



Higher National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Photography: Applied Techniques

Unit code: H37W 34

Superclass: KE

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Unit purpose

This is an optional Unit in the Higher National Certificate and Higher National Diploma in Photography and can also be taken as a freestanding Unit.

This Unit will develop candidates' knowledge and skills in the specialist area of applied photography. It is specifically targeted at candidates who wish to develop skills in using applied photography techniques.

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

- 1 Research and present findings on applied photographic equipment, techniques and applications.
- 2 Produce images using applied photography techniques to a given brief.
- 3 Present and evaluate images produced using applied photographic techniques.

Recommended prior knowledge and skills

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, it would be expected that the candidate will have completed the National Certificate in Photography at SCQF level 6 or equivalent.

Credit points and level

1 Higher National Unit 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.*

General information (cont)

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.

The assessment exemplar for this Unit provides assessment and marking guidelines that exemplify the national standard for achievement. It is a valid, reliable and practicable Instrument of Assessment. Centres wishing to develop their own assessments should refer to the assessment exemplar to ensure a comparable standard. Assessment exemplars are available on SQA's secure website.

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 applied photographic equipment, techniques and applications.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Research skills.
- ◆ Equipment and techniques used to record phenomena not normally visible to the human eye (due to intensity, size, scale, access, speed or wavelength).
- ◆ Use and applications for applied photography.
- ◆ Objective recording of findings.

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ identify, research and gather information on:
 - specialist areas where applied photographic techniques are used
 - applications for specialist applied techniques
 - photographic/imaging equipment used in the application of applied techniques
 - health and safety considerations in relation to applied photographic techniques
- ◆ identify and gather images which illustrate applied photographic equipment, techniques and applications
- ◆ evaluate images with reference to the techniques used and their purpose
- ◆ collate the information, images and findings in an appropriate format, for example, in a workbook, crediting all sources

Candidates should be given a clear brief covering all Evidence Requirements. This evidence must be generated 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.

The results of the research and findings can be presented in hard copy or an electronic format.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Photography: Applied Techniques

Outcome 2

Produce images using applied photography techniques to a given brief.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Equipment and techniques used to record application of applied techniques.
- ◆ Correct application of techniques to provide image solutions to technical and/or creative photographic briefs.
- ◆ Time management skills.
- ◆ Organisational skills.

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ correctly apply photographic techniques to provide image solutions in line with a given brief
- ◆ produce a minimum of three images using three different applied photography techniques
- ◆ demonstrate correct methods of lighting, composition and exposure control throughout
- ◆ accurately note technical details and photographs or diagrams of selected equipment and its configuration
- ◆ collate images and details in an appropriate format, for example, in hard copy or an electronic workbook, to a professional standard

The three different techniques to be used are not prescribed and can be chosen as appropriate to the resources available within the centre.

Candidates must be given a clear brief covering all Evidence Requirements. This evidence must be generated 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: Applied Techniques

Outcome 3

Present and evaluate images produced using applied photographic techniques.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Presentation techniques.
- ◆ Evaluation skills.

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ select a minimum of three of the images they have produced using three different applied techniques
- ◆ explain the techniques used to produce each image, including technical data and equipment
- ◆ evaluate the use of these techniques and their appropriateness in relation to the original brief
- ◆ present this information in an appropriate format, for example in hard copy or an electronic workbook, to a professional standard

Candidates must be given a clear brief covering all Evidence Requirements. This evidence must be generated 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: Applied Techniques

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

Beyond the commercial and artistic purposes of photography the applied photographic techniques utilised by a large number of sectors, eg industrial/medical/scientific, offer a context to the content of this Unit. Contextualisation of the techniques explored through research and practice should offer candidates an insight to the possibilities of technical and creative approaches to their own photographic practice.

The skillset that candidates may gain from this Unit is designed to enhance both the technical and creative decision making process.

Guidance on the delivery of this Unit

Candidates will research and practice techniques that could be purely scientific or that may use techniques that offer new directions to explore their creativity. Candidates will require access to a range of specialist equipment that could include:

- ◆ Bellows
- ◆ Macro lenses
- ◆ Filters
- ◆ High speed flash/strobe
- ◆ Microscopes
- ◆ Radio triggers
- ◆ Tripods
- ◆ Telephoto lenses
- ◆ UltraViolet light source

Access to resources that allow candidates opportunities to research materials and update workbooks will be valuable during delivery. Workbooks can be paper or electronically devised.

Contextualisation of the applied field should be reinforced during delivery by, for example, offering demonstrations, lectures and tutorials. Visits or guest speakers from organisations involved in specialist imaging areas may also add further value to the contextualisation of this field for candidates.

Outcome 1

Tutors may direct formative exercise/discussion to consider existing knowledge of applied photography. Candidates should be encouraged to consider use and applications for applied photography and discuss what equipment and techniques may be required.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Photography: Applied Techniques

Candidates should research a range of specialist areas that utilise applied techniques.

These could include:

- ◆ Medical
- ◆ Forensic
- ◆ Scientific
- ◆ Electronic
- ◆ Industrial
- ◆ Military
- ◆ Astronomy
- ◆ Marine Biology

The range of research could include historical and contemporary examples. All research sources must be clearly referenced.

