

Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Photography: Documentary

Unit code: DW82 35

Unit purpose: The Unit is designed to enable the candidate to research, produce, present and analyse a series of documentary images. The candidate will research and evaluate different contextual and cultural issues in documentary photography.

On completion of the Unit the candidate should be able to:

- 1 Research and evaluate documentary photography.
- 2 Produce documentary images.
- 3 Present and evaluate documentary images.

Credit points and level: 2 HN Credit at SCQF level 8: (16 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 8*)

**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.*

Recommended prior knowledge and skills: Candidates should have a good knowledge of camera/lighting skills. They should also have strong visual communication skills. The candidate should have good organisational and interpersonal skills.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of Problem Solving, Information Technology and Communication at SCQF level 6 in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

Context for delivery: If this Unit is delivered as part of a Group Award, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the Group Award to which it contributes.

This Unit is designed to be delivered in the second year of the programme when the candidate has acquired sufficient photographic and interpersonal skills to undertake the Unit.

This Unit is designed to give the candidate an opportunity to research and evaluate mainstream and alternative documentary strategies and the effect of documentary material on audiences.

The candidate will examine the theoretical and practical issues related to the production of documentary material through research and classroom discussion of photographic images, films, and writings, informing the production, presentation and evaluation of their own documentary material.

General information for centres (cont)

The candidate will be expected to develop or respond to a brief to produce a coherent body of documentary photographic material.

Assessment: Outcome 1: Candidates will produce an annotated and illustrated workbook containing examples and personal analysis of contextual and cultural issues in documentary photography. (contemporary and/or historical documentary material and practitioners).

Outcome 2: In consultation with their Tutor, candidates will develop a strategy of approach including logistical, technical, aesthetic, moral and ethical considerations, with which to undertake a documentary project(s).

Outcome 3: Candidates will present and evaluate their documentary images in an appropriate manner and analyse their work.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Photography: Documentary

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The sections of the Unit stating the Outcomes, knowledge and/or skills, and Evidence Requirements are mandatory.

Where evidence for Outcomes is assessed on a sample basis, the whole of the content listed in the knowledge and/or skills section must be taught and available for assessment. Candidates should not know in advance the items on which they will be assessed and different items should be sampled on each assessment occasion.

Outcome 1

Research and evaluate documentary photography

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Styles
- ◆ Historical and contemporary
- ◆ Social issues

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ produce an annotated illustrated workbook, with at least 10 examples of images from different documentary sources
- ◆ personal comments, analysis and comparisons of examples of documentary photography are evident

Assessment guidelines

For Outcome 1 candidates should produce an annotated illustrated workbook containing examples and evaluation of contemporary and or historical documentary practice.

Data should be sourced from a diverse range of media.

Material should be referenced and attributed.

Workbook should be organised, well-developed and well-presented.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Photography: Documentary

Outcome 2

Produce documentary images

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Photographic techniques
- ◆ Photographic equipment, cameras, and lighting
- ◆ Logistical planning
- ◆ Rights and ethics
- ◆ Sequential and or narrative construction

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ produce a coherent body of documentary images in a style and format appropriate to the subject material and for their intended audience. (Minimum of 10 images)

Assessment guidelines

The assessment of this Outcome can be integrated with Outcome 3.

The assessment requires the candidate develop a strategy with which to approach their proposed documentary project. The candidate will utilise their workbook to chart the progress of their project, to show references, influences and form part of the continuous assessment process in conjunction with work-in-progress tutorials and work-in-progress group discussions. Evidence of change of brief with reasons for change should be contained in the workbook and used as part of the learning process.

Editing, cropping and final selection of images for sequencing and presentation should be facilitated by scheduled work in progress tutorials and seminar discussions. Candidates will be expected to present their project for peer group assessment.

Outcome 3

Present and evaluate documentary images

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Written and oral communication skills
- ◆ Time management
- ◆ Working with others in small groups
- ◆ Presentation skills
- ◆ Evaluative Skills
- ◆ Presentation Media

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Photography: Documentary

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need evidence to demonstrate that they can:

Analyse and evaluate documentary material in terms of the effectiveness of strategies employed, communication of intended meaning(s) and responses from intended audience(s).

