

Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Life Drawing Portfolio

Unit code: DX39 35

Unit purpose: On completion of the Unit the candidate should be able to represent the human form in a way that demonstrates understanding of anatomy, articulation, proportion, form and underlying structure. The candidate should be able to make directly observed and interpretative drawings from the human figure using a range of media.

On completion of the Unit candidates should be able to:

- 1 Produce drawings of the clothed and unclothed human figure from a live model.
- 2 Produce developmental drawings derived from direct observation of the human figure.

Credit points and level: 1 HN Credit at SCQF level 8: (8 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: Access to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre. Candidates should have good drawing skills and preferably have achieved HN Unit: Life Drawing DV98 34 or be able to demonstrate ability to a similar standard.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skill of Problem Solving 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.

Assessment: It is recommended that both Outcomes be assessed at one assessment event. However, each outcome may be assessed separately if this is considered to be more suitable to the candidates' learning programme.

Assessment may be linked to another unit if it is incorporated as part of an integrated project. An assessment matrix should be used to ensure that all Knowledge and Skills and all Outcomes are achieved in full.

To ensure the reliability and authenticity of evidence, candidates may be required to produce examples of assessment evidence whilst working under tutor supervision.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

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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

Produce drawings of the clothed and unclothed human figure from a live model

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Proportions of the human figure
- ◆ Articulation of human joints
- ◆ Underlying structure of the human figure
- ◆ Relative scale in relation to the model and his/her surroundings
- ◆ Use of media
- ◆ Use of substrates, grounds and supports

Evidence Requirements

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

Produce drawings observed from a live model, both clothed and unclothed, that show understanding and representation of the human body in whole and part.

Produce a minimum of 10 drawings from the live model. Drawings will be both preparatory sketches (which may be contained within a sketchbook) and finished drawings that are at least A2 in size.

The drawings submitted as evidence must clearly show:

- ◆ applied knowledge of proportions of parts of the human figure
- ◆ applied knowledge of articulation of human joints
- ◆ applied knowledge of the underlying structure of parts of the human figure
- ◆ ability to represent the model in relation to his/her surroundings
- ◆ use of at least three different drawing mediums
- ◆ use of at least three different substrates, grounds or supports

Assessment guidelines

The portfolio of drawings submitted for assessment should contain all work produced for this Outcome, including sketches/sketchbook work and preparatory drawings and should give clear evidence of each candidate's progression. At least two drawings should be A2 or larger.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Life Drawing Portfolio

Outcome 2

Produce developmental drawings derived from direct observation of the human figure

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Proportions of the human figure
- ◆ Articulation of human joints
- ◆ Underlying structure of the human figure
- ◆ Relative scale in relation to the model and his/her surroundings
- ◆ Range of media and substrates
- ◆ Range of interpretations
- ◆ Use of colour

Evidence Requirements

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

Produce drawings in colour that are observed from a live model.

Drawings must show understanding and representation of the human body, both in whole and in part.

The potential of the human form is explored through drawing.

A minimum of 5 x A2 (or larger) colour drawings is required.

A minimum use of three different media is required.

The drawings submitted as evidence must clearly show:

- ◆ interpretation of candidates' knowledge of the human form in the production of expressive drawings observed from the live model

Assessment guidelines

The portfolio of drawings submitted for assessment should contain all work produced for this Outcome, including any sketches/sketchbook work and preparatory drawings and should give clear evidence of each candidate's progression. All drawings should be A2 or larger.

Administrative Information

Unit code: DX39 35
Unit title: Life Drawing Portfolio
Superclass category: JB
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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Life Drawing Portfolio

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 extend and develop previous acquired skills in life drawing. It could be delivered as an integral part of any art or design course as it can be adapted to meet the needs of a broad spectrum of art and design disciplines. There is scope within the unit for tutors to direct learning in a way that is most appropriate to the specialist area of a particular course.

On completion of this unit is expected that all candidates will be able to demonstrate clear observation and understanding of the human form. Candidates will use this understanding to produce interpretative and expressive drawings.

In Outcome 1, candidates will continue to develop the knowledge and skills required to produce drawings of the clothed and unclothed human figure with some accuracy. The aim of this Outcome is to build on existing life drawing skills and gain increasing competence in the observation and depiction of the human form, whilst at the same time developing confidence in observational ability. Candidates will also extend their knowledge of anatomy and human structure.

In Outcome 2, candidates will develop their confidence and observational drawing skills by producing drawings of a more personal, expressive and interpretative nature. These drawings should continue to demonstrate candidates' understanding and ability to render the human form, but in a more personal way. Candidates will therefore be using life drawing as a medium for self-expression and for exploration of marks and media, but without losing sight of the skills and knowledge required to render the human form. Candidates should be encouraged to explore colour and to be innovative in their use of media and substrates, grounds or supports for their work. The term 'drawing' may be loosely interpreted here - drawings could contain an element of three-dimensionality, for example. At this stage no drawings should be less than A2 in size.

The unit could be approached as a series of individual drawing projects. Candidates should be encouraged to explore the potential of a variety of drawing and mark-making techniques and materials, supports, grounds or substrates. Experimentation in the combination of media is to be encouraged. Examples of artist's work should be shown and discussed. Knowledge and understanding of the human form should, however, continue to be evident in all of the candidates' drawings.

