



National Unit Specification: general information

UNIT Photography: Magnified Image Skills (SCQF level 6)

CODE F51T 12

SUMMARY

This Unit is designed to enable the candidate to research magnified image making and apply the acquired knowledge of skills and techniques in the production of their own magnified images in a studio and on location. The Unit requires the candidate to be reflective and evaluative about their own work.

The Unit is suitable for candidates who have some previous photographic experience and have an interest in developing the basic knowledge and skills required for magnified image making.

OUTCOMES

- 1 Research magnified image making equipment and techniques.
- 2 Produce a range of magnified images in a studio and on location in response to a given brief.
- 3 Evaluate the finished images.

RECOMMENDED ENTRY

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, candidates would benefit from having had some experience in basic photography.

CREDIT VALUE

1 credit at Higher level (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 6*).

**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.*

Administrative Information

Superclass: KE

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National Unit Specification: general information (cont)

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CORE SKILLS

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

The Unit provides opportunities for candidates to develop aspects of the following Core Skills:

- ◆ Information and Communication Technology (SCQF level 5)
- ◆ Working with Others (SCQF level 5)
- ◆ Problem Solving (SCQF level 5)

These opportunities are highlighted in the Support Notes of this Unit Specification.

National Unit Specification: statement of standards

UNIT Photography: Magnified Image Skills (SCQF level 6)

Acceptable performance in this Unit will be the satisfactory achievement of the standards set out in this part of the Unit Specification. All sections of the statement of standards are mandatory and cannot be altered without reference to SQA.

OUTCOME 1

Research magnified image making equipment and techniques.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Select magnified images showing use of different camera equipment and lighting techniques.
- (b) Describe accurately the camera equipment used in each of the chosen magnified images.
- (c) Describe clearly the lighting technique used in each of the chosen magnified images.
- (d) Explain the aesthetic qualities of the chosen magnified images.

OUTCOME 2

Produce a range of magnified images in a studio and on location in response to a given brief.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Select the correct camera and lighting equipment to create a range of magnified images in response to the given brief.
- (b) Use the correct camera and lighting equipment to create a range of magnified images in a studio and on location in response to the given brief.
- (c) Select the most appropriate magnified images from the range in response to the given brief.
- (d) Present finished magnified images in an appropriate format in response to the given brief.

OUTCOME 3

Evaluate the finished images.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the finished magnified images in terms of aesthetic quality, technique and style.
- (b) Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the presentation format(s) chosen for each of the magnified images.

National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

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EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS UNIT

Evidence is required to demonstrate that candidates have achieved all Outcomes and Performance Criteria for this Unit.

Written and/or oral recorded evidence and product evidence is required. The evidence will be produced under open-book conditions in response to the given brief.

The candidate will produce evidence which will include:

- ◆ a workbook which contains a range of gathered magnified images and descriptions about the equipment and techniques used
- ◆ five finished magnified images
- ◆ an evaluation of three of the finished magnified images submitted

The evidence required for each Outcome is as follows:

Outcome 1

Written and/or oral recorded evidence and product evidence to include five different magnified images which candidates have personally selected is required. The range of magnified images selected must:

- ◆ reflect two subject areas
- ◆ show the use of a range of techniques and equipment
- ◆ have been taken in a studio and on location

It would be appropriate for this evidence to be in the format of a traditional or electronic annotated workbook.

Outcome 2

Product evidence in the form of five finished magnified images which the candidate has produced on their own at appropriate points throughout the Unit.

The teacher/lecturer will provide a clear brief which outlines all the requirements of the assignments. The brief will inform candidates that the finished range of magnified images must:

- ◆ include a minimum of one studio and a minimum of one location magnified image
- ◆ be from a minimum of two subject areas
- ◆ demonstrate the correct use of two of the following techniques: macro lenses, bellows, extension tubes, microscopes, close up filters
- ◆ demonstrate their ability to produce technically accurate and aesthetically pleasing magnified images

It would be appropriate for this evidence to be presented in the format of traditional prints or electronic display or digital print. The minimum print size should be 6 x 4" (10 x 15 cm).

National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

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Outcome 3

Written and/or oral recorded evidence which the candidate has generated under supervised, open-book conditions.

The candidate will select three finished magnified images from Outcome 2 for evaluation.

