

Programme specification

*(Notes on how to complete this template are provide in Annexe 3)*

1. Overview/ factual information

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| **Programme/award title(s)** | Foundation Degree in Commercial Photography and Cinematography |
| **Teaching Institution** | Belfast Metropolitan College  |
| **Awarding Institution** | The Open University (OU) |
| **Date of first OU validation** | 25.01.2024 |
| **Date of latest OU (re)validation** | N/A |
| **Next revalidation** | 01.09.2029 |
| **Credit points for the award** | 240 points |
| **UCAS Code** |  |
| **HECoS Code** |  |
| **LDCS Code (FE Colleges)** |  |
| **Programme start date and cycle of starts if appropriate.** | September 2024 |
| **Underpinning QAA subject benchmark(s)** | QAA Undergraduate Subject Benchmark Statements for Communication, Media, Film & Cultural Studies (2019) |
| **Other external and internal reference points used to inform programme outcomes.****For apprenticeships, the standard or framework against which it will be delivered.**  |  |
| **Professional/statutory recognition** | Northern Ireland Screen, Royal Television Society |
| **For apprenticeships fully or partially integrated Assessment.**  |  |
| **Mode(s) of Study (PT, FT, DL,****Mix of DL & Face-to-Face)****Apprenticeship** | Full time - Face to Face |
| **Duration of the programme for each mode of study** | Full-time - 2 years |
| **Dual accreditation (if applicable)** |  |
| **Date of production/revision of this specification** | December 2023 |

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| **Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the** **main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.** **More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content, and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in student module guide(s) and the students handbook.** **The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University and may be verified by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.** |
| 2.1 Educational aims and objectives |
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| *The proposed rationale of the programme is to:*1. Equip learners with the skills and knowledge relevant to employment in the commercial photography and cinematography industries, in the key creative and technical areas.
2. To support the participation of learners from a range of disciplines to equip them with the knowledge and skills to enter employment where data is used to shape organisational growth and sustainability.
3. To provide a solution to meet the needs of employers in media sectors where the application of IT skills, teamworking, project managing, directing, camera skills, lighting skills, sound skills and post-production skills.
4. To provide a sustainable pipeline of new talent for employers currently experiencing skills deficit in the ever-growing area of media production.
5. To provide an opportunity for learners to progress to a range of bachelor’s degree (Hons) programmes.
6. To provide an opportunity for learners to experience and apply the knowledge and transferable skills in the workplace.
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*Target Audience:*The target audience is learners who have recently completed A-Level’s or equivalent in relevant subjects e.g., Creative Media Production, Moving Image Arts, Photography, Art. The learners should have a specific interest in developing a career in the commercial photography or cinematography industries however the skills would be transferrable to other areas of the media industry e.g., Narrative Filmmaking, documentary and Television Production.

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| Structure:* The FD in Commercial Photography and Cinematography will be structured in a way that supports the transfer of academic knowledge and understanding and that this integrates with and supports the development of vocational skills and competencies, whilst ensuring academic rigour.
* The structure of the Programme will take account of external reference points such as Frameworks for Higher Educational Qualifications, Professional Body accreditation schemes.

 * The programme will ensure that the Work Based Learning module (WBL) is relevant and contextualised within the scope of the industries needed to promote and ensure the availability of a pipeline of talent. WBL will also be structured to support the enhancement of relevant transferable skills needed for employment in this sector. Cognisance will also be given to ensuring the programme is representing opportunities for employment across small and medium-sized enterprises and self-employment.

 * WBL will be supported to enable learners to take on appropriate role(s) within the workplace, giving them the opportunity to learn and apply the skills and knowledge they have acquired as an integrated element of the course. WBL will be supported and encouraged throughout the course, with a core focus on both small crew / solo operating work and larger commercial productions. The WBL activities should lead to the identification and achievement of defined and related learning outcomes for the learner.

