising all available resources and recognising and overcoming any potential barriers to achievement will involve a high level of critical and creative thinking.

Candidates would independently apply and justify effective media techniques using suitable opportunities for review and potential modification. Candidates could benefit from individual discussions with the assessor to reinforce analytical evaluation of achievement as a guide to future activities and further development. Evaluation in which all aspects and stages of the design process and their potential impact are analysed will be integral to achievement.

Although skills in Communication are not formally assessed candidates will be expected to research, produce and present written materials to the standard acceptable in the vocational area. Skills in accessing and evaluating a range of sources which provide ideas and models will be developed, in order that candidates are able to analyse critically current reference materials from a range of paper based and electronic sites. The need to develop efficient systems of recording, coding and storing drafts and notes for ease of reference will be emphasised.

Open learning

This Unit could be delivered by open learning on the proviso that suitable online support was developed. There would have to be well-defined support materials and briefs, which took into account any factors specific to open learning.

If this Unit is delivered by open or distance learning methods, additional planning and resources may be required for candidate support, assessment and quality assurance. New authentication tools may have to be devised for assessment and reassessment purposes.

Candidates with disabilities and/or additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering alternative Outcomes for Units. Further advice can be found in the SQA document *Guidance on Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs* (www.sqa.org.uk).

General information for candidates

Unit title: Specialist Illustration

The Unit is designed to introduce you to a variety of illustration styles, media and techniques within a specialist illustration area such as 3D, archaeological, architectural, botanical, children's book, commercial, concept art, editorial, fashion, forensic, medical, natural history, ornithological, technical, zoological.

Outcome 1

You will begin by analysing a specialist illustration area in terms of the function of the illustrations and the range of media, techniques and styles used.

This is assessed by your completion of professional specialist illustration case studies through annotated analysis and identification.

Outcome 2

You will research and source appropriate reference material for specialist illustration brief/s.

Working from your source material you will produce compositional sketches in which you explore a broad range of potential illustration compositions.

Through analysis and evaluation you will select appropriate solutions for development of composition through a series of progressive drawings. You will also experiment with a range of media, techniques and styles that you identified in your initial analysis of the illustration area.

This is assessed by your production of a research and development book/worksheets that include all research and reference material, compositional sketches, development drawings and media/technique/style experimentation.

Assessment of your analysis and evaluation skills may be made by observing your input in a group critique; your oral/written responses to questions or annotation of your development work.

Outcome 3

Further analysis and evaluation will lead you to select final compositions, media, technique/s and style/s that you will use to produce finished specialist illustrations.

Assessment of your analysis and evaluation skills may be made by observing your input in a group critique; your oral/written responses to questions or presentation of your final illustrations.