



Bachelor of Applied Arts in Commercial Photography

NQF Level: 7

SAQA ID: I08985

Qualification Code: BACPHI

Location: ML Sultan Campus

Description of the Programme

The Bachelor of Applied Arts in Commercial Photography provides students with a comprehensive choice of traditional and digital photography projects, studio-based tuition as well as location photography. The Photography Programme covers diverse genres in photography: portraiture, advertising, industrial, and fashion, contemporary, street, documentary, landscape, lifestyle, architecture, social, editorial, food, and photojournalism, medical and scientific photography. Each genre of specialisation will have experienced lecturers and professionals, who introduce students to exciting ideas in contemporary image making. This programme contains modules introducing Practice Based Research Methods and applying relevant critical theory into practice. Students at all levels of study will enjoy working in well-equipped studios, with access to the University library including the Photography programmes own digital archive of resource materials.

The purpose of the programme is to provide students with an overview of photographic history and the skills necessary to analyse, critique and produce images that can be sold both locally and globally. Students learn about photographic theory, aesthetics, different genres, photographic criticism, and creative production. The photography degree develops students, through a series of lectures that cover photographic techniques, creative practices and relevant theoretical content that benefit graduates seeking self-employment and full-time employment in photography and related industries. The programme provides students with the opportunity to acquire experience in a range of contexts and identify their strengths and weaknesses. This methodology ensures that the students have an in-depth knowledge and skills to function in various genres as photographic artists. Upon successful completion of this qualification, graduates are able to; (i) investigate, critically analyse and recommend solutions to various assignments and able to reflect on their own and fellow students' work during a series of cyclical critiques, (ii) through relevant practice-based projects, students are be able to develop their ability to interrogate the role of the commercial photographer within society, (iii) carry out independent research and equip themselves for general employment or continue with postgraduate studies.

Finally, they are able to consider how they can make a positive influence in both local and global contexts with a portfolio of quality artifacts that will be exhibited through the various forms of electronic media or traditional exhibitions.

Categories of Professional Photography

Although most photographers work in several specialisations, broad categories can be described as follows:

- Commercial, industrial and architecture
- Advertising and fashion
- Press, documentary and photojournalism
- Editorial, food and lifestyle
- Portraiture and social
- Medical and scientific

Course Information

This course is offered on a full-time basis in Durban only (M.L. Sultan Campus).

Postgraduate Studies:

After the successful completion of the Bachelor of Applied Arts in Commercial Photography, students who meet the necessary criteria, may apply for the Honours Degree in Photography, followed by Master of Applied Arts in Photography and thereafter consider a Doctorate.

Explanation of Points scale:

| SENIOR CERTIFICATE (SC) | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| SYMBOL | HIGHER GRADE | STANDARD GRADE |
| A | 8 | 6 |
| B | 7 | 5 |
| C | 6 | 4 |
| D | 5 | 3 |
| E | 4 | 2 |
| F | 3 | 1 |
| NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE (NSC) | | |
| % | LEVEL | POINTS |
| 90-100 | 7 | 8 |
| 80-89% | 7 | 7 |
| 70-79% | 6 | 6 |
| 60-69% | 5 | 5 |
| 50-59% | 4 | 4 |
| 40-49% | 3 | 3 |
| 30-39% | 2 | 2 |
| 20-29% | 1 | 1 |

MINIMUM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

GENERAL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

A person will only be considered for registration for an instructional programme approved by the Institution's Senate if the person complies with:

- The minimum admission requirements stated in DUT general handbook (refer to DUT website for general handbook).
- Institutional faculty, departmental and/or instructional programme specific rules; and

MINIMUM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS IN TERMS OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION QUALIFICATIONS SUB-FRAMEWORK (HEQSF)

G7 rule: For Bachelor's Degree:

"a National Senior Certificate (NSC) as certified by the Council for General and Further Education and Training (Umalusi), with a minimum achievement rating of 3 for English and a minimum achievement rating of 4 in four NSC 20-credit subjects chosen from the NSC designated subject list"

Entry Requirements (Bachelor of Applied Arts in Commercial Photography)

| NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE (NSC) (01 January 2009) | | SENIOR CERTIFICATE (SC) (PRE 2009) |
|---|-----------------|---|
| NSC DEGREE ENTRY | | Senior Certificate (SC) or Equivalent qualification |
| Compulsory Subjects | NSC Rating Code | |
| English | 3 | |
| And FOUR recognised 20 credit subjects | 4 | |
| Additional Entry Requirements: Minimum admission requirements for admission to the Bachelor of Applied Arts in Commercial Photography correspond to those set by the DHET for Bachelor's degree admission, as per General Rule G7(2)(b)(ii). In addition, the following Departmental entrance requirements must be met: <ul style="list-style-type: none">A comprehensive test based on Photographic knowledge.A portfolio of 3 photographic images from the following categories: Landscape, Documentary, Social, Architecture, Wildlife, Advertising. | | |

OR

Admission Requirements Based Upon Work Experience, Age and Maturity

For admission to entry level DEGREE studies:

A person may, subject to such requirements as the Senate may determine, be admitted if such a person is in possession of a National Senior Certificate, Senior Certificate or an equivalent certificate, but lacks the minimum requirements for admission to the degree provided that:

- The person shall have reached the age of 23 in the first year of registration and shall have at least:

- three years' appropriate work experience; and/or
 - capacity for the proposed instructional programme, which shall be assessed by a Senate-approved admission assessment comprising of a DUT Standardised Assessment Test for Access and Placement (SATAP), Academic Literacies (AL) & English for Academic Purposes (EAP) (2,5 hours) and/or an appropriate subject or programme specific written assessment designed and marked by the relevant Department; and the person has obtained
- b) A conditional certificate of exemption from the Matriculation Board (when in possession of the Senior Certificate (SC)); OR has met
- c) The requirements for Senate discretionary admission (when in possession of the NSC or equivalent), where Senate is satisfied the applicant has shown sufficient academic ability to ensure success, and that the person's standard of communication skills, and/or work experience are such that the person, in the opinion of the Senate, should be able to complete the proposed instructional programme successfully.
- d) The person's application for admission in terms of work experience, age and maturity is approved prior to registration.

