



Higher National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Photography: Advanced Image Editing

Unit code: H37V 35

Superclass: KE

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Unit purpose

This is a mandatory Unit in the Higher National Diploma in Photography. It can also be taken as a freestanding Unit.

This Unit is designed to develop knowledge and skills in the specialist area of photographic image editing to an advanced level. The target group for this Unit is candidates who wish to develop their existing image editing skills to an advanced level.

On completion of the Unit candidates will be able to:

- 1 Research, and present findings on, advanced image editing concepts and techniques.
- 2 Apply advanced editing techniques to photographic images in line with a given brief.
- 3 Prepare edited images for printing and report on the creative processes involved.
- 4 Present and evaluate edited and printed images.

Recommended prior knowledge and skills

While entry is at the discretion of the centre it would be expected that candidates will have completed the Higher National Certificate in Photography at SCQF level 7 or equivalent.

Candidates should also have competent ability with a computer operating system, an intermediate knowledge of digital image manipulation and a clear understanding of digital image capture, workflow and colour management. This could be evidenced by one of the following Units or equivalent:

- ◆ *Photography: Image Editing* (SCQF level 7)
- ◆ *Digital Imaging* (SCQF level 7)

General information (cont)

Credit points and level

1 Higher National Unit credit at SCQF level 8: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 8*)

**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.*

Core Skills

There is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skill components in this Unit.

Opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills are highlighted in the support notes of this Unit specification.

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.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

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

Outcome 1

Research, and present findings on, advanced image editing concepts and techniques.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Advanced image editing workflows and compositing techniques.
- ◆ Interpretation and development skills.
- ◆ Evaluative investigation skills.
- ◆ Self-directed research skills.

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide written and/or oral recorded evidence, and illustrated examples, to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills.

The evidence can be in hard copy or an electronic format in the form of, for example, an annotated workbook and must contain:

- ◆ descriptions of at least 10 advanced image editing concepts and techniques as used in current creative and technical professional practice
- ◆ illustrated examples of these concepts and techniques
- ◆ evaluation of these concepts and techniques

Candidates should produce the evidence on their own at appropriate points as they develop the necessary knowledge and skills. Centres must ensure that the evidence is the candidate's own work.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Photography: Advanced Image Editing

Outcome 2

Apply advanced editing techniques to photographic images in line with a given brief.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Advanced blending.
- ◆ Channel cut-outs and colour enhancements.
- ◆ Colour management.
- ◆ Content aware scaling.
- ◆ Defined brushes and clone stamps.
- ◆ Displacement maps.
- ◆ Lab colouring and sharpening.
- ◆ Patterns and textures.
- ◆ Smart objects and filters.
- ◆ Task automation actions.
- ◆ HDR.

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ discuss and agree their ideas to fulfil the brief with their tutor, in light of the research they have undertaken
- ◆ working and optimising in RAW format, apply advanced image editing techniques to five of their own images. Editing must be of a creative rather than corrective nature and candidates must keep a record of their key actions. Techniques used must illustrate advanced editing skills involving complex masking, advanced selective colour and sharpness enhancements and considered creative image compositing and transformation.
- ◆ compile before and after images for each of the five manipulations, saved in an appropriate digital format for both print and electronic output
- ◆ prepare files with an appropriate colour space/profile for print output

Centres must give candidates a clear brief covering all Evidence Requirements and confirm that candidates have discussed and agreed their ideas to fulfil this brief.

The evidence must be produced by candidates on their own at appropriate points as they develop the necessary knowledge and skills. Centres must ensure that the evidence is the candidate's own work.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Photography: Advanced Image Editing

Outcome 3

Prepare edited images for printing and report on the creative processes involved.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Print proofing and profiling.
- ◆ Colour correction.
- ◆ Colour management.
- ◆ Screen calibration.
- ◆ Test stripping.
- ◆ Print output.

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ research and test potential print output options for five edited images
- ◆ select appropriate print output options for these images
- ◆ apply correct colour management policies, colour and density to each image
- ◆ ensure edited images are printed to a professional standard for presentation or exhibition, and are of a minimum A4 size. Candidates may print the edited images themselves or use a professional printing service.
- ◆ produce a written and/or oral report of between 500–700 words, describing the creative process for each of the five edits in which they:
 - identify the audience/context for the creatively manipulated images
 - describe the technical workflow used
 - include screen grabs and, before and after images, to illustrate critical stages in the development process

Evidence must be produced by candidates on their own at appropriate points as they develop the necessary knowledge and skills. Centres must ensure that this evidence is the candidate's own work.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Photography: Advanced Image Editing

Outcome 4

Present and evaluate edited and printed images.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Presentation skills.
- ◆ Evaluation skills.

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ present five edited and printed images and explain:
 - how image editing concepts and techniques were applied in the production process
 - the knowledge and skills developed during this process
 - areas for improvement in own image editing knowledge and skills

Candidates may present their evidence through an oral presentation, accompanied by the printed images, or in a written/oral evaluative report of between 500–700 words. The evidence must be produced by candidates on their own at appropriate points as they develop the necessary knowledge and skills. Centres must ensure that this evidence is the candidate's own work.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Photography: Advanced Image Editing

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

This Unit is a mandatory Unit in the Higher National Diploma in Photography but can also be taken as a freestanding Unit. It has been designed to develop candidates' image editing skills in advanced selection, enhancement and compositing techniques. The emphasis is on creativity guided by proficient technical ability.