 * The structure of the FD in Commercial Photography and Cinematography will have at its core, an integrated approach to demonstration of characteristics that include employer involvement; accessibility; articulation and progression, flexibility and partnerships with industry.
* The learners will take part in extracurricular production opportunities, giving them real work experience of the industry. Students will be encouraged to submit their final productions to both student and professional film festivals and photography competitions, including but not limited to; RTS Awards, Belfast Film Festival, Cinemagic Film Festival, The Rode Reel competition, The British Photography Awards and CEWE. This will develop the learner's communication and teamworking skills as well as giving them a feel for the competitive nature of the Photography and Cinematography industries.
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| ContextCommercial Photography and Cinematography sits within a market that is very much growing at a significant rate in Northern Ireland and indeed globally. For this reason, getting learners trained in this area is important. As seen below from the chart. The Foundation Degree in Commerical Photography and Cinematography seeks to address the skills gap and leave learners with work ready skills that address the extent and future needs of employers.  |

New statistics reveal the Creative Industries sector is growing more than five times faster than the national economy. Creative industries contributed more than £111 billion to the UK economy in 2018. Advertising and marketing were two of the key drivers of growth in the Creative Industries which feeds directly into the skillset developed in the proposed foundation degree.New government figures show the country’s successful creative industries contributed £111.7 billion to the UK in 2018, equivalent to £306 million every day. This is up 7.4 per cent on the previous year, meaning growth in the sector is more than five times larger than growth across the UK economy, which increased by 1.4 per cent. (Adams, 2020) - UK’s Creative Industries contributes almost £13 million to the UK economy every hour - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) Researchers from the Science Policy and Research Unit at the University of Sussex have used survey data and website scraping techniques to identify where the UK’s creative businesses are located. These Micro-Clusters of creative firms and industries rely on ‘their proximity to other firms, sharing knowledge and resources, and having access to a concentration of customers.’ As can be seen by the map linked below, Belfast is one of the larger micro-clusters of creative industries.[Mapping the UK's creative industries (arcgis.com)](https://www.arcgis.com/apps/View/index.html?appid=007e1de4a01a46b196ad2ccaed20eb3b&extent=-20.3307,49.5899,17.1766,59.5069) The total number of film and HETV productions for 2021 was 420, 19 per cent higher than the 353 productions which started principal photography during 2020. The total revenue from ‘photographic activities’ has been increasing consistently over the last three years and are projected to continue increasing at least over the next three years. In 2020 photographic activities had a revenue of 1.49 billion and in 2022 that had increased to 1.7 billion. ([www.statistica.com)](http://www.statistic/) In 2021, 209 films began principal photography, with a total UK production spend of £1.55 billion. This is 3 per cent higher than the £1.5 billion spent across 350 films in 2020. Inward investment productions accounted for 82 per cent of the total UK spend (£1.28bn). (CIC, 2022) Film and TV production in UK at record levels - The Creative Industries. “We looked at shooting in New Zealand, Morocco, and South Africa but when it came down to it, the best value for money is in Northern Ireland, where you can get the tax credit and funding from regional agency Northern Ireland Screen. I do not think you can beat that anywhere else in the world for production value and making money stretch” (Elliott in Screen Daily 2014).  The tax breaks for both films and television of the UK are lower than in the Republic of Ireland (which gives up to 32% relief compared to the British 25%), but the surge of productions in Northern Ireland seems to correlate with the 15 year high of the dollar against the pound in autumn 2007 (Ramsey et al. 2019: 9).  The UK screen industries are growing rapidly, with Northern Ireland seeing the largest increase in production both in quantity and size of productions. The country has managed to secure £100m worth of films and was the backdrop for one of the biggest television shows in History, Game of Thrones. Belfast is considered “best in class” regarding its locations and facilities with the development of small and large-scale studios such as the Belfast Harbour Studio (120000 sq ft studio - Belfast Harbour | Belfast Harbour Studios ([Belfast Harbour | Belfast Harbour Studios (belfast-harbour.co.uk)](https://www.belfast-harbour.co.uk/real-estate/belfast-harbour-studios/), The Paint Hall Studios and Loop Studios ([Film & Television Studios - Northern Ireland Screen](https://northernirelandscreen.co.uk/filming/studios/)).  Northern Ireland Screen (NIS) are a government funded organisation that deal with brokering deals with international film and television production companies and develop local talent that can help facilitate these productions. NI Screen offer a variety of training programmes for emerging talent ([Skills & Training - Northern Ireland Screen](https://northernirelandscreen.co.uk/skills/)). The Belfast Met Film and Television school has developed a positive and growing relationship with NIS to understanding what the industry needs and to give our students the best opportunity at gaining employment after graduation. Some notable graduates of our current programme include Michael Lennox who won a BAFTA and was Oscar nominated for the Belfast based short film Boogaloo and Graham. Michael also directed the feature film “A Patch of Fog” and both seasons of the critically acclaimed TV show, “Derry Girls” ([Michael Lennox - IMDb](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm3156269/). Another notable graduate is Kieran Doherty who is CEO and co-founder of Stellify Media who are currently producing Television shows such as Who Wants to be a Millionaire and Blind Date ([Kieran Doherty - Northern Irish Writer](https://www.kierandoherty.co.uk/)). Our past graduates are not limited to these two successes, many of them currently working freelance in the Film and Television industry in various pre-production, production and post-production roles. |

