

FAQs – Photography

Q: *Do I need to have done Photography at GCSE?*

A: No - we will cover all the technical elements in the first term and teach you anything you don't already know. What's much more important to us is that you come with an interest in the subject, an open mind and a good work ethic. If you have done an art subject previously that's helpful as you will understand the process, but again it's not essential. If you have done a Photography GCSE we will build on the skills you already have.

Q: *Do I need my own camera?*

A: No - we have classroom sets of digital and film SLRs which we will use in the lessons and you will be able to borrow overnight. Having access to a camera outside of college is helpful in terms of working when it suits you and your subject matter but that can often be done on a phone. Our students sometimes decide to get an SLR camera at some time during the first year, but again it's not essential. It's also worth noting that all the computers in the department have the full Adobe suite, including Photoshop, and that you will be able to access these in and out of lessons.

Q: *What will I do on the course?*

A: Essentially you will learn to take photos, but you will also look at and analyse the work of artists and photographers, develop your own style and direction and explore lots of ways that your photography can exist in the world, from experimental approaches to commercial applications. We will teach you all the technical skills you need for both digital and traditional film-based photography, including using a camera properly, developing film and photos in the darkroom and using Photoshop sensitively to enhance your work.

Q: *Will I have to take (insert any type of photography) photos?*

A: No - except for the first few weeks we don't tell you what type of photographs to take. We give you the structure and set projects which your work will fit into, but what you photograph is entirely down to you. This is because we want you to be excited by what you're doing as it will generate better work; if you don't like what you're doing you generally won't bother to do it well. Most of our work as teachers is one-to-one based; talking to you about your ideas, about what is successful in your work and how to develop that further.

Q: *Are there jobs in Photography?*

A: Most photographers are freelancers, so it requires a lot of drive to be a successful photographer, although it is possible and we have lots of former students who are now working in the industry. Students who have graduated from this course have gone onto successful careers as, among other things, photographers, designers, curators, illustrators, interior designers and teachers.

In the modern world, photography feeds into all industries in some form, through avenues like marketing, presentations and social media. As with all art subjects, studying photography is hugely beneficial in all lines of work to be able to think creatively, problem solve, work with others, present ideas and work to deadlines.