Candidates must prepare the final five images for printing proving they can manage colour tone and sharpening at output.

At all stages candidates should be encouraged to be technically precise, yet innovative in their analysis, experimentation and application of researched image editing techniques.

If learners are studying the Higher National Diploma in Photography the images used for editing in this Unit can be drawn from other Units in the qualification.

Guidance on the delivery of this Unit

Outcome 1

Candidates' research should be directed to focus upon both the creative and technical practices of current professional image editing practitioners. Image analyses and deconstruction should be explained to identify technique and to influence creativity. It would be of great value to seek a current practitioner or organise a commercial visit to allow the candidates to research at first hand advanced image editing techniques. Direction as to relevant routes of investigation should be provided, as should examples of composite image creation.

Candidates should be encouraged to use reflective practice.

Outcome 2

Candidates should use a range of different images which should be taken specifically to suit the centre's mode of delivery. Digitally captured or scanned analogue film materials are permitted. If candidates are studying the Higher National Diploma in Photography the images used may be drawn from other Units in this qualification.

Candidates should work and optimise in RAW format before converting/saving to a range of file types (eg Tiff, PSD, jpg) for effective storage, retrieval and image output.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Photography: Advanced Image Editing

Outcome 3

Candidates should be given output examples and encouraged to research, test and carefully select print output options. Prints should be correctly colour managed and output to a standard appropriate for client presentation/exhibition.

The five images edited in Outcome 2 may be output to an individual or variety of print media. Candidates should explore a range of output options. They may personally undertake print output or engage a service provider to output the work for them.

Outcome 4

Candidates should present their final printed images accompanied by either an evaluative oral presentation with peers and tutors present, or a written evaluation of 500–700 words.

To illustrate, inform, and stimulate debate, candidate evaluations could refer to the research carried out for Outcome 1 and acknowledge development of image editing skills as discussed in the written report of Outcome 3.

Guidance on the assessment of this Unit

Assessment of this Unit may be undertaken holistically.

Candidates should be assessed on their creative and advanced technical manipulation of images as informed by their research, practice and development of current practices.

Candidates will produce prints paying attention to colour management policies, colour and density. Production of prints may be the act of the candidate printing directly or their appropriate choice of a printing service, laboratory or other provider.

Assessment Guidelines

Outcome 1

Candidates' research must demonstrate considered investigation that both illustrates and describes their comprehension of advanced current professional image editing processes. Findings should recognise how these researched concepts and techniques will influence and inform their own creative processing of images

Outcome 2

Assessment should be based on the adjustment and advanced creative editing of five images as influenced and developed from the research undertaken in Outcome 1.

Candidates will provide evidence of their technical and creative efficiency with such techniques as, for example, advanced blending, channel cut-outs and colour enhancements, content aware scaling, creation and use of defined brushes and clone stamps, displacement maps, Lab colouring and sharpening, creation and use of patterns and textures, smart objects and filters, vanishing point and HDR.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Photography: Advanced Image Editing

Outcome 3

Creative image editing techniques and colour management workflow must be detailed in the candidate's process report as should before and after images of each creatively enhanced image. This will enable assessment of the image formation process and digital workflow in regard to use of sharpening, colour spaces and paper/printer profiles.

All outputs must be printed yet need not be traditional hard copy prints. Any print media is permissible. Candidates may choose to personally undertake the print process or choose an outside laboratory/service relative to their chosen output requirements. It is suggested that prints be of a reasonable size to show clear detail, therefore (A4) or above.

Outcome 4

The candidates' evaluations should be reflective and enable assessment of the application and development of image editing concepts and techniques. Candidates should identify knowledge and skills gained while recognising areas for improvement.

Online and Distance Learning

If this Unit is delivered by open learning methods, additional resources will be required for candidate support, assessment and quality assurance. For further information and advice please refer to the SQA guide: *Assessment and Quality Assurance for Open and Distance Learning (A1030), February 2001*.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

In this Unit candidates will:

- ◆ research and present findings
- ◆ evaluate images and their own knowledge and skills
- ◆ use technology and software packages to input, edit and manipulate images

These activities offer opportunities to develop aspects of the Core Skills of:

- ◆ *Communication*
- ◆ *Problem Solving*
- ◆ *Information and Communication Technology*

Disabled candidates and/or those with additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering whether any reasonable adjustments may be required. Further advice can be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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General information for candidates

Unit title: Photography: Advanced Image Editing

Image editing is integral to professional photographic practice. This Unit introduces you to advanced image manipulation techniques and how to plan their use creatively.

You will manipulate a series of five images to an advanced level.

The images can be drawn from other Units in the Higher National Diploma in Photography or taken specifically for this Unit.

Advanced image manipulation techniques will be explained and demonstrated to you.

Advanced manipulation tasks, complex selections and creative thinking will be part of the Unit.

Assessment for Outcome 1 — You will research and evaluate 10 advanced image editing concepts and techniques.

Assessment for Outcome 2 — Informed by your research, classroom tutorial and self-directed study you will develop creative ideas and demonstrate advanced image editing techniques on five of your own images.

Assessment of Outcome 3 — You will produce five colour managed images of A4 dimensions or above to a standard appropriate for client presentation/exhibition.

Assessment of Outcome 4 — You will present and evaluate your final print images. This could be as part of a class group presentation or as a written and/or oral report (500–700 words).