 The predominant aim of the Foundation Degree in Commerical Photography and Cinematography is to furnish a coherent yet flexible undergraduate programme of study which will immerse and engage learners in an academically challenging and stimulating educational experience and produce dynamic graduates who are intellectually competent and vocationally prepared to build and develop professional careers in the Photography, Commerical and/or Film industries.The emphasis is on equipping learners with the ability, skills and knowledge to successfully expand their creativity and develop careers in these industries.The Foundation Degree course will focus on developing knowledge of the field (content) while giving the learners the opportunities to apply their learning in practical contexts (experience) while enhancing their learning through problem solving approaches (challenging and authentic tasks). The learning approaches will consider the diverse backgrounds of learners, nurturing them through Level 4 and 5 while developing them into independent learners and critical divergent thinkers ready for employment or post graduate study (through an inclusive learning environment and activities linked to the overall student experience). The Foundation Degree programme looks to support the vision of Belfast Met learners by challenging current processes and practices and exploring new concepts. Our learners must be encouraged to adopt a critical approach and challenge conventional thinking about the commercial photography and cinematography industries. One such evolving and expanding concept is emerging technology, in particular “Virtual Productions.” The college has developed strong links with a company in Burbank, California called Halon (Halon - Halon Entertainment | The Visualization Company) who have worked on productions such as the Mandalorian, Transformers and Mission Impossible. The college has invested heavily in a virtual production suite with Halon and offer support and guidance on how to set up and use the technology, while also identifying industry needs in this sector. This is embedded within the overall context of the programme to reflect the ongoing developments. Learners will be encouraged to apply creative thinking, solve problems, address solutions and apply strategies to identify issues. The awareness and focus of emerging technology issues have increased in the commercial sphere as well as in narrative filmmaking.The teaching and learning strategies have been formulated based on research and professional experience and practice. Teaching and learning are conducted through tutor led lectures and workshops, learner led workshops, seminars, practical sessions (Photography Studios, Film studios, post-production rooms, podcast suites, Virtual Production Suite and Dark Room), independent research and study, set individual and teamwork tasks, discussions and debates, individual and team presentations and showcases, invited industry and external speakers/stakeholders. Assessment is through a variety of assignment strategies (in various forms such as written, oral, video, observation and exhibitions) and research projects with end products and results. Transferable skills gained include presentation, research and communication and a deeper academic understanding of the requirements of the photography and cinematography industries. Learning will be facilitated in a range of ways such as:* Interaction with experienced and accomplished lecturers who will contextualise learning relevant to the photography and cinematography industries.
* Experiential industry visits.
* Interaction with a range of external speakers.
* Working alone as a self-motivated and independent learner to accomplish learning tasks and assignments.
* Working as a team member to achieve a range of learning tasks and assignments.
* Taking part in local and National competitions.

Learners will have to demonstrate and apply their knowledge and understanding to a range of learning outcomes specific to each learning module providing transferable skills needed for lifelong learning. The learning modules aggregate to fulfil the programme learning outcomes. Learners will be able to graduate from the programme upon the achievement of these outcomes.**Aims**The programme aims have been developed with the learner in mind and that upon completion of the Foundation Degree in Commercial Photography and Cinematography the learner will be able to: * Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of a range of topics in practice and management related to the commercial Photography and Cinematography industries specialising in content and production.
* Develop critical thinking in practical and technical skills to encourage creativity and innovation.
* Develop academic writing and thinking skills.
* Develop research skills.
* Evidence the development of practical and professional work-related leadership skills, including the need to meet ethical issues, health and safety requirements, relevant legislation and professional codes of conduct.
* Develop management and business skills relevant to the industry.
* Effectively use a range of communication skills for different purposes, including the effective use of ICT.
* Utilise enhanced employability skills in developing a career in photography and cinematography and other related skill areas.

