

General Enquiries

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BTEC HNC Photography

Location	Stockport College
Course Type	University level
Department	Art & Design
Start Date	Monday 14th September 2026
Duration	Full-time, 1 Year
Time	-
Fee	£ 8000.00
Course Code	SFQ-HT4H-1300

Course Overview

This course is assessed at Level 4 and is a natural progression route for students that have previously studied art, design or creative media. However, you can successfully study this course without prior knowledge and mature students are encouraged to apply. An eagerness and passion to learn, examine and experiment in the world of analogue and digital photography is what we desire.

The competitive field of photography often requires multi-skilled freelance practitioners that can produce and edit content for a variety of clients. This Higher National Certificate will teach you the broad fundamentals, introducing you to both studio and on-location shooting, digital imaging, editing, lighting, composition and processing. Whether you're drawn to creative portraiture and fine art or the corporate world of events and marketing, we will guide you in creating compelling visual narratives.

Taught by practicing photographers, our experienced tutors will equip you with not just the core technical skills, but also competent business knowledge. We encourage critical reflection, your ability to self-promote and portfolio build, liaison with clients and harvest your resilience to work in this ever-changing industry.

Course Requirements

Whilst applications are considered on an individual basis, they are usually based on a requirement to have 64 UCAS points from either:

A level 3 vocational qualification, GCE A levels or an Access to Higher Education Diploma

GCSE English Language and Maths at grade C/4 or above.

Mature students with relevant experience and/or professional qualifications are welcome to apply, and may be invited to interview

What You Will Learn

You will study two components within:

Module A: Process & Practice.

The primary focus is on practical application and execution, but this will be grounded in conceptual understanding.

Assessment

Assessments can vary in method and will likely include presentations, portfolios and exhibitions.

You will be formally assessed twice a year.

You will be graded as Pass, Merit or Distinction for each component.

Progression

Progression from this pathway can be onto HND Photography at Level 5, any BA (Hons) related degree or into employment.

Career Options

Nationally, there is significant growth and development in creative and digital industries with a wealth of content made in Manchester, Salford and Stockport. The UK Market for photographers is growing steadily on average 4% per annum to £1.9 billion in 2025 (IBISWorld). This has resulted in an increase in job opportunities and employers seeking photographers, content creators, web and graphic designers either in-house, or freelance by project.

Graduates could choose to enter creative agencies or operate as freelance practitioners in their chosen fields and book an array of jobs in the corporate sector.

Mandatory Units

At level 4 you will study:

A1 Concept & Development:

- Fundamentals of shooting on Digital and film cameras.
- Large and medium format
- Darkroom techniques
- Image manipulation and Editing techniques
- Exposure and metering
- Studio lighting
- Colour and black-and-white printing
- Working with moving image
- Exhibiting
- Portfolio building
- Career guidance and business skills.

A2 Creative Project:

- Professional Project-Students will demonstrate their lens-based skills working on an industry brief or work placement.
- Employability & Project Management

Exam Validation Body

Pearson Education LTD

Hours Per Week

12 hours per week

How Long To Complete

1 year full-time.

Contact Details

For further information please email HEenquiries@tcg.ac.uk

Disclaimer

Although every care has been taken to ensure that the information contained within this document is accurate, there may be changes to this programme and provision. We will endeavour to keep prospective and current students updated where appropriate and when the information becomes available.