Applicants intending to gain admission through work experience, age and maturity must submit their applications at least four months before commencement of the academic year inclusive of the date of scheduling writing a requisite eligibility assessment.

Tuition Fees

To assist you with your planning, the **2025** fees have been indicated. An increase according to the inflation rate can be expected. An increase for next year to accommodate the inflation rate can be expected.

Please Note: DUT cannot be liable for the fees in this brochure, as the fees for **2026** are not yet final.

| First Year Curriculum | | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Name of the Module | Module Code | HEQSF Level | SAQA Credits | 2025 Fees |
| Semester One | | | | |
| Elective Modules - Select ONE Module Below: | | | | |
| Information & Communication Technology & Literacy Skills | ICTLI01 | | | R2430.00 |
| Interpretation Communication and Self | ICMSI01 | 5 | 8 | R2260.00 |
| Introduction to Technopreneurship | ITCHI01 | | | R2270.00 |
| Values in the Workplace | VWKPI01 | | | R2600.00 |
| English for the Arts | EGLA101 | 5 | 12 | R3610.00 |
| Applied Photographic Techniques IA | APHA101 | 5 | 16 | R6920.00 |
| History of Photography IA | HPHA101 | 5 | 16 | R6290.00 |
| Research Methods IA | RSMA101 | 5 | 16 | R6920.00 |
| Cornerstone I01 | CSTNI01 | 5 | 12 | R3910.00 |
| TOTAL | | | | R37 210.00 |
| Semester Two | | | | |
| Applied Photographic Techniques IB | APHB101 | 6 | 16 | R 6920.00 |
| Research Methods IB | RSMA102 | 5 | 16 | R 6920.00 |
| History of Photography IB | HPHB101 | 5 | 16 | R 6290.00 |
| TOTAL | | | | R20 130.00 |
| Total Credits for Semester One & Two | | | 128 | |
| Second Year Curriculum | | | | |
| Semester One | | | | |
| Select One Module (Elective) form the List Below: | | | | |
| The Entrepreneurial Edge | TENEI01 | 5 | 8 | R2600.00 |
| Global Environment | GENVI01 | | | R2450.00 |
| Media & Visual Literacy | MVSLI01 | 5 | 12 | R3440.00 |
| Applied Photographic Techniques IIA | APHA201 | 6 | 16 | R7110.00 |
| History of Photography IIA | HPHA201 | 6 | 16 | R7110.00 |
| Photographic Theory IA | PTHA101 | 6 | 16 | R7110.00 |
| TOTAL | | | | R29 820.00 |
| Semester Two | | | | |
| Applied Photographic Techniques IIB | APHB201 | 7 | 20 | R9260.00 |
| Photographic Theory IB | PTHBI01 | 6 | 16 | R7110.00 |
| History of Photography IIB | HPHA201 | 6 | 16 | R7110.00 |
| TOTAL | | | | R23 480.00 |
| Total Credits for Semester One & Two | | | 120 | |
| Third Year Curriculum | | | | |
| Semester One | | | | |
| Select One Module (Elective) from the List Below: | | | | |
| Critical Thinking | CRTHI01 | 5 | 12 | R3610.00 |
| Social Responsibility and Sustainable Community Development | SRSCI01 | | | R2150.00 |
| Community Engagement Project | CMEPI01 | | | R2840.00 |
| Equality & Diversity | EQDVI01 | 5 | 8 | R2430.00 |

| | | | | |
|--|---------|---|------------|-------------------|
| Gender Studies | GNST101 | | | R2260.00 |
| Applied Photographic Techniques IIIA | APHA301 | 7 | 20 | R9260.00 |
| Photographic Theory IIA | PTHA201 | 7 | 16 | R7110.00 |
| Visual Communication & Photographic Professional Practice IA | VCPA101 | 7 | 16 | R7110.00 |
| TOTAL | | | | R36 770.00 |
| Semester Two | | | | |
| Applied Photographic Techniques IIIB | APHB301 | 7 | 16 | R7110.00 |
| Photographic Theory IIB | PTHB201 | 7 | 16 | R7110.00 |
| Visual Communication & Photographic Professional Practice IB | VCPB101 | 7 | 16 | R7110.00 |
| TOTAL | | | | R21 330.00 |
| Total Credits for Semester One & Two | | | 120 | |

Application

Applicants who wish to enrol for the programme must apply through the CAO system by no later than 30 September of the previous year.

CAO Online Application visit: <http://www.cao.ac.za>

CAO Contact Details

Private Bag X06
Dalbridge
4014

Tel: (031) 268 4444

Fax: (031) 268 4422

CAO code: DU-D-COP

Closing Date for Applications: 30 September 2025

For Further Information

Contact the Department of Visual Communication Design (Photography) Durban University of Technology

P O Box 1334

Durban 4000

Telephone: (031) 373 5405

Fax: (031) 373 5430

Financial Aid:

For Financial Aid application for a DUT programme please apply online at www.nsfas.org.za or call the NSFAS call centre on 0860 067 327.

For an explanation on how to fill out the application form, please go to www.nsfas.org.za or contact the call centre on the number above.

Please note that completing a form does not guarantee Financial Aid. For further assistance, please consult the Department of Financial Aid and Scholarships on (031)3732931/2557/2054.

This leaflet is for information purposes only and is not binding on the Durban University of Technology