Outcome 2

Research for Outcome 1 may direct the assessment criteria set in Outcome 2. Candidates should explore the techniques researched in a manner appropriate to the resources available. Purely technical and/or creative approaches may be considered as appropriate when designing assessment materials.

There should be opportunity for candidates to explore three different techniques during delivery; this may be part of an holistic assessment procedure or from three separately constructed assessment briefs. It may be possible for candidates to work thematically within an assessment exploring a range of techniques within a single themed subject.

Outcome 3

Evaluation of the techniques explored, the equipment used and the images created should form an important element to this Unit. Evaluation could be presented as an illustrated document or electronically.

The number of images produced during the Unit should be negotiated by the tutor and candidate dependent on the nature of the project undertaken. A minimum of three images will be produced demonstrating a range of applied techniques and their application.

Guidance on the assessment of this Unit

This Unit should be a contextualisation of the application of a range of specialist techniques that may be used in an applied photographic situation. The scientific approach can be expanded to allow candidates an opportunity to explore creative applications for the techniques researched. Applying previous skills and expanding the range of techniques candidates have developed through research and experimentation should allow individuals to determine how to best utilise the resources available to them.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Photography: Applied Techniques

Assessment Guidelines

Outcome 1

Outcome 1 requires candidates to present information that reflects research into a range of different applications that reflect a pure applied or creative use of applied photographic equipment and techniques. Candidates should be exposed to a wide range of techniques that may be considered as applied photography. Research materials used should be referenced/credited and evaluated in the workbook/online resource. Each technique and image referenced should be carefully evaluated in terms of technique and purpose within the workbook/online resource. Candidates may wish to identify and justify the techniques that they wish to develop during the practical element of the Unit within the evaluation. Health and safety considerations including any risk assessment should be evidenced in submitted materials.

Outcome 2

Assessment materials developed should allow candidates to work independently on a brief that gives scope to a range of techniques and approaches. The assessments may form part of an holistic approach which could combine all three Outcomes into one Instrument of Assessment. Candidates could work on applied techniques that encourage a scientific approach or they may wish to develop applied techniques in a more creative manner, or a combination of both approaches. Research from Outcome 1 may form the basis of the techniques identified for further development. Available resources may determine which specialist techniques can be explored within a centre, however the assessment instrument could take location work into consideration and allow a broad scope of subject matter to be considered. Completed project work will form the basis of the presentation and evaluation of Outcome 3.

Outcome 3

Candidates should evaluate and justify their submitted images by discussing equipment, technique and purpose in their presented work. Irrespective of approach (scientific or creative) candidates should identify the techniques applied to each image and justify its use and appropriateness within the finished image. Technical data including (where appropriate) control shots and metadata, where available, should be clearly available within the submitted work. Presentation of completed work may include a print or electronic submission with attached technical data/metadata and workbook which should form an overview of progression through the Unit.

Online and Distance Learning

The research element of this Unit, Outcome 1, can be undertaken using the internet if this is appropriate within the centre. This would facilitate an online learning approach. Candidates and centres may also choose to store their evidence in an electronic format which could facilitate remote access for tutors for assessment purposes.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Photography: Applied Techniques

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

During this Unit candidates will be researching, providing solutions in relation to a given brief, evaluating and presenting information. They may be using a variety of software packages and/or accessing the internet to gather information and images. These activities provide 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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Additional copies of this Unit specification can be purchased from the Scottish Qualifications Authority. Please contact the Business Development and Customer Support team, telephone 0303 333 0330.

General information for candidates

Unit title: Photography: Applied Techniques

This Unit is designed to offer an introduction to the specialist field of applied photographic techniques. Research will form an integral part to this Unit and will develop as you progress.

In Outcome 1 research will give you an opportunity to discover where the use of applied techniques fit into a wide range of industrial applications. The market for applied photography is widespread therefore your research may start by considering the main specialist areas of photography, such as medical, forensic, industrial, scientific, military and astronomy.

Specialist photographic techniques are used extensively to gather information about product tolerances, production techniques, material identification and development, medical application, crime scene recording of evidence, with a purely technical approach. Traditionally applied techniques can also be utilised to a more creative approach.

Your research will be produced in a workbook/electronic format and should contain evidence of the equipment, techniques used, exposure data, lighting and capture details with appropriate references and illustrations.

In Outcome 2 you will be given a brief and will apply photography techniques to produce images. Evidence gathered during your research in Outcome 1 can form the basis of the techniques identified for further development. You should approach solutions to briefs and produce images in an illustrative manner. Creative application of the techniques demonstrated/offered is encouraged as solutions to briefs are sought.

Your final images will be presented in a suitable manner with control shots (where appropriate) to illustrate the effectiveness of the chosen applied techniques.

In Outcome 3 you will present and evaluate the images produced in Outcome 2. Your evaluation may include both technical and aesthetical information, outlining the success of the images based on the techniques utilised during the Unit. The evaluation may form an integral part of your final presentation. Evidence gathered during the research stage in Outcome 1 can form the basis for evaluative comments. Your evaluation can be presented in a workbook or by digital presentation.