



Higher  
Course  
Specification



---

# Higher Photography Course Specification (C755 76)

**Valid from August 2014**

This edition: April 2014, version 1.1

This specification may be reproduced in whole or in part for educational purposes provided that no profit is derived from reproduction and that, if reproduced in part, the source is acknowledged. Additional copies of this Course Specification can be downloaded from SQA's website: [www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk).

Please refer to the note of changes at the end of this Course Specification for details of changes from previous version (where applicable).

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2014

# Course outline

**Course title:** Higher Photography

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

**Course code:** C755 76

## Mandatory Units

**H4KT 76 Photography: Image Making (Higher) 9 SCQF credit points**

**H4KV 76 Photography: Contextual Imagery (Higher) 9 SCQF credit points**

**Course assessment 6 SCQF credit points**

This Course includes six SCQF credit points to allow additional time for 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.

## Recommended entry

Entry to this Course is at the discretion of the centre. However, learners would normally be expected to have attained the skills, knowledge and understanding required by the following or equivalent qualifications and/or experience:

- ◆ relevant Photography Units (National 5 and above)
- ◆ National 5 Art and Design Course or relevant component Units

## Progression

This Course or its Units may provide progression to:

- ◆ other qualifications in Photography, Art and Design or related areas
- ◆ further study, employment and/or training

Further details are provided in the Rationale section.

## Equality and inclusion

This Course Specification has been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of learners should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment methods or considering alternative evidence. For further information, please refer to the *Course Support Notes*.

## **Rationale**

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 photographic media, camera techniques and processes when developing their creative practice. They will produce investigative research before planning, developing and realising their ideas for photography.

In the Course, learners will demonstrate technical photography skills and show imaginative and personal creative responses when photographing a variety of subjects. They will also evaluate their photographic work and practice.

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.

Learning in the Course will include: active involvement in creative photographic tasks and activities; and understanding how contemporary culture and social factors influence photographers and their work. The Course will also provide opportunities for learners to: explore and creatively use photographic media, camera techniques and processes; critically reflect on learning; develop personal autonomy and critical thinking skills 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 and provides learners with opportunities to acquire and further develop the attributes and capabilities of the four capacities.

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

The Course encourages learners to be inspired and challenged by visually representing 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:

- ◆ communicate personal thoughts, feelings and ideas using photography
- ◆ develop technical and creative skills in using photographic media, techniques and processes
- ◆ develop knowledge and understanding of a range of photography practice
- ◆ develop skills in problem solving, critical thinking and reflective practice
- ◆ analyse the impact of social and cultural influences on photographers and their work
- ◆ become critically self-reflective autonomous learners

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 extend creative skills developed through, for example, the National 5 Art and Design Course.

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 in their photographic work and analyse the impact of outside influences on photographers and photography. They will use creative and technical problem solving skills and will be able to 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 structure and conditions of award

## Course structure

The Course has an integrated approach to learning. It includes experiential learning activities which are underpinned by knowledge and understanding of photography.

In the Course, learners will use photographic media to produce creative and technically proficient 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.

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

### **Photography: Image Making (Higher)**

In this Unit, learners will develop knowledge and understanding of camera techniques and controls. They will also investigate and analyse the factors which influence photographers and their work. They will apply their knowledge of light and image formation when creating photographic images. They will use exposure times, composition and framing in creatively for photographic effect, organise their files and output their photographic images.

### **Photography: Contextual Imagery (Higher)**

In this Unit, learners will explore and experiment with using a variety of photographic techniques, technology and processes. They will use their understanding of the social and cultural interplay between photographers and society when developing their own personal, creative approaches to photography. They will plan, produce and present photographic images in different styles and genres, before evaluating their own work and their use of imaging techniques.

## Conditions of award

To gain the award of the Course, the learner must pass all of 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.

## Skills, knowledge and understanding

Further information on the assessment of the skills, knowledge and understanding for the Course is given in the *Course Assessment Specification*. A broad overview of the mandatory subject skills, knowledge and understanding that will be assessed in the Course is given in this section.

