



**Higher National Qualifications 2011  
Internal Assessment Report  
Photography**

The purpose of this report is to provide feedback to centres on verification in Higher National Qualifications in this subject.

# Higher National Units

## General comments

Centres that offer Higher National Units on a standalone basis often integrate the Units as part of a larger course; the HN Units verified this year have all been integrated into larger courses. The mode of delivery varies depending on the requirements of the course(s) on offer. As a result, centres are clear in their understanding of the national standards, and demonstrated this by selecting Units that addressed the requirements of the course(s).

There was evidence that all assessors clearly understood Unit specifications, instruments of assessments, etc.

Evidence Requirements were well met and in a range of innovative ways. For example, the use of an externally printed book format, or PowerPoint presentations supported by high quality hard copies.

As these Units are integrated over different courses within the same centre, assessment modes also vary, from peer assessment to assessor observation checklists and assessment of product evidence.

Internal verification systems are used by centres to ensure that all assessors administer assessments to the required standard.

## Areas of good practice

It was evident that candidates responded to showing and seeing the work of other candidates, which leads to debate and research. In centres this was facilitated by the use of web galleries and Flickr groups.

### Web galleries for peer review

Candidates' work is placed on open web pages which are viewed and commented on by their peers. These comments are then discussed within the group in a tutor-led discussion.

### Flickr groups for peer review

Candidates' work is available for peers to provide comment and also open to the public to potentially comment on candidate work. All comments are discussed within the group.

It is good practice to make greater use of the workbook to cover the research elements of the Units.

# Higher National Graded Units

## Titles/levels of HN Graded Units verified

DW91 34 Photography: Graded Unit 1

DX0D 35 Photography: Graded Unit 2

### General comments

Centres clearly understand the requirements of the national standards.

Within each centre verified the assessors are specialists within the field of photography and have an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the instruments of assessments used and the Unit specifications.

Evidence sampled was of a high standard and of a level beyond the Unit requirements. This is generally because the candidates realise that their future employability prospects within the photography industry is dependent upon the quality of the portfolio produced within the Units.

Assessment was detailed and thorough within all centres visited; internal verification systems were effective in all cases.

### Further general feedback

There was an excellent variety of tasks, eg macro, portrait, monochrome.

Workbooks were of a good standard giving clear evidence of research.

As industry demands change, centres may need to revise the instruments of assessment and therefore are advised to submit any revisions to SQA for prior verification.

### Areas of good practice

Presentation of final work via online print suppliers gave a professional finish to many projects.

Ongoing assessment communicated through Moodle and other visual learning environments (VLEs) enhances/assists with candidate engagement.

All centres verified this year have addressed the needs and requirements of the Units offered and no specific areas for improvement have been identified.