



Higher National Unit specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Professional and Legal Issues for Interactive Media Developers

Unit code: F6BY 35

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to provide candidates with an extensive understanding of the context within which they will work as a professional in the fields of Web Development and Multimedia Computing. The Unit should provide candidates with a broad knowledge of the legal and regulatory aspects of professional practice. In addition, it should provide strategies for identifying sources of advice in relation to self employment and continuous professional development. This Unit is primarily intended for candidates who propose to follow a career, or are following a career within the field of interactive media development and who require an understanding of the professional responsibilities of such employment.

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

- 1 Explain the legal regulations (including intellectual property) that apply to web development and digital content creation.
- 2 Describe current and evolving professional practice in relation to web development and digital content creation.
- 3 Produce a resource pack for professional practice.

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 will be at the discretion of the Centre. However, it is recommended that candidates should have previous experience of studying computing at Higher National level. Although differing programmes of study will be sufficient to prepare candidates for this Unit it is recommended that they should have completed the HN Unit F1VT 34 *Interactive Media: Authoring*. Candidates should have an understanding of interactive program design gained either through prior study or through work experience. This may be evidenced by the possession of relevant National Units, HN Units or experience.

Core Skills: The achievement of this Unit gives automatic certification of Critical Thinking at SCQF level 6. There are also further opportunities to develop the Core Skill of *Communication* at SCQF level 6.

General information for centres (cont)

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: The Unit is assessed by production of a resource pack or portfolio of at least 1200 words covering the knowledge and skills for all Outcomes. It is recommended that candidates are given the opportunity to develop resources throughout the course of the Unit delivery which will form the basis for creating evidence in a structured format.

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

Explain the legal regulations (including intellectual property) that apply to web development and digital content creation

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Data Protection
- ◆ Confidentiality of information
- ◆ Copyright ownership
- ◆ Disability Discrimination Act provisions relating to accessible web content
- ◆ The concept of intellectual property and the main legislation and directives governing intellectual property

Evidence Requirements

Details of the Evidence Requirements are given under Outcome 3.

Assessment Guidelines

The assessment of this Outcome is combined with Outcomes 2 and 3. Details of the assessment guidelines are given under Outcome 3.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Professional and Legal Issues for Interactive Media Developers

Outcome 2

Describe current and evolving professional practice in relation to web development and digital content creation

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Effective project management
- ◆ Contractual obligations and development agreements
- ◆ Health and safety at work
- ◆ Continuous professional development
- ◆ Contemporary issues in web development and digital content creation

Evidence Requirements

Details of the Evidence Requirements are given under Outcome 3.

Assessment Guidelines

The assessment of this Outcome is combined with Outcomes 1 and 3. Details of the assessment guidelines are given under Outcome 3.

Outcome 3

Produce a resource pack for professional practice

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Research skills
- ◆ Plan and produce a resource pack or portfolio of evidence
- ◆ Role of a professional web developer and/or digital content creator in providing advice to clients/colleagues
- ◆ Application of relevant legislation
- ◆ Effective communication of ideas and opinions

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Professional and Legal Issues for Interactive Media Developers

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can carry out research and produce a resource pack or portfolio of at least 1,200 words in which they:

- ◆ explain current legislation affecting web development and digital content creation comprising:
 - an accurate summary of at least three pieces of legislation that apply to web development and digital content creation
 - a brief explanation of what is meant by intellectual property
 - a description of two main acts and two directives governing intellectual property
- ◆ describe current and evolving professional practice within web and multimedia development by:
 - summarising two different approaches to project management and state two advantages and two disadvantages of each
 - demonstrating an awareness of contractual obligations as a self employed developer with regard to agreeing the scope of work to be undertaken, key deliverables, project milestones and service levels
 - outlining the key provisions of health and safety at work legislation in relation to working with VDU's and ergonomics
 - describing at least one route to undertake continuous professional development
 - investigating and outlining one new development within contemporary professional practice
- ◆ include a web resource detailing personal background, qualifications, skills and experience or alternatively a curriculum vitae
- ◆ compile a directory of useful contacts and resources related to professional practice and self employment
- ◆ produce a checklist of required information to undertake a web development or multimedia development contract
- ◆ incorporate a simple contract template

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Professional and Legal Issues for Interactive Media Developers

Assessment Guidelines

It is recommended that the candidate's knowledge and skills should be demonstrated through the production of a workbook, resource pack or e-portfolio giving the opportunity to cover all of the items in the Evidence Requirements shown above. It may be appropriate to assess knowledge and skills, in part, by means of an oral presentation.

