



## Higher National Unit specification: general information

**Unit title:** Photography: Image Editing

**Unit code:** H37X 34

**Superclass:** KE

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**Version:** 01

### Unit purpose

This is a mandatory Unit in the Higher National Diploma and Higher National Certificate in Photography. It can also be taken as a freestanding Unit.

This Unit is designed to develop candidates' knowledge and skills in the specialist area of photographic image editing. Candidates will prepare, edit, store and print digital image files using a RAW workflow, and will prepare and process digital image files by applying a consistent resolution, white balance and exposure control on each image and by batch processes using RAW conversion. Candidates will apply global and local image editing techniques and, finally, store and print out their images using an appropriate colour management policy.

On completion of the Unit candidates will be able to:

- 1 Prepare image files for editing using RAW workflow software, to a given brief.
- 2 Apply image editing techniques to prepared files in line with a given brief.
- 3 Prepare image files for storage and printing to a given brief.
- 4 Produce a report on colour management.

### Recommended prior knowledge and skills

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

- ◆ *National Certificate in Photography* (SCQF level 6)
- ◆ FR2F 12 *Digital Photography: Basic File Optimisation* (SCQF level 6)
- ◆ FR2G 12 *Digital Photography: Image Manipulation and Print* (SCQF level 6)

## **General information (cont)**

### **Credit points and level**

1 Higher National Unit credit at SCQF level 7: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7\*)

*\*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**

There is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skill components in this Unit.

Opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills are highlighted in the support notes of this Unit specification.

### **Context for delivery**

If this Unit is delivered as part of the Higher National Certificate/Higher National Diploma in Photography, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the Group Award to which it contributes.

## Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

**Unit title:** Photography: Image Editing

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

### Outcome 1

Prepare image files for editing using RAW workflow software, to a given brief.

#### Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ RAW workflow.
- ◆ Resolution.
- ◆ White balancing.
- ◆ Exposure highlight and shadow detail.
- ◆ Colour tone.
- ◆ Batch processing.
- ◆ RAW file conversion.

#### Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide product evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ prepare 10 of their own image files using appropriate RAW workflow software
- ◆ apply the correct exposure values to maintain highlight and shadow detail
- ◆ apply the correct white balance suitable for each image
- ◆ set a consistent resolution as stated by the brief
- ◆ set the colour tone by appropriate adjustment of saturation or vibrancy
- ◆ batch process files by applying settings to a group of images
- ◆ convert each RAW file to a suitable photographic file type for further editing

Candidates must be given a clear brief which provides a task-based workflow covering all requirements for the Outcome. The brief will stipulate the required resolution, size, colour/space profile and file type for storage, as appropriate to the context and candidates within the centre. The images for this Outcome should be of a Higher National photographic standard. Along with the photographic files ready for further editing, evidence of batch processing could be in the form of, for example, a contact sheet showing a range of images that have been modified.

Evidence must be generated by candidates on their own at appropriate points throughout the Unit as they develop the necessary knowledge and skills. Centres must ensure that the evidence is the candidate's own work.

## Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

**Unit title:** Photography: Image Editing

### Outcome 2

Apply image editing techniques to prepared files in line with a given brief.

#### Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Specialist software skills.
- ◆ Global and local editing.
- ◆ Selections.
- ◆ Masks.
- ◆ Pen paths.
- ◆ Sharpening.

#### Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide product evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ Perform image editing techniques on 10 of their own prepared files, to a given brief which requires them to:
  - use selections, masks, pen paths and sharpening to locally edit images
  - use appropriate techniques to globally edit images. Techniques used could include, for example, conversion to black and white, toning, curve cross-processing, adjustment layers/blending, overlay textures and/or montage techniques, as appropriate to the resources available in centres.

Product evidence will be in the form of the 10 files which have been edited, and before and after images showing the changes to each original. This evidence must be produced by candidates on their own at appropriate points throughout the Unit as they develop the necessary knowledge and skills. Centres must ensure that all evidence is the candidate's own work.

## Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

**Unit title:** Photography: Image Editing

### Outcome 3

Prepare image files for storage and printing to a given brief.

#### Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Colour spaces.
- ◆ Colour calibration.
- ◆ Input profiles.
- ◆ Output profiles.
- ◆ Photographic file formats.
- ◆ File storage.
- ◆ Photographic output device.

#### Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide product evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ prepare 10 digital files using the colour space and input and output profiles stated in a given brief
- ◆ store these 10 digital images in an appropriate file format, as stated in the brief, to an appropriate digital environment or media
- ◆ present the 10 final edited images on photographic quality paper taking responsibility for colour management and output quality

Product evidence will be in the form of the 10 printed images which candidates can print themselves or choose to have printed by a professional printing service. The prints must be a minimum of A4 size to show sharpening.

