

-SQA-SCOTTISH QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

**Hanover House
24 Douglas Street
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NATIONAL CERTIFICATE MODULE DESCRIPTOR

-Module Number- 8170031 **-Session-1991-92**
-Superclass- KE

-Title- ARCHITECTURAL PHOTOGRAPHY

-DESCRIPTION-

Purpose This module will enable the student to acquire a working knowledge of the specialist techniques used in architectural photography and an understanding of the use of cameras with perspective control.

It is designed as part of a full-time course in photography but would also be useful to those seeking employment as photographic assistants or to anyone with a general interest in the subject area.

Preferred Entry Level 81850 Photography: Camera Techniques
81851 Photography: Monochrome Film Processing and Printing.

Outcomes The student should:

1. photograph architectural exteriors;
2. photograph architectural interiors;
3. maintain a logbook of photographic assignments.

Assessment Procedures Acceptable performance in this module will be satisfactory achievement of all the Performance Criteria specified for each outcome.

The following abbreviations are used below:

PC Performance Criteria
IA Instrument of Assessment

Note: The Outcomes and PCs are mandatory and cannot be altered. The IA may be altered by arrangement with SQA. (Where a range of performance is indicated, this should be regarded as an extension of the PCs and is therefore mandatory.)

OUTCOME 1 PHOTOGRAPH ARCHITECTURAL EXTERIORS

- PCs
- (a) The interpretation of the brief is correct with regard to: location; specific requirements; preparation of work plan and selection of equipment; permission to photograph and/or arrangements for access.
 - (b) The determination of viewpoints is appropriate for highlighting the chosen architectural style to best advantage.
 - (c) The use of suitable natural daylight enhances the building's shape, form and texture.
 - (d) The use of camera movements to control perspective meets the requirements of the brief.
 - (e) Negatives produced demonstrate a control of exposure and contrast.

IA Practical Exercise

The student will be presented with a practical exercise to demonstrate his/her ability to photograph architectural exteriors. Working to a brief agreed between tutor and student, he/she will:

1. photograph two buildings of differing architectural styles;
2. produce negatives and contact prints;
3. submit two enlargements as required by the brief.

Satisfactory achievement of the Outcome will be based on all Performance Criteria being met.

OUTCOME 2 PHOTOGRAPH ARCHITECTURAL INTERIORS

- PCs
- (a) The initial site visit clearly establishes: contact for permission to photograph and arrangements for access; assessment of existing lighting; location of electrical fittings; determination of viewpoint; selection of supplementary light; lens choice.
 - (b) The selection of portable lighting as determined by the initial site visit is appropriate to the brief.
 - (c) The choice of viewpoint and positioning of lighting enhances the architectural features specified by the brief.
 - (d) The assessment of exposure to control contrast is correct.

IA Practical Exercise

The student will be presented with a practical exercise to demonstrate his/her ability to photograph architectural interiors. Working to a brief agreed between tutor and student, he/she will:

1. photograph an interior using available window light and/or existing illumination;
2. photograph an interior using portable lighting as the predominant light source or as supplementary lighting;
3. produce negatives and contact prints;
4. produce two enlargements as specified by the brief.

Satisfactory achievement of the Outcome will be based on all Performance Criteria being met.

OUTCOME 3 MAINTAIN A LOGBOOK OF PHOTOGRAPHIC ASSIGNMENTS

- PCs (a) The preliminary survey of a series of buildings clearly establishes the selection of buildings for the photographic assignments with regard to: evidence of contact prints; suitability of location and determination of viewpoint; orientation of buildings in relation to the sun; lighting consideration for interiors; requirement for permission to photograph and/or arrangements for access where appropriate.
- (b) The equipment checklist prepared is comprehensive with regard to: cameras; lenses; accessories; lighting where appropriate.
- (c) For interiors, the record of exposure/processing and compensation for reciprocity failure is complete.

IA Logbook

The student will be asked to keep a logbook according to a structured plan in which he/she will keep a record of:

1. preliminary survey data including contact prints;
2. a checklist of the equipment necessary to carry out the photographic assignments;
3. exposure/processing times and compensation for reciprocity failure.

Satisfactory achievement of the Outcome will be based on all Performance Criteria being met.

**The following sections of the descriptor are offered as guidance.
They are not mandatory.**

CONTENT/CONTEXT

Corresponding to Outcomes 1-3:

The student should at all times comply with procedures and regulations designed for safe practice and use safe working practices specified for equipment and work areas while on location.

In order to achieve Outcomes 1 and 2 successfully it is strongly recommended that a technical camera with movements or a camera using a perspective control lens is used.

1. Awareness of differing styles of architecture in relation to potential problems, eg. overcoming reflection problems. Large format cameras, monorail-base board type, small and medium format cameras with facility for perspective control lenses; camera movements; lenses with large covering power, filters, tripods; polarising, colour contrast; requirements of architects and builders, nature of the site, perspective, aspect of facade relative to position of the sun.
 2. Portable lighting: flash and tungsten; extension cables; electrical power points; equipment checklist; reciprocity considerations; arrangements for access.
 3. Need for a preliminary survey (a "rec."); equipment checklist; exposure/processing times; logbook; evidence of liaison with owner/curator of building.
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SUGGESTED LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES

The student should follow an activity-based learning approach, seeking guidance at each stage.

Activities should be centred on well defined briefs set by the tutor.

The use of the view camera should be demonstrated initially by the lecturer, in a studio, allowing the student to become familiar with the camera controls and movements. Thereafter a visit to a suitable location accompanied by the tutor is recommended so that the student may be made aware of difficulties likely to be experienced when undertaking the assignment unsupervised and of methods of resolving them.

Exemplars of likely problems/faults (cut-off, fogging, converging verticals, failing to close the lens, etc.) should be available for the students to examine.

Students should be encouraged to compare each other's work and to discuss different approaches and solutions to problems. This can be done on an informal basis, but tutor-led discussions should be held at regular intervals.

A formal evaluation meeting could act as a summing up of the teaching achieved in the module and could contribute to the effectiveness and acceptability of final assessments.

Exemplars of negatives and prints of acceptable quality should be available for reference by students.

It should be remembered that student performance in undertaking the assignments should be as realistic as possible, with no prompting from the tutor. Some students reach this stage more quickly than others; this is acceptable provided all Performance Criteria are achieved.

All prints and negatives should be retained by the student in a portfolio of work.

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