



# Higher Photography — draft Course rationale and summary

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# Course rationale

## Background

All new and revised National Courses reflect Curriculum for Excellence values, purposes and principles. They offer flexibility, provide more time for learning, more focus on skills and applying learning, and scope for personalisation and choice.

In this Course, and its component Units, there will be an emphasis on skills development and the application of those skills. Assessment approaches will be proportionate, fit for purpose and will promote best practice, enabling learners to achieve the highest standards they can.

This Course provides learners with opportunities to continue to acquire and develop the attributes and capabilities of the four capacities as well as skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work.

All Courses provide opportunities for learners to develop breadth, challenge and application, but the focus and balance of the assessment will be appropriate for the subject area.

## **Relationship between the Course and Curriculum for Excellence values, purposes and principles**

The Course is practical and experiential, with an integrated approach to learning. Learners will develop practical skills in photography, drawing on their knowledge and understanding of a range of photographic media, camera techniques and processes to develop their creative practice. Learners will produce investigative research before planning for and taking photographs. Learners will also develop their creative problem solving skills in the Course, as they develop their visual ideas and evaluate their photographic work and practice.

In the Course, learners will demonstrate technical photography skills and show imaginative and personal creative responses when photographing a variety of subjects. They will develop important skills, attitudes and aptitudes. Learning in the Course will include: active involvement in creative photographic tasks and activities; and raising learners' awareness of how contemporary culture and social factors influence photographers and their work.

Learning in the Course will also include: the exploratory and creative use of photographic media, camera techniques and processes; opportunities to explore and critically reflect on learning; and autonomous learning opportunities through involvement in personal decision making when negotiating the context and the content of their photographic work.

The Course allows learners to broaden and deepen their skills, knowledge and understanding of photographic media. This Course provides learners with opportunities to further acquire and develop the attributes and capabilities of the four capacities, including: creativity, flexibility and adaptability; perseverance, independence and resilience; responsibility and reliability; and confidence and enterprise.

This Course encourages learners to be creative, reflective practitioners, who are critically self-aware and who can express themselves and use photography in visually imaginative ways.

## **Purpose and aims of the Course**

The Course encourages learners to be inspired and challenged by exploring and resolving how they can best visually represent their personal thoughts and ideas through the medium of photography. Using an integrated approach to learning, learners will plan, develop and produce imaginative photographs. They will also develop their appreciation of photographic work and practice. The skills that learners acquire by successfully completing the Course will be valuable for learning, life and work.

The Course allows learners to broaden and deepen their skills base, and to widen their horizons regarding a range of vocations.

The aims of the Course are for learners to:

- ◆ produce imaginative photographs
- ◆ visually communicate personal ideas using photography
- ◆ develop technical and creative skills in using photographic media, techniques and processes
- ◆ demonstrate increasing knowledge, understanding and appreciation of a wide range of photography practice
- ◆ develop skills in creative problem solving, critical thinking and reflective practice
- ◆ understand and analyse the impact of social and cultural influences on photographers and their work
- ◆ develop as autonomous learners who can plan and negotiate the context and the content of their work

This Course helps learners to develop important skills, attitudes and attributes related to photography, and skills that are transferable to other contexts.

The Course provides opportunities for vertical and lateral progression to other National Courses, and to other SQA qualifications in Photography and other related subjects.

## **Information about typical learners who might do the Course**

This Course is suitable for all learners with an interest in photography. It is suitable for learners with a general interest in the subject, and for those wanting to progress onto higher levels of study. This qualification will allow learners to consolidate and further extend their creative skills developed through, for example, Art and Design (National 5).

On completing the Course, learners will be able to plan, develop, produce and present creative photographic work using a range of photographic media, techniques and processes. They will be able to communicate personal thoughts, feelings and ideas and understand the impact of social and cultural influences on photography. They will solve visual problems and critically reflect on and evaluate their own work and the work of others.

The learning experiences in the Course are flexible and adaptable, with opportunities for personalisation and choice. This makes the qualification accessible, as it can be contextualised to suit a diverse range of learners' needs and aspirations.

# Course summary

**Course title: Higher Photography**

**SCQF level 6 (24 SCQF credit points)**

## Course outline

### Mandatory Units

Camera Techniques (Higher) (9 SCQF credit points)

Applied Camera Techniques (Higher) (9 SCQF credit points)

**Course assessment** (6 SCQF credit points)

This Course includes six SCQF credit points for 40 additional programmed hours to allow preparation for Course assessment. The Course assessment covers the added value of the Course. Further information on the Course assessment is provided in the Assessment section.

## Course structure and conditions of award

The Course has an integrated approach to learning and includes a mix of practical learning and underpinning knowledge and understanding. In the Course, learners will learn to use photographic media to communicate a variety of personal ideas, feelings and thoughts to produce creative images. Learners will develop and apply practical photography skills, techniques and processes and use these in creative ways when developing their ideas for photography. Learners will develop their creative problem solving skills as they resolve visual, technical and/or functional problems.

Both Units are designed to provide opportunities for lateral and/or vertical progression to other Photography Units at Higher level and above.

Units are statements of standards for assessment and not programmes of learning and teaching. They can be delivered in a variety of ways.

### **Camera Techniques (Higher)**

In this Unit, learners will develop a broad-based knowledge and understanding of a range of photographic media and camera techniques for photography. Learners will explore elements of visual language in the context of photography. They will learn how to produce and work with their own photographic images. Learners will develop an appreciation of social, cultural and historical influences on photography. They will begin to develop their own critical opinions on photography.

### **Applied Camera Techniques (Higher)**

In this Unit, learners will refine and develop their own ideas and skills using knowledge gained in the *Camera Techniques* Unit. They will explore techniques related to the production of photographic images through a series of creative practical tasks. Learners will have the opportunity to experiment with a range of different styles and genres and will be encouraged to develop their own personal, creative approaches to photography. Learners will be encouraged to critically evaluate their own work, identifying strengths and opportunities for improvement.

In both Units, learners will continue developing their understanding and appreciation of photographers' working practices. Learners will also continue to develop their knowledge of how social and cultural influences shape photography.

To gain the award of the Course, the learner must pass all the Units as well as the Course assessment. The required Units are shown in the Course outline section. Course assessment will provide the basis for grading attainment in the Course award.

## Assessment

Information about assessment standards for the Course will be included in the *Course Assessment Specification*, which will provide full details including advice on how a learner's overall attainment for the Course will be determined.

### Unit assessment

All Units are internally assessed against the requirements shown in Unit specifications.

They will be assessed pass/fail within centres.

SQA will provide rigorous external quality assurance, including external verification, to ensure assessment judgements are consistent and meet national standards.

Exemplification of possible assessment approaches for these Units will be provided in the *National Assessment Resource*.

### Course assessment

Courses from National 4 to Advanced Higher include assessment of [added value](#)<sup>1</sup>. At National 5, Higher, and Advanced Higher the added value will be assessed in the Course assessment. The added value for the Course will address the key purposes and aims of the Course as defined in the Course Rationale. It will do this by addressing one or more of breadth, challenge or application.

In the Higher Photography Course, added value will focus on:

- ◆ challenge
- ◆ application

The learner will develop and extend the skills and knowledge developed in the Course. These will be assessed through a [project](#)<sup>2</sup>.

The project will be open and will include opportunities for learners' personalisation and choice. It will include researching, developing and producing photographs. Learners will also evaluate their photographic work.

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<sup>1</sup> Definitions can be found here: [www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45528.html](http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45528.html)

<sup>2</sup> See link above for definition.