**Governmental call for digital skills to be embedded in education.**The Government released a Policy Paper (01.03.21) ‘Digital skills and inclusion – giving everyone access to the digital skills they need.’ The paper stated that Individuals, businesses, government and other organisations must take steps now to ensure that we have the skilled and capable workforce needed in an increasingly digital world. As our modern industrial strategy sets out, a lack of digital skills is not only a barrier to people fulfilling their potential, but also a barrier to a more productive economy.There has been increasing traction on asking educators to purposefully embed digital skills in education as although young people are often thought of as ‘digital natives,’ according to a recent Capgemini study, almost half of senior decision makers do not believe young people know how to use digital skills for work.**The Work Based Learning element.**The programme will ensure that the Work Based Learning module is relevant and contextualised within the scope of the employer need in this area to promote and ensure the availability of a pipeline of talent. WBL will also be structured to support the enhancement of relevant transferable skills needed for employment in this sector. Cognisance will also be given to ensuring the Programme is representing opportunities for employment across small and medium sized enterprises and self-employment. WBL will be supported to enable learners to take on appropriate role(s) within the workplace, giving them the opportunity to learn and apply the skills and knowledge they have acquired as an integrated element of the course. Whilst WBL will be supported and encouraged through a range of media including part-time work, integrated work placements and real work environments, it will be defined clearly within the context where the WBL should lead to the identification and achievement of defined and related learning outcomes for the learner.The structure of the FD in Commercial Photography and Cinematography will have at its core, an integrated approach to demonstration of characteristics that include employer involvement; accessibility; articulation and progression; flexibility and partnerships with industry.   |

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| 2.2 Relationship to other programmes and awards(Where the award is part of a hierarchy of awards/programmes, this section describes the articulation between them, opportunities for progression upon completion of the programme, and arrangements for bridging modules or induction) |
| Belfast Met is the largest and longest established further and higher education college in Northern Ireland. We offer a broad range of innovative high quality, economically relevant provision. Our modern, award winning estate spans the length and breadth of the city of Belfast. Our Vision is to be a world class college that nurtures the talent and ambition of the City of Belfast and beyond.Our mission is to make a fundamental impact on the economic and social success of the City of Belfast and beyond by equipping it people, employers and communities with the education and skills for work. Belfast Met has a diverse range of Higher Education (HE) programmes and is committed to excellence in this area in its curriculum strategy. The HE provisions at the Belfast Met is at credit Level 4 i.e., Higher National Certificate (HNC), Level 5 Higher National Diploma (HND) and Foundation Degree level. Belfast Met also offers BSc (Hons) and full Honours Degree programmes. These partner programmes are with our prestigious partner Universities like the Open University. Higher Education at Belfast Met is aligned to the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) of the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA). This Framework is an integral part of quality assurance in HE. Belfast Met uses this framework in its planning, delivery and monitoring of all its HE programmes.The Foundation Degree seeks to develop a range of intellectual, cognitive, practical and transferable skills. These are introduced across the programme and are developed both between and across each level. The programme has been designed in a way to provide learners with the opportunity to enhance their knowledge and skills at each level and within modules taught at each level. The programme and module design are based on research against similar programmes, benchmarking, the input of industry representatives and the views of students and alumni.**At Level 4 learners will undertake four compulsory 30 credit modules:*** Image: Exposure, Lighting and Contrast
* Capture: Composition, Depth and Focus
* Production: Elements of Video Production
* Delivery: Editing for Photo and Video

**At level 5 learners will undertake four compulsory units. One at 15 credits, two 30 credits and one 45 credit module:*** Analogue Photographic Practice and Processes
* Advanced Lighting and Camera Techniques for Photography and Cinematography
* Advanced Post-Production for Photography and Cinematography
* Work Based Learning

Upon successful completion of Level 4 and Level 5 modules, students will have attained the award of Foundation Degree (FD). The programme will prepare learners to work in many creative industries covering a wide range of jobs. They also can progress on to BSc Hons related programmes specifically the likes of: BA (Hons) Digital Photography Ravensbourne University London. |