The candidate should collate evidence of the progress and development of their documentary project(s) in a workbook, indicating evidence of an understanding of logistical, technical and ethical considerations affecting documentary practice.

Assessment guidelines

The assessment of this Outcome can be integrated with Outcome 2

The assessment requires the candidates to present an evaluation in support of their documentary material. Candidates should evaluate how their own project relates to their original self-initiated brief and the steps taken towards achieving their end objective. The following points can be considered for inclusion when compiling material for Outcome 3.

- ◆ Original objectives and strategy
- ◆ Intended audience
- ◆ Working with others
- ◆ Interpersonal skills
- ◆ Communication skills

Administrative Information

Unit code: DW82 35
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Version	Description of change	Date

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Photography: Documentary

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

Logistical and technical considerations in the production of documentary material.

Candidates will need evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ produce an annotated and illustrated workbook containing images, quotations, and sourced and/or original written material and any other relevant information
- ◆ develop a clear understanding of what they are attempting to achieve ie exploring a particular theme or issue

This Unit is intended for candidates who are taking a qualification in photography at Higher National level. It may also be taken by candidates in relevant employment should wishing to develop and or enhance their skills.

The focus on Outcome 1 should be on the sources of research (eg exhibitions, photographers, internet, magazines, newspapers, books etc.) The research should be collated in the form of a workbook with a minimum of 10 annotated examples together with evaluative comments.

For Outcome 2 a minimum of 10 images should be produced to match the needs of the negotiated brief.

For Outcome 3 the candidates will present their own images either in physical or electronic form,

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

Work-in-progress tutorials and seminar discussions should facilitate the editing, cropping and final selection for presentation of a completed documentary project.

Particular importance should be placed on the considerations surrounding sequencing and narrative in the presentation of candidate's documentary material. A minimum of 10 images may offer some guidance as to the quantity of material included in a final presentation. However, in keeping with the flexibility extended to the form and style of the content, no upper limit on quantity or image size should be set for the final presentation.

Evidence of research into the impact on potential audiences for the candidate's documentary image should be included in the workbook.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Photography: Documentary

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

All elements of the Core Skill of Problem Solving, namely, planning and organising, critical thinking, and reviewing and evaluating could be developed and enhanced as the practical work for the Unit is undertaken. Candidates need to develop a strategy for the production of a documentary which takes account of logistical, technical, aesthetic, moral and ethical considerations. Discussion of issues during formative work will assist in core skills development. The assignment must be produced working to a brief, within available resources and meet deadlines, which will require the application of critical thinking. Analysing contextual and cultural issues and applying conclusions to their own work will further provide opportunities to develop creative problem solving skills to an advanced level. Evaluation which examines and analyses the potential and actual impact of documentary work produced will be on-going and formally assessed in Outcome 3.

Candidates should be supported in the development of an effective search strategy for accessing and evaluating paper based and electronic sources of a range of complex mainstream and alternative documentary materials. The need to have efficient systems of recording, coding and storing outline information for ease of reference should be emphasised. Skills in computerised record and note keeping and awareness of the importance of saving materials and performing back ups could be usefully developed. The availability of suitable software to support effective presentation could further assist the development of skills in the use of technology.

Although written communication skills are not formally assessed candidates should be expected to produce and present work to a professional standard using appropriate media to communicate essential ideas and concepts effectively. Terminology and spelling used in annotation should be technically accurate.

Open learning

If this Unit is delivered by open learning methods, additional resources will be required for candidate support, assessment and quality assurance. For further information and advice please refer to the SQA guide: *Assessment and Quality Assurance for Open and Distance Learning (A1030), February 2001*)

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. For information on these, please refer to the SQA document *Guidance on Alternative Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs*, which is available on SQA's website: www.sqa.org.uk.

General information for candidates

Unit title: Photography: Documentary

This Unit is designed to enable you to research documentary photography.

In Outcome 1 you would produce an annotated illustrated workbook with at least 10 examples from different considerations and also social and cultural context of the content.

In Outcome 2 you will plan and produce a documentary with agreement with your Tutor. You will edit and produce a selection of a minimum of 10 images.

In Outcome 3 you will select a suitable medium to present the finished documentary and an oral evaluation of the work.