

Purpose Statement

NCFE Level 3 Certificate in Photography (601/0376/0)

1. Overview

What does this qualification cover?

This QCF qualification is ideal for learners who wish to further develop their skills and knowledge in photo-imaging.

This qualification aims to:

- develop advanced photography knowledge and skills
- enable learners to specialise in the areas of photography that interest them most
- allow learners to research options for employment in the industry.

The objective of this qualification is to help prepare learners for employment or further study.

Learners will explore the correct techniques to prepare a digital camera for use, explore the creative effects of using camera controls and the visual effects produced by using different lenses. They will use image-processing software and learn the basics of safe working practices. Learners will obtain the knowledge and practice necessary to produce, mount and present high quality prints from their image files.

This qualification consists of 2 mandatory units and 5 optional units.

Mandatory units:

- Use camera techniques to creatively control visual outcomes (M/505/3067)
- Print and present a portfolio of photographs (T/505/3068)

To be awarded the NCFE Level 3 Certificate in Photography learners must achieve 2 mandatory units and one optional unit.

Learners are required to successfully demonstrate their achievement of all learning outcomes and assessment criteria of the completed units.

For more information on the rule of combination for this qualification, and a full list of optional units, please see the qualification specification on our website.

Who could take this qualification or who is this qualification designed for?

This qualification is designed for learners who want to further develop their photography knowledge and skills. Learners should have already achieved a Level 2 photography qualification, or equivalent, or have significant experience/understanding of the subject area.

The qualification is suitable for learners aged 16 and above.

2. What could this qualification lead to?

Will the qualification lead to employment and, if so, in which job role at which level?

The qualification provides learners with a good insight into the skills and knowledge they require, not only for working in the photo-imaging sector, but generic, transferable skills that all employers would welcome, such as reflective practice, self assessment, target setting, receiving and giving feedback, presentation skills. The choice of units offered across level 3 gives learners the opportunity to demonstrate a variety of relevant skills that employers are seeking.

This qualification will enhance learners' job opportunities and help them to apply their skills and talents in a job role. Potential career opportunities at this level could involve employment or self-employment, including:

- freelance work
- image production (including laboratories and minilabs)
- photo retail
- picture libraries and agencies
- support services, eg equipment hire and repair.

Will the qualification support progression to further learning, if so, what to?

Learners who achieve these qualifications could progress on to further and higher education, including the following qualifications:

- NCFE Level 3 Diploma in Photography
- Foundation Degree
- BA (Hons) courses

If there are larger and/or smaller versions of this qualification at the same level, why should a learner take this particular one?

The Level 3 Certificate in Photography is also available as a Diploma at this level. The mandatory and optional units of the Certificate ensure that learners develop and apply their skills and knowledge of the photography process.

The NCFE Level 3 Certificate in Photography has been mapped against the relevant Creative Skillset's Photo Imaging National Occupational Standards (NOS). NOS are designed to raise performance in business, industry and the public sector, which means the potential progression opportunities from this NCFE qualification are occupationally relevant.

The NCFE Certificate is designed to improve the development of English, numeracy and ICT skills; the activities learners carry out whilst completing this qualification will help prepare them for Functional Skills assessments. The qualification has been mapped to the Personal, Learning and Thinking Skills (PLTS) framework. The framework describes the qualities and skills needed for success in learning and life.

3. Who supports the qualification?

The Royal Photographic Society (RPS) has endorsed this qualification. The Royal Photographic Society is an educational charity promoting both the art and science of photography. The qualification is supported by higher education institutions offering higher-level provision in the Creative Arts and Media sector. For further information please contact NCFE on 0191 239 8000.