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| 2.3 For Foundation Degrees, please list where the 60-credit work-related learning takes place. For apprenticeships an articulation of how the work based learning and academic content are organised with the award.  |
| **The work-based learning element.**The programme will ensure that the Work based learning module (WBL) is relevant and contextualised within the scope of the employer need in this area to promote and ensure the availability of a pipeline of talent. WBL will also be structured to support the enhancement of relevant transferable skills needed for employment in this sector. Cognisance will also be given to ensuring the Programme is representing opportunities for employment across small and medium sized enterprises and self-employment. WBL will be supported to enable learners to take on appropriate role(s) within the workplace, giving them the opportunity to learn and apply the skills and knowledge they have acquired as an integrated element of the course. Whilst WBL will be supported and encouraged through a range of media including part-time work, integrated work placements and real work environments, it will be defined clearly within the context where the WBL should lead to the identification and achievement of defined and related learning outcomes for the learner.The structure of the FD in Commercial Photography and Cinematography will have at its core, an integrated approach to demonstration of characteristics that include employer involvement; accessibility; articulation and progression, flexibility and partnerships with industry. WBL learning is incorporated into each unit on the course as the students will be learning the creative and technical skills required to make content by directly making unique productions and images. The College has a Work Based Learning pack to support students on placements (where applicable). The Work-based Project will be college and employer driven and provide the student with the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills acquired during year one of the programme to undertake a project. Guidance to employers, students and assessors regarding appropriate roles and responsibilities is provided along with documentation templates for the monitoring/assessment process. In cases where a student is an employee of the company, the module may be completed in the student’s workplace or part of it may be designed to include components of their current working activities. The College will follow the Quality Code guidance:<https://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/quality-code/advice-and-guidance/work-based-learning>This is course/module specific.The College will ensure employer involvement in the monitoring of progress by following the Quality Code, Advice and Guidance Theme ‘Monitoring and Evaluation’<https://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/quality-code/advice-and-guidance/monitoring-and-evaluation>   |
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| 2.4 List of all exit awards |
| Certificate of Higher Education (Cert HE) upon successful completion of 120 credits at Level 4.Foundation Degree (FD) upon successful completion of 240 credits at Level 5. |

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| **3. Programme structure and learning outcomes*****(The structure for any part-time delivery should be presented separately in this section.)***  |
| **Programme Structure - LEVEL 4** |
| **Compulsory modules** | **Credit points** | **Optional modules** | **Credit points** | **Is module** **compensatable?** | **Year/Semester runs in** |
| Image: Exposure, Lighting and Contrast | 30 |  |  | No | 1/2 |
| Capture: Composition, Depth and Focus  | 30 |  |  | No | 1/2 |
| Production: Elements of Video Production  | 30 |  |  | No | 1/2 |
| Delivery: Editing for Photo and Video  | 30 |  |  | No | 1/2 |

**Intended learning outcomes at Level 4 are listed below:**

| Learning Outcomes – LEVEL 4 |
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| 3A. Knowledge and understanding |
| 1. Learning outcomes:
 | Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods |
| **A1:** Identify and demonstrate knowledge of some of the theories, concepts and principles underpinning the commercial photography and cinematography industries.**A2:** Understand and explain the impact of new developments on the commercial photography and cinematography industries. | **Teaching and Learning Methods:** * Lectures, tutor directed tutorials, supervised practical sessions, learner led seminars and use of the College’s Virtual Learning Environment.

**Assessment Methods:** * Coursework related to assignments, case studies and projects, presentations, practical observation, and project reports.
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| 3B. Cognitive skills |
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| Learning outcomes: | Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods |
| **B1:** Apply some theories, principles and concepts to situations within the commercial photography and cinematography industries.**B2:** Apply a range of study skills and research techniques demonstrating the ability to interpret data and undertake independent research. | **Learning and Teaching Methods**: * Learners are challenged to develop their cognitive skills by developing arguments, strategies and hypotheses based upon their research. They will explore diverse topics and develop a critical analysis of their findings.

 * Intellectual qualities are developed mainly through lectures, seminars, tutorials, coursework, assignments, experimental work and projects.

 * Learners will be presented with briefs (both live and simulated) that utilises Project Based Learning, a learner centred pedagogy.

 * At Level 4, Learners will be introduced to fundamental practices across the industry that they will further build on and analyse at Level 5.