These are:

- ◆ applied knowledge and understanding of the properties of light and image formation
- ◆ applied use of camera controls and a range of photographic techniques and processes
- ◆ investigation and analysis of the major historical, scientific, social and cultural factors influencing photographers and their work
- ◆ the ability to produce investigative research for photography and to plan, shoot, print and develop photographs
- ◆ exploration and experimentation with a range of photographic media, manipulation techniques and processes
- ◆ producing and presenting creative and technically proficient photographs
- ◆ effective management and storage of photographic images
- ◆ critically self-reflecting and evaluating their own work and practice and the photographic work of others

Skills, knowledge and understanding to be included in the Course will be appropriate to the SCQF level of the Course. The SCQF level descriptors give further information on characteristics and expected performance at each SCQF level ([www.sqa.org.uk/scqf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/scqf)).

## Assessment

Information about assessment for the Course is included in the *Course Assessment Specification*, which provides 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 the *Unit Specification*.

They can be assessed on a Unit-by-Unit basis or by using other approaches which combine the assessment for more than one Unit.

They will be assessed on a pass/fail basis within centres. SQA will provide rigorous external quality assurance, including external verification, to ensure assessment judgments are consistent and meet national standards.

The assessment of the Units in this Course will be as follows:

#### **Photography: Image Making (Higher)**

In this Unit, evidence will be required to show that the learner can analyse the factors influencing photographers and their work. Learners will also be required to evidence use of a range of camera skills and photographic processes for specific effect and their ability to produce effectively composed photographs, manage files and output images.

#### **Photography: Contextual Imagery (Higher)**

In this Unit, evidence will be required to show that the learner has knowledge and understanding of the range of social and cultural factors that have influenced photographers and their work. Learners will develop their applied use of a range of photographic processes. They will plan for and compose images before producing and presenting a range of creative photographic work for specific purposes. They will also analyse and evaluate their own photographic work and skills

### 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 must 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. They will be assessed through a [project](#)<sup>2</sup>.

---

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

<sup>2</sup> Definitions can be found here: [www.sqa.org.uk/jargonbuster](http://www.sqa.org.uk/jargonbuster)

The project will include opportunities for learners' personalisation and choice. It will include planning and carrying out a negotiated photography project. Learners will research and investigate their agreed project topic before producing and presenting their photographic images. Learners will also evaluate their photographic work and practice.



# Development of skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work

It is expected that learners will develop broad, generic skills through this Course. The skills that learners will be expected to improve on and develop through the Course are based on SQA's *Skills Framework: Skills for Learning, Skills for Life and Skills for Work* and drawn from the main skills areas listed below. These must be built into the Course where there are appropriate opportunities.

## **3 Health and wellbeing**

3.1 Personal learning

## **5 Thinking skills**

5.4 Analysing and evaluating

5.5 Creating

Amplification of these skills is given in SQA's *Skills Framework: Skills for Learning, Skills for Life and Skills for Work*. The level of these skills will be appropriate to the level of the Course. Further information on building in skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work for the Course is given in the *Course Support Notes*.

# Administrative information

---

**Published:** April 2014 (version 1.1)

---

## History of changes to National Course Specification

Course details	Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date
	1.1	<p>Page 6 — Skills, knowledge and Understanding: wording updated — bullet point six 'and presenting' added; bullet point eight 'practice and' added.</p> <p>Page 7 — Revised Unit assessment description for Photography: Contextual Imagery: additional sentence, 'They will also analyse and evaluate their own photographic work and skills.'</p> <p>Page 8 — Course assessment section updated to include an expanded description of the project.</p> <p>Page 9 — Development of skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work: 'Literacy – Listening and talking removed'.</p>	Qualifications Development Manager	April 2014

This specification may be reproduced in whole or in part for educational purposes provided that no profit is derived from reproduction and that, if it is reproduced in part, the source is acknowledged. Additional copies of this Course Specification can be downloaded from SQA's website at [www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk).

Note: You are advised to check SQA's website ([www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk)) to ensure you are using the most up-to-date version of the Course Specification.

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2014