Administrative Information

Unit code:	F6BY 35
Unit title:	Professional and Legal Issues for Interactive Media Developers
Superclass category:	EC
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History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date
02	Updated Core Skills information.	08/07/09

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Professional and Legal Issues for Interactive Media

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 primarily intended to provide candidates with the knowledge they will require in order to function effectively in professional web development and digital content creation. In the modern professional environment it is necessary that professionals in this area can understand and interpret the business world in which they operate. Hence, the Unit concentrates on legal obligations, professional practice, and the production of a personal resource pack.

Although the Unit is expressed in generic terms, wherever possible it should be related to organisations, institutions, companies and situations which are familiar to candidates.

It is recommended that wherever possible centres incorporate visits/presentations from external agencies (eg Business Gateway, Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust) and practising web developers or digital content creators.

There are three main areas of study:

- ◆ The legislation that has been established to apply to the computing profession (Data Protection Act 1998, Computer Misuse Act 1990, Copyright, Design and Patents Act 1988, Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, Disability Discrimination Act 1995, (as it applies to accessible web content), Intellectual Property legislation and relevant European directives.
- ◆ Current and evolving professional practice applying to web and digital content creation. The role of a developer as a professional in negotiations with clients and colleagues. The need to plan and implement effective project management of development projects. Understanding contractual obligations and responsibilities established through development agreements. Investigating routes to Continuous Professional Development and researching contemporary issues in web and digital content creation.
- ◆ Identification of relevant business and legal sources which can be used as a basis for professional skills development and investigating the requirements for self employment. Compiling a structured resource pack or portfolio that addresses the issues involved in becoming a professional web developer or digital content creator.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Professional and Legal Issues for Interactive Media

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This Unit is likely to form part of a Group Award, which is primarily designed to provide candidates with technical or professional knowledge and skills related to the occupational area of Web Development and Digital Content Creation. However, study of this Unit is also appropriate for other candidates who have prior knowledge of developing interactive applications and who wish to develop their understanding of professional issues. For instance, someone in a professional role who wishes to gain more knowledge of usability standards that might affect their work.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

The achievement of this Unit gives automatic certification of Critical Thinking at SCQF level 6. There are also further opportunities to develop the Core Skill of *Communication* at SCQF level 6.

Open learning

If this Unit is delivered by open or distance learning methods, additional planning and resources may be required for candidate support, assessment and quality assurance.

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

General information for candidates

Unit title: Professional and Legal Issues for Interactive Media Developers

This Unit is designed to enable you to recognise the main issues affecting professionals working as an Interactive Media Developer, ie either as a Web Developers or Digital Content Creator. In order to function effectively the professional needs to be able to understand the working environment as well as having the technical knowledge to perform the tasks of their own profession.

This Unit will enable you to gain an appreciation of a number of areas of concern to organisations that will affect you in the performance of your own job as a professional Interactive Media Developer. You will be expected to apply much of the theory of professional issues to workplace or case study situations. You should be provided with the opportunity to gain knowledge of a number of different working environments.

There are three Outcomes in this Unit and upon completion you should be able to:

- 1 Explain the legal regulations (including intellectual property) that apply to web development and digital content creation.
- 2 Describe current and evolving professional practice in relation to web development and digital content creation.
- 3 Produce a resource pack for professional practice.

In Outcome 1 you will learn about the legislation appropriate to the web developer or digital content creator. The particular pieces of legislation that you will study are the Data Protection Act 1998, the Copyright, Design and Patents Act 1988, The Disability Discrimination Act (provisions relating to accessible web content), the main Acts relating to intellectual property and relevant European Directives.

In Outcome 2 you will learn about current and evolving professional practice within web development and digital content creation. This will include an appreciation of effective project management and the use of milestones for stage payments etc; contractual obligations as a self employed developer; the importance of working in a safe environment particularly in respect of VDU operation and posture; the need for continuous professional development through membership of a recognised professional institution or alternative provisions. In addition you will be expected to carry out research and report on one contemporary/evolving issue which may have an impact on your professional practice.

Research business and legal sources and create a resource pack or portfolio which can be used as a personal guide to develop professional practice.

In Outcome 3 you will learn how to develop and compile a resource pack to support your professional practice. You will need to use research skills to source business and legal information which could be used as reference materials within your workplace or to support self employment. You will also develop your communication skills as you learn how to apply your professional knowledge in providing advice to clients or colleagues.

Your work for all three Outcomes will be assessed by the completion of a resource pack or portfolio of at least 1,200 words. Depending on the choice of assessment, there may be opportunities to assess part of the Unit by means of an oral presentation.