

Camera Specification

PHOTOGRAPHY



Information

On an Art & Design based course, students need to be well organised, highly motivated, proactive, already very interested in the medium and keen to explore further its history to date and the meaning of photography in the digital age.

What kind of camera will I need to study Photography?

Studying the subject at this level necessitates manual control of the camera and important functions such as aperture and shutter-speed. Many cameras today will do all of this and will produce sharp, focussed and well-exposed pictures. However, when, for example, the student needs to represent something like movement as photographic blur, you will need to over-ride automatic-functions in order to exercise control over manual-settings.

Clearly, the decision concerning what camera to buy is going to be determined by price. The good news is that prices come down and technology improves all the time. Like all things, we get what we pay for, but there is no point doing this subject with a fully-automated camera that does everything for the user and which limits your creative control.

Specification

A photography students' camera will require:

- Manual control of the following functions; Shutter-speed (with a recommended range of 1/1000 sec – 30 secs); Aperture; and ISO/ Sensitivity (with a recommended range of 100 ISO – 3200 ISO)
- The capacity to allow printing up to at least A3 size
- Memory card (at least 2Gb)
- Additional lenses are not necessary, but the student will need to use wide-angle and telephoto settings (4x optical zoom recommended)
- Quality between 5-9 million effective pixels

Essentially, cameras offering all of the above are likely to be a digital single-lens reflex (DSLR) camera.

The most popular and reliable brands are produced by Canon, Nikon, Sony, Fuji etc...(whatever your budget do avoid very compact or pocket sized point and shoot cameras – these will restrict the work that you can produce).

Keen photographers are updating their equipment all the time, therefore, good quality used cameras are readily available. Cameraworld, High Chelmer, Chelmsford has a wide selection or you can try Ebay.

There has never been a more interesting time in which to study the medium of photography; the digital format enables you to see results immediately after taking the photograph and will ensure that you can rectify problems straight away. Therefore, our advice is to take many pictures and study the camera-settings that facilitate them.

You will, however, still find that studying Art & Design: Photography at this level requires an investment of your own time in order to realise the full-potential of whatever camera you decide to buy.

If you would like to discuss anything further please contact Mick Gawthorp on 01268 756 111 ext 127.