Tutors may support learning by giving demonstrations of techniques, stimulating discussion of artists' work, offering notes and lectures that provide appropriate course-specific information and specifying precise briefs for each particular drawing.

Poses could be chosen by candidates or tutors and should include both studio and informal poses. A variety of models, posed positions, lighting conditions, and backgrounds should be provided. Length of pose should be varied so that candidates have the opportunity to make detailed studies and also to produce quick sketches from short poses. Drawings of part of the body may be included, as well as drawings of the complete figure.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Life Drawing Portfolio

Producing experimental sketches and preparatory studies and the use of sketchbooks should be encouraged throughout the unit. Sketchbooks and drawings for Outcome 1 could be produced as part of unsupervised or home study. For Outcome 2, however, it is envisaged that longer studio poses be used as the starting point for developmental work.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

Learning and teaching materials should be accessible and inclusive and where applicable positively promote equality and cultural diversity.

Evidence should be generated by drawings produced throughout the delivery of the Unit.

Candidates should submit drawings for assessment that have been drawn from a live model in the studio and may be supported by studies and sketches gathered from live subjects elsewhere. A variety of poses of short and long duration should include seating, standing and recumbent poses.

Drawings submitted for assessment may have been created in the studio under the supervision of the tutor, or could be produced unsupervised. If produced unsupervised, tutors must satisfy themselves that the work is the candidates' own, unaided work. For the avoidance of doubt, a candidate can be asked to produce further drawings under tutor supervision.

Candidates must produce a minimum of 15 drawings. Drawings produced should demonstrate the use of a variety of drawing materials and techniques. Candidates should also demonstrate an analytical as well as a creative approach and sound observational skills to produce drawings that successfully meet all the requirements of the unit specification.

Candidates should date all drawings that they produce. This will assist the assessor in determining the development of each candidate's competence throughout the course of the unit.

It is envisaged that each candidate will produce more than the minimum amount of drawings required and that the most successful and/or appropriate pieces will be selected for final assessment. A selection of drawings that includes finished drawings, preparatory studies and sketchbook work should be presented. Artwork may be mounted if considered appropriate, but is not mandatory for the achievement of this unit.

Work produced should be assessed holistically, ensuring that the candidate has demonstrated creativity and has applied knowledge of the required skills to the work presented.

Assessment may be linked to another unit if it is incorporated as part of an integrated project. An assessment matrix should be used to ensure that all Knowledge and Skills and all Outcomes are achieved in full. An observation checklist may also be used to ensure all aspects contained within the knowledge and skills section have been addressed.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Life Drawing Portfolio

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

As the Unit Outcomes are undertaken in sequence, candidates should be given support to analyse and seek solutions to theoretical and practical problems or issues relevant to their project work. Formative work in which they identify and consider all components, including available resources, and analyse the significance of each in order to identify an appropriate strategic approach will provide opportunities to develop problem solving skills to an advanced level.

Candidates should have opportunities for formative work which develops skills in analysing and interpreting communications which have been presented in complex drawn format. Demonstration of techniques using visual exemplars will foster the ability to analyse and evaluate all aspects of drawings development and provide opportunities for discussing interpretation and communication of visual imagery. Candidates should be encouraged to experiment with drawing tools and media as they progress in the unit.

Open learning

This Unit would not be suitable for delivery by open learning. For further information and advice please refer to the SQA document *Assessment and Quality Assurance for Open and Distance Learning* which is available on SQA's website: www.sqa.org.uk.

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

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The aim of the Unit is to provide you with the skills and knowledge to successfully represent the human form in your drawings.

Drawings may be produced both under tutor supervision and during periods of unsupervised study. Some tasks/projects may be clearly defined by your tutor who may give you a specific brief. Other projects will allow you freedom to select a task most appropriate to your own learning.

Throughout this Unit you will develop and build your life drawing skills and produce a selection of drawings of the human form. You will also produce more developed drawings based on the human figure that are of a more interpretative or expressive nature.

To achieve the Unit you will:

- ◆ Produce a minimum of 10 sketches and drawings in either monochrome or colour of the human form. At least two drawings will be at A2 or larger.
- ◆ Draw from live models, not from photographs or other drawings
- ◆ Draw from the human form, both clothed and unclothed and in a variety of poses and environments.
- ◆ Draw the whole human figure and also parts of the body.
- ◆ Draw the life model from short poses.
- ◆ Produce more finished drawings of the life model from long poses.
- ◆ Explore and experiment with a range of drawing methods, mark-making techniques, mediums in both colour and monochrome.
- ◆ Explore and experiment with a range of materials and surfaces on which to draw.
- ◆ Produce at least five A2 (or larger) drawings of the human form in colour that are a result of your exploration. These will interpret in a more personal way the basic elements of the human form.

Your drawings may be from live models posed formally in the studio, from observation of people in everyday situations or of people that you ask to pose for you personally.

Assessment of your selected drawings will probably take place at the end of the Unit. Your tutor will specify the form in which the artwork is to be presented. You will be expected to have completed more than the minimum amount of drawings so that you can select the most appropriate ones for assessment.