



National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Photography: Portfolio Production (SCQF level 6)

Unit code: FR2E 12

Superclass: KE

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Summary

The purpose of this Unit is to enable candidates to produce an effective competitive or personal portfolio, which demonstrates their practical and creative skills and an awareness of photographic genres in the context of different intended audiences. Candidates will produce a competitive photographic portfolio that could be used to support an application to an institute or organisation of their choice.

This is a mandatory Unit in the National Certificate in Photography at SCQF level 6 but can also be taken as a freestanding Unit. It provides suitable preparation for candidates wishing to undertake further study in photography.

Outcomes

- 1 Plan a photographic portfolio.
- 2 Produce a photographic portfolio appropriate to an intended audience.
- 3 Evaluate the effectiveness of the portfolio content and presentation.

Recommended entry

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, candidates would normally be expected to have attained one of the following, or equivalent:

Basic Camera Techniques SCQF level 6

Digital Photography: Basic File Optimisation SCQF level 6

National Unit specification: general information (cont)

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Credit points and level

2 National Unit credit(s) at SCQF level 6: (12 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.*

Core Skills

Achievement of this Course gives automatic certification of the following:

Complete Core Skill Problem Solving at SCQF level 6

Core Skill component None

There are also opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills which are highlighted in the Support Notes of the Unit Specifications for this Course.

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

Plan a photographic portfolio.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Research portfolio requirements in relation to different audiences.
- (b) Collate own existing images.
- (c) Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of own existing images in relation to an intended audience.
- (d) Produce a plan of action for the production and presentation of a suitable portfolio.

Outcome 2

Produce a photographic portfolio appropriate to an intended audience.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Produce photographic images for an intended audience.
- (b) Edit new and integrate existing images into portfolio.
- (c) Select and present the finished photographic images in a portfolio.

Outcome 3

Evaluate the effectiveness of the portfolio content and presentation.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Evaluate completed portfolio of images in relation to the intended purpose.
- (b) Justify chosen images in terms of personal photographic interest.
- (c) Evaluate presentation of completed portfolio.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Photography: Portfolio Production (SCQF level 6)

Evidence Requirements for this Unit

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

Written and/or oral recorded evidence and product evidence, produced under open-book conditions is required. Evidence will comprise of:

Outcome 1

- ◆ Research material outlining portfolio requirements of two intended audiences.
- ◆ Collated relevant existing images.
- ◆ An evaluation of existing images identifying strengths and weaknesses and suitability for inclusion in a portfolio for an intended audience selected by the candidate.
- ◆ A detailed plan of action to support the production of the portfolio for the selected intended audience.

Outcome 2

Production of a portfolio containing a minimum of 12 photographic images. Candidates must work to a clear given brief which relates to the plan produced in Outcome 1.

- ◆ Six images must be newly generated.
- ◆ Images may be produced from film or digital source.
- ◆ Images must be produced at a standard suitable for the requirements of the intended audience.
- ◆ Images will be presented as traditional prints, electronic display or digital print.

Outcome 3

A detailed evaluation, of 500–700 words, of the effectiveness of the portfolio in meeting the requirements of the brief. The evaluation should include:

- ◆ justification for the chosen images in relation to the intended audience and the candidate's personal photographic interest
- ◆ a reflective account of the candidate's creative approaches, equipment used, skills and techniques employed
- ◆ reasons for the choice of presentation format

National Unit specification: support notes

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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 80 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This Unit is a mandatory Unit of the National Certificate in Photography at SCQF level 6, but can also be taken as a freestanding Unit.

The Unit is designed to enable the candidate to produce a competitive photographic portfolio that could be used to support an application to an institute or organisation of their choice.

The Outcomes will allow the candidate to research portfolio requirements of two intended audiences, specific to their choice of progression. Their knowledge and skills will be used to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of their existing relevant images and produce an action plan to support portfolio content.

The selected images should highlight the candidate's strengths and interests, demonstrating their creative abilities.

The presentation format of the portfolio should reflect the requirements of their specific progression route.

The evaluation should encourage the candidate to reflect on their resultant images and the suitability of the portfolio for their intended audience. The candidate should evaluate their creative ideas, the use of equipment, their techniques and skills employed to produce their images.

Through successful completion of this Unit, candidates will be working towards the following National Occupational Standards for Photo Imaging (Skillset).

- ◆ PI-16 Undertake technical adjustment of images
- ◆ PI-17 Prepare image output

Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit

Outcome 1

Candidates will explore portfolio requirements of different audiences before selecting one related to their own intended progression route. They should then be presented with an integrative practical exercise to gather Images that will suit the specific portfolio requirements of their chosen intended audience and progression route.

The candidates should be encouraged to reflect on existing images and using their learned technical knowledge and skills produce a plan of action to support production of a completed portfolio for an intended audience.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Photography: Portfolio Production (SCQF level 6)

Outcome 2

In order for candidates to produce an effective and competitive portfolio, they should be encouraged to shoot original images, which also challenge their existing technical knowledge. A minimum of six images must be newly generated, however, the remainder may include previously produced works.

Opportunities for candidates to discuss their practical assignments as a group would be advantageous. Regular reviews of the candidates' work would be beneficial.

Outcome 3

Candidates should be given the opportunity to reflect on and evaluate the success of their application of skills and the techniques used to produce their final portfolio. Personal photographic areas of interest should be identified with an explanation of presentation format selected.

Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit

The Evidence Requirements provide specific requirements for this Unit assessment. They set out what is to be addressed by candidates and what evidence teachers/lecturers should look for.

Outcome 1

An appropriate instrument of assessment is a practical assignment resulting in the production of a workbook of research identifying portfolio requirements of two intended audiences, specific to the candidate's choice of progression. An evaluation of existing relevant images, incorporating a plan of action to support portfolio content is required.

Outcome 2

A suitable instrument of assessment is a structured practical assignment resulting in the production of a portfolio of competitive and effectively presented images.

Centres must ensure the portfolio is the candidate's own work. The 12 photographic images produced should show technical competence and relate to the candidate's own personal plan.

Outcome 3

An appropriate Instrument of Assessment is a written and/or oral evaluation. Candidates should be encouraged to critically analyse and reflect on the success of their images with regard to development of their creative approaches, photographic techniques and skills learned and the suitability of their portfolio for the intended audience. Personal photographic areas of interest should be identified with an explanation of presentation format selected.

A pro forma may be provided for this assessment.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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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)*.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

In this Unit candidates will develop skills in producing a competitive photographic portfolio that could be used to support an application to an institute or organisation of their choice.

Candidates will:

- ◆ research portfolio requirements of two intended audiences specific to their choice of progression
- ◆ evaluate the suitability of their existing images for demonstrating their strengths, interests and creative abilities
- ◆ produce an action plan to support portfolio content
- ◆ choose a presentation format to reflect the requirements of their specific progression route
- ◆ produce a portfolio of images
- ◆ evaluate the suitability of the portfolio for portraying their creative approaches, the use of equipment, techniques and skills employed to produce their images

This means that as candidates are doing this Unit they will be developing aspects of the Core Skills of *Communication* and *Problem Solving*.

In addition they may develop aspects of *Information and Communication Technology* if using electronic formats and *Working with Others* through group discussions and peer review of portfolios.

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
02	Core Skill Problem Solving at SCQF level 6 embedded.	30/09/2011

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