National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Photography: Digital Imaging (SCQF level 6)

Unit code: F8KM 12

Superclass: KE

Publication date: May 2010

Source: Scottish Qualifications Authority

Version: 01

Summary

This Unit is designed to enable candidates to develop knowledge and understanding of a range of digital techniques and an understanding of the underpinning knowledge behind these techniques. Candidates will also be provided with the opportunity to develop good practice in producing their own original and well planned images. Successful completion of this Unit should prepare candidates for more advanced training/study.

This Unit has been designed as an optional Unit of the Photography Course at SCQF level 6 and the National Certificate in Art and Design at SCQF level 6. It may also be taken as a freestanding Unit.

Outcomes

1   Import a range of image types into a digital environment.
2   Process/manipulate images within a given software package.
3   Produce a series of digitally enhanced or manipulated images.
4   Collate and present final images in an appropriate format.

Recommended entry

While entry is at the discretion of the centre it would be beneficial if candidates had prior experience in the use of camera controls.

Credit points and level

1 National Unit credit at SCQF level 6 (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.

General information (cont)

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Core Skills

Opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills are highlighted in the Support Notes of this Unit specification.

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

National Unit specification: statement of standards

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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

Import a range of image types into a digital environment.

Performance Criteria

(a) Identify the correct hardware required to import images from film, print and digital cameras.
(b) Set the software controls correctly to achieve the required file size.
(c) Import the chosen images into a digital environment.
(d) Save the imported images into an appropriate file type.

Outcome 2

Process/manipulate images within a given software package.

Performance Criteria

(a) Adjust resolution and size correctly to achieve appropriate final output.
(b) Carry out appropriate adjustments of colour balance, contrast and brightness as required.
(c) Use correct technology to remove blemishes or marks from the image.
(d) Combine at least two images to create a new image.
(e) Save the images in an appropriate file format.

Outcome 3

Produce a series of digitally enhanced or manipulated images.

Performance Criteria

(a) Select appropriate camera equipment and hardware to produce a series of digitally enhanced or manipulated images.
(b) Use selected equipment and hardware to produce images and import them into the digital environment.
(c) Correctly process and manipulate the images.
(d) Save the digitally enhanced or manipulated images in an appropriate file format.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

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Outcome 4

Collate and present final images in an appropriate format.

Performance Criteria

(a) Select final images for presentation.
(b) Identify the hardware on which images will be produced.
(c) Select media to be used.
(d) Set up appropriate resolution to suit image and selected media.
(e) Present final images in an appropriate format.

Evidence Requirements for this Unit

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

Product evidence in a folio and/or electronic annotated file is required.

This evidence will be produced under open-book conditions at appropriate points throughout delivery of the Unit.

Candidates will produce a folio and/or electronic file of work which will include:

♦ A minimum of three original images imported into a digital environment:
 – one from film
 – one from print
 – one from digital camera
 Resulting file size set to allow output as photographic quality prints (minimum A5).

♦ A minimum of three processed/manipulated images, with annotations to explain processes used, saved in correct file format.
 Resulting file size set to allow output as photographic quality prints (minimum A5).

♦ A minimum of 10 processed/manipulated images taken by the candidate with annotations to explain processes used and demonstrating correct saving and appropriate file format techniques.
 Resulting file size set to allow output as photographic quality prints (minimum A5).

♦ A presentation of the finished work.
 Prints will be photographic quality and minimum A5. Images saved in a digital workbook will be of a suitable resolution for output as photographic prints (minimum A5).

The National Assessment Bank (NAB) pack provided for this Unit illustrates the standard that should be applied. It contains an assessor checklist. If a centre wishes to design its own assessments for this Unit, they must be of a comparable standard.

National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Photography: Digital Imaging (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 has been designed as an optional Unit of the Photography Course at SCQF level 6 and the National Certificate in Art and Design at SCQF level 6. It may also be taken as a freestanding Unit.

The aim is for candidates to gain a basic understanding of general photographic techniques and image formation with due regard to compositional factors.

This Unit is designed to enable candidates to develop knowledge and understanding of a range of digital techniques and an understanding of the underpinning knowledge behind these techniques. Candidates will also be provided with the opportunity to develop good practice in producing their own original and well planned images.

This Unit is designed to encourage candidates in the application of digital imaging techniques. The intention is to provide an opportunity for candidates to participate in this area of study at a reasonable level for a person with a limited experience of photography. It is recommended that exercises undertaken in the study of this Unit gives adequate opportunity for candidates to explore the subject and to be creative.

The following information gives further clarification regarding the context in which Outcomes and Performance Criteria are to be achieved.

Outcome 1

PC(b)   File size will be dependant on the final image output size and quality required.
PC(d)   File type, eg RAW, TIFF, JPEG, etc will be dependant on image software being used, eg Photoshop, Lightroom, etc. The teacher/lecturer can provide images for this task.

Outcome 2

PC(d)   Original images should be retained as evidence.
Images should be saved with the layers to allow for assessment, therefore an appropriate file format must be selected.

Outcome 3

For the Evidence Requirement in this Outcome, candidates should save all their work into an appropriate storage device, eg flash drive, USB memory stick, etc.

Outcome 4

Output of candidates final images must meet the standards of a photographic quality image whether it be in print format or electronic format.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit

Teaching and Learning should be a combination of teacher/lecturer centred investigation and candidate centred learning. Candidates should be encouraged to take a positive attitude towards the quality of their own work throughout this Unit. This emphasis throughout the Unit should be on practical application, creativity and innovation.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

As this Unit reflects the identified need to develop and extend the use of technology to reflect industry expectations the candidate will have the opportunity to develop the Core Skill of *Information and Communication Technology*.

There are opportunities to develop aspects of the Core Skill of *Communication* through participation in group discussion, critiques and analysis of the candidate's own work.

Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit

Outcomes 1 and 2

Outcomes 1 and 2 will be product evidence and available for 'on-screen' assessment. Candidates will produce a computer file with all images saved into this environment. The annotated file will contain the original images before any manipulation and the same images after manipulation. The teacher/lecturer may provide images for this task.

Outcome 3

Candidates will produce a series of their own images saved into a different digital file than that used in Outcomes 1 and 2. The series will contain a minimum of 10 images annotated where appropriate.

Outcome 4

Candidates will present in an appropriate manner a set of photographic quality digital images. The final presentation can be a hard copy or an electronic presentation of the images produced in Outcome 3.

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 Communication 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)*.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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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**.