This evaluation should be approximately 400–500 words.

National Unit Specification: support notes

UNIT Photography: Magnified Image Skills (SCQF level 6)

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 designed to encourage the candidate in the application of magnified imaging techniques. The intention is to provide an opportunity for candidates with a limited experience of photography to participate in this area of study. The exercises undertaken in the study of this Unit will give adequate opportunity for the candidate to research the subject of magnified image making and apply knowledge and skills acquired to their own work. The Unit requires the candidate to be reflective and evaluative about their own work.

Health and safety guidance relating to studio practice and location work should be given. The candidate will be expected to adopt safe working practices at all times.

GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES FOR THIS UNIT

Outcome 1

It would be beneficial for the candidates if a resource file with illustrations of magnified images that demonstrated the use of a variety of equipment and techniques was available from which candidates could choose suitable material.

This source material could be from areas such as: plants, insects, scientific subjects, ordinary objects. If this resource material was unavailable then clear guidelines should be given to students as to where they can source suitable resources.

The intention is that the candidate will gain technical experience and knowledge of the different approaches taken to magnified image making photography by describing each magnified image gathered in terms of lighting, photographic techniques and aesthetic quality.

Outcome 2

The candidate should be given a brief clearly outlining the requirements of each assignment. The candidate should be encouraged to photograph at least two different subject areas. It would be beneficial if each of the subjects allowed the candidate to develop their problem solving skills. For example the candidate could photograph a plant or flower at different magnifications and have to back light through the plant/flower. It would be advisable for the candidate to shoot control shots where they place some form of scaling device in the picture area to allow measurement of the magnification.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

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Candidates should be advised not to regard this as a purely technical photographic exercise but to regard this as also an opportunity to produce an aesthetically pleasing photograph. Candidates should be encouraged not just to take a number of photographs of the subject from the same viewpoint but to change camera position and if possible subject lighting. The use of a tripod is recommended. A Digital compact camera with suitable controls; aperture priority, shutter speed priority, manual and close up facility may be suitable as would a Digital SLR with macro lens.

Candidates will then have a number of noticeably different images to choose from in the editing process.

Candidates could work in paired groups when completing the practical activities.

Outcome 3

This Outcome is designed to allow the candidate to reflect and critically analyse their own work and identify and evaluate strengths and weaknesses of the application of skills and techniques acquired throughout the process to their own photographs. There is opportunity for the candidate to identify aesthetic qualities and any relevant purpose of the images and also to suggest strategies for future development of magnified image making skills.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CORE SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Candidates will be critically evaluating a variety of photographic magnified images, following a brief to produce their own magnified images and evaluating their own photographic skills. These activities offer ideal opportunities to develop aspects of the Core Skill of *Problem Solving*.

Candidates may also have the opportunity to develop aspects of the Core Skill of *Working with Others* if they work in paired groups or teams or closely with an assistant during Outcome 2.

If using electronic formats for their images, candidates may also have the opportunity to develop aspects of the Core Skill of *Information and Communication Technology*.

GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT FOR THIS UNIT

Outcome 1

An appropriate instrument of assessment is a suitable structured assignment resulting in the production of an annotated workbook.

Outcome 2

An appropriate instrument of assessment is a practical assignment resulting in the production of five magnified images. Much of the evidence should arise out of the photo shoots but may also include reflective statements made by the candidate on his/her experience related to the work produced and previous research.

Centres must ensure the folio is the candidate's own work. The five finished magnified images should show technical skill and aesthetic judgement.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

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Outcome 3

A suitable instrument of assessment could be a written and/or oral recorded report with a suggested word count of approximately 400–500 words.

Teachers/Lecturers may wish to provide a pro forma for this assessment.

This Outcome is designed to encourage the candidate's critical analysis and self evaluation of their own work.

Opportunities for the use of e-assessment

E-assessment may be appropriate for some assessments in this Unit. By e-assessment we mean assessment which is supported by information and communications technology (ICT), such as e-testing or the use of e-portfolios or e-checklists. Centres which wish to use e-assessment must ensure that the national standard is applied to all candidate evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the Evidence Requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. Further advice is available in *SQA Guidelines on Online Assessment for Further Education (AA1641, March 2003)*, *SQA Guidelines on e-assessment for Schools (BD2625, June 2005)*.

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).