

Photography

Advanced

General Information

This course will introduce you to a variety of experiences exploring a range of photographic media, techniques and processes.

Photography is often seen as both an art form and a science. The main emphasis of the course will be on digital photography but students can explore an art and design based approach depending upon individual skills. The course is a practical subject and will introduce you to a variety of activities where you will be given the opportunity to demonstrate your photographic skills in expressive and imaginative ways.

Entry requirements

You should have a GCSE grade 4 in English as well as a genuine interest in photography. It is advisable to have studied Art GCSE or a relevant Technology option; Grade 4 or above is preferred.

Students wishing to study photography who do not have an art based GCSE will still be considered on submission of a small portfolio of photographs. You do not have to be able to draw or paint as part of this course, but can if you wish to.

You should also meet the general college entry requirements for advanced level study. Please refer to the current prospectus - Advanced Programmes, entry requirements. GCSE grade 5 is a minimum requirement if you want to take two art and design subjects. Anyone wishing to do this should speak to a member of the art staff.

In this subject, particular skills and aptitudes will be required, many of which will be demonstrated by students' GCSE profiles.

Entry requirements might be changed in light of curriculum reform.



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Course content

Skills workshops: Shutter speed, aperture, ISO, composition, visual analysis, Photoshop and Lightroom.

Online portfolio: Students will build an online portfolio and complete a series of tasks including; live briefs, observational challenges, unconventional photography and creative thinking activities. All are designed to inform your pathway for Component 1.

Component 1: Personal Investigation: 60% of the A Level and is a personal project based on a chosen theme of your choice which can be presented in a sketchbook or online portfolio.

Component 2: Externally set assignment: 40% of the A Level is carried out over a period of weeks and includes 15 hours of supervised time to produce a final outcome.

You are required to work in one or more of the following areas:

- Portraiture
- Landscape photography
- Still life photography
- Documentary/photojournalism
- Fashion photography
- Experimental imagery
- Photographic installation

You are encouraged to respond and develop your work which can be in response to a theme, technique or idea based on research and reference.

How it is taught

There are demonstrations and practical workshops to allow you to become familiar with camera skills and digital techniques. Practical projects are set to the group and are assessed on a continual basis so that you can develop your own personal skills and ideas.

Continual assessment notes are made on a regular basis and agreements made between staff and students to progress projects.

Formal assessments and feedback take place after each component is completed.

Useful / common subject combinations

If you wish to take two art subjects, photography is a good combination with Fine Art, Graphics or Textiles. It is often combined with Media or Film Studies.

Careers / HE information

Photography is a good basis for development of skills before progression to employment, HE or the one year full-time post A-level course - BTEC Diploma in Foundation Studies in Art & Design. Students on the A Level Photography course have progressed to many prestigious universities.

QE