Evidence will be produced at appropriate points throughout the Unit as candidates develop the necessary knowledge and skills. Centres must ensure that all evidence is the candidates own work.

## Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

**Unit title:** Photography: Image Editing

### Outcome 4

Produce a report on colour management.

#### Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Input profiling.
- ◆ Monitor calibration.
- ◆ Printer profiling.
- ◆ ICC (International Colour Consortium) profiles.

#### Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide written and/or oral recorded evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ produce a report on colour management, including input profiling, monitor calibration, printer profiling, and the use of ICC (International Colour Consortium) profiles.

Written and/or oral recorded evidence showing knowledge of colour management will be produced in open-book conditions. This could be in the form of, for example, a report of approximately 500 words or an oral presentation lasting approximately 5 minutes containing diagrams or screen grabs and information gathered through research.

## **Higher National Unit specification: support notes**

### **Unit title:** Photography: Image Editing

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 a mandatory Unit in the Higher National Certificate and Higher National Diploma in Photography but can also be taken as a freestanding Unit. It has been designed to develop candidates' knowledge and skills in the field of image editing, which includes RAW workflow, editing using global and selective techniques, selections, masks, pen paths and sharpening. Candidates will be introduced to colour management, calibration, profiles for input and output. They must present their final 10 images showing that they can manage colour balance and sharpening for printed output.

At all stages candidates should be encouraged to be technically precise in the use of image editing techniques.

All images used by the candidate to perform these tasks should be of Higher National photographic standards. The use of snapshots is not appropriate. Where candidates are undertaking the Higher National Certificate or Higher National Diploma in Photography, it will be possible to use the images produced for other Units in these qualifications. Candidates will be working to a brief, which requires the ability to edit and manipulate images in a computer design context. They should be proficient in file management and aware that considerations of security and safety are a routine aspect of good practice. The ability to select appropriate software application packages and experiment with output solutions is integral to achievement.

Candidates may benefit from formative opportunities to further develop effectiveness in the understanding and application of software packages: online support to reinforce skills may also be useful. Candidates could additionally benefit from discussions with the class group and/or tutor to encourage analytical evaluation of approaches to the use of technology.

### **Guidance on the delivery of this Unit**

In this Unit candidates should be introduced to RAW workflow software and image editing techniques. It will be up to the centre to provide RAW workflow software; this may be a standalone application or come bundled with a camera or part of an image editing package.

RAW capture and its appropriate usage in professional photography should be explained.

Candidates will be given a task-based brief set by the centre. The brief must cover all Outcomes, Knowledge and/or Skills, and Evidence Requirements. Centres can set the requirements of resolution, file size and file type as appropriate for their particular context and candidates.

## Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

### Unit title: Photography: Image Editing

If candidates are completing the Higher National Certificate or Higher National Diploma in Photography then the 10 image files used for this Unit may be generated during the study of other Units within these qualifications. Candidates should be encouraged to use image files from, eg *Photography: Portraiture*, *Photography: Still Life*, *Photography: Social Photography*, which will give them a range of files to work on. The files may arise from digital capture or may arise from scanned analogue film. Image files may also be specifically taken by candidates to suit the centre's mode of delivery.

### Guidance on the assessment of this Unit

Assessment of this Unit can be undertaken in a holistic manner if candidates are given an initial brief covering all Outcomes.

Assessment for the Unit should concentrate on the skills needed for industry. When candidates are being assessed they should be given a brief which stipulates a required resolution, size, colour space/profile and file type to be stored in. Images can be stored on a storage device or within a suitable digital environment (online, VLE, server, DVD/CD, memory stick, cloud).

Candidates will prepare for printing paying consideration to colour management policies, colour and density. Production of prints may be the act of the candidate printing directly or their appropriate choice of a printing service, laboratory or other provider.

### Assessment Guidelines

#### Outcome 1

Candidates must be assessed on their RAW processing skills using image editing software and RAW workflow. They will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and skills by applying correct exposure values for appropriate highlight and shadow detail with regards to output printing, applying white balancing, applying consistent resolution, colour balance, colour tone and saturation control.

Candidates will need to show evidence of batch processing files, which may include file renaming, white balancing or image contrast (highlight/shadow). This could be evidenced by a contact sheet showing a range of images that have been modified.

Candidates will convert their RAW files to a suitable photographic file which can be stated in the given brief and may be at the discretion of the centre, eg jpeg, Tiff, PSD.

#### Outcome 2

Candidates should be given a project brief detailing the category of editing required. These categories should develop in line with the development of image editing software and techniques. Candidates will provide evidence that they can effectively use selections, masks and pen paths to locally manipulate images. Global editing may involve conversion to black and white, toning, curve cross-processing, adjustment layers/blending, overlaying textures, etc. Candidates may also use montage techniques to blend more than one image together. Before and after images should be submitted to show changes made to the original.



## Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

**Unit title:** Photography: Image Editing

### Outcome 3

Candidates will provide evidence of colour management in practice by providing image files saved within the stipulated colour space or output profile as stated by the given brief.

Candidates will save files to a suitable storage media or digital environment. Online storage, VLE, server, cloud or hardware like hard drive, memory stick, CD/DVD may be used to save and store candidates' files for assessment.

They should then produce photographic quality prints paying consideration to colour and densities, putting into practice the entire image editing workflow from Outcomes 1 and 2. Production of prints may be the act of the candidate printing directly or their appropriate choice of a printing service, laboratory or other provider. Prints should be of a reasonable size to show sharpening (A4 min). Candidates need only print the 'after' images, ones that have the final changes for assessment.

### Outcome 4

An illustrated report will evidence the theoretical reasons and professional necessity for colour management. The report should cover input profiling, monitor calibration and printer profiling. The written/oral report will be approximately 500 words or 5 minutes in duration and may include screen grabs or diagrams, etc to illustrate the report.

## Online and Distance Learning

Parts of this Unit are ideally suited to online assessment.

In this situation you should provide encouragement and examples of ways to do this, eg:

- ◆ The evidence for Outcomes 1, 2 and 3 could be held in an e-portfolio (or portfolio) and sent to the assessor along with the photographic prints.
- ◆ The written and/or oral report on colour management required for Outcome 4 could be recorded on video and sent to the assessor, or made using video conferencing facilities and observed by the assessor.

## Opportunities for developing Core Skills

There are opportunities to develop aspects of the Core Skills, *Information and Communication Technology*, *Numeracy* and *Problem Solving* that naturally arise in learning and teaching but are not automatically certificated. The tasks involved in this Unit will involve problem solving with digital imaging files and applying image-editing techniques to them. A certain amount of numeracy will be used in the use of image editing software; the teaching and learning will involve calculation of file size, image size and resolution.

## 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](http://www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements)

## History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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Additional copies of this Unit specification can be purchased from the Scottish Qualifications Authority. Please contact the Business Development and Customer Support team, telephone 0303 333 0330.

## General information for candidates

### Unit title: Photography: Image Editing

Image editing is a necessary component in professional photographic practice. This Unit of study provides you with the opportunity to use current software for editing your photographic images.

Key aspects of image editing will be explained and demonstrated to you. You will also undertake simple editing tasks and complex selections.

This Unit has been designed to enable you to process RAW files and to integrate them into part of your photographic workflow. You will be required to provide your own files for processing which might be generated from work carried out in other Units, for example, portraiture, social, still life or maybe generated specifically for this Unit.

You will be expected to work from a brief provided to you by your tutor; this brief will provide you with specific tasks that you have to complete to pass this Unit. This will give you an opportunity to prepare RAW digital image files for further image editing, optimising them by setting the correct resolution, white balancing to remove unwanted colour casts as well as setting the correct exposure in software to produce detail in highlights and shadow areas. You will apply the appropriate colour tone, saturation and/or vibrancy to the images and gain experience of batch processing all of these edits with the use of software.

The given brief will also test your knowledge and skills in image editing by setting tasks for you to complete on your images, these tasks will involve global and local image editing, by changing all of the image or part of it. This will give you experience of using selections, masks and pen paths to select parts of an image to change. Sharpening will be the next process you will learn before storing and printing your images.

You will prepare your image files for storage and printing, putting into practice a colour management workflow. This will be a practical task enabling you to demonstrate your knowledge and skills of colour spaces, calibration, input and output profiles, photographic file formats, storage options and output printers.

You will also demonstrate your theoretical knowledge of colour management, by producing an illustrated report.

Assessment for Outcome 1 will be based on your knowledge and understanding of RAW file workflow, using software to optimise your images, set resolution for output and batch process files.

Assessment for Outcome 2 will be the demonstration of your ability to edit 10 images. You will be given task-based briefs to work from, involving global and local editing.

Assessment for Outcome 3 will demonstrate your understanding of colour management in practice, colour profiles and process. You will save and print your digital images using a proprietary image editing software package. You may choose to use a variety of photographic papers to do this, paying close attention to colour accuracy and sharpening for output.

## **General information for candidates (cont)**

**Unit title:** Photography: Image Editing

Assessment for Outcome 4 will require you to produce an illustrated/oral report on colour management which will demonstrate your theoretical knowledge of colour management, including input profiling, monitor calibration and printer profiling. The report will be approximately 500 words or 5 minutes in duration and may include screen grabs or diagrams.

To complete this Unit you will have to achieve all of the above Outcomes to a satisfactory level of performance.