 **Assessment Methods:** * Learners will be assessed on their ability to critique and evaluate research. They will develop their knowledge using independent thinking skills and produce recommendations based upon and justified through supporting literature.

 * The assessment focuses on the coursework submissions, end of semester presentations, essays and project reports. Some of these skills are assessed in formal presentations.

 * Assessment strategies offer learners clear guidance concerning future development. Self-reflection and peer evaluation constitute an important part of formative assessment.
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| 3C. Practical and professional skills |
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| 1. Learning outcomes:
 | Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods |
| C1: Undertake practical activities using technical skills and procedures whilst working as a manager/team member.**C2:** Demonstrate practical/professional skills with due regard for procedures, concepts and safe working practices.**C3:** Design, plan and produce content in a variety of industry contexts. | **Teaching and Learning Methods:** * Lectures, tutor directed tutorials, student led seminars, supervised practical sessions and self-directed learning, and using the College’s Virtual Learning Environment.

**Assessment Methods:** * Coursework related to assignments, case studies and projects, written unseen examinations, presentations, practical examination/observation and project reports.
* Application of hardware and software in an industry context.
* Guest speakers/workshops to reflect on industry standards, procedures, best practice and current trends.
* Use of project-based activities and case studies to build on knowledge and apply theoretical concepts and practical skills to real life situations.
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| 3D. Key/transferable skills |
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| Learning outcomes: | Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods |
| **D1:** Illustrate effective written and oral communication and numerical skills including the application of IT.**D2:** Illustrate the ability to self-appraise and reflect on practice to improve future performance.**D3:** Demonstrate personal and interpersonal skills such as effective planning, organising, time management and teamwork. | **Learning and Teaching Methods**: * Transferable and fundamental skills are delivered throughout the course, i.e., lectures, coursework assignments. The teaching and learning of ICT skills will be within the course structure. Workshops include demonstrations such as ICT skills, PowerPoint and other I.T. applications, presentations and library research skills. Other learning and teaching methodologies include team teaching, demonstration and peer learning.

 * Workshops with lecturing staff and visiting professionals will support learners with research, academic writing and referencing throughout the year. Teaching and learning will be contextualised with social, ethical and legal relevance to the industry. Collaboration and communication techniques will be utilised through all learning and teaching activities, group discussions and simulations, project-based learning activities, report writing and blended and virtual learning platforms.

 * Over the course of the programme, learners are provided with essential information which they must then research, analyse and interpret. Learners will undertake further independent reading to broaden the understanding of specific problems and design principles. This is designed to stretch and challenge learners and develop their ability at Level 4 as preparation for Level 5. Creative thinking and critical analysis are engendered in every aspect of the programme and will be further fostered and encouraged through regular mentoring sessions with the unit lecturer. Discussion and critiques will support the development of problem resolution at a higher intellectual level.

 **Assessment Methods:** * Learners will develop subject knowledge from data examination and enhance their understanding of assessments. Throughout the programme, learners will develop digital literacy by completing assessments and presentations using suitable methods.

 * The testing of learner knowledge is principally through coursework assignments, reports, practical tasks and class tests. Assessment of teamwork is through submission of teamwork tasks, learner/peer and self-assessment and oral presentations.

 * Assessment strategies offer learners clear guidance regarding future development. Self reflection and peer evaluation constitute an essential part of formative assessment.
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**Exit Award: Certificate in Higher Education in Commercial Photography and Cinematography. (Cert HE)**

| **Programme Structure - LEVEL 5** |
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| **Compulsory modules** | **Credit points** | **Optional modules** | **Credit points** | **Is module compensatable?** | **Semester runs in** |
| Analogue Photographic Practice and Processes | 15 |  |  | Yes | 1 |
| Advanced Lighting and Camera Techniques for Photography and Cinematography | 30 |  |  | No | 1/2 |
| Advanced Postproduction for Photography and Cinematography | 30 |  |  | No | 1/2 |
| Work Based Learning  | 45 |  |  | No | 1/2 |

**Intended learning outcomes at Level 5 are listed below:**

| Learning Outcomes – LEVEL 5 |
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| 3A. Knowledge and understanding |
| Learning outcomes: | Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods |
| **A1:** Evaluate theories, concepts and principles within commercial photography and cinematography.**A2:** Demonstrate detailed knowledge of photography and cinematography.**A3:** Develop personal performance in a range of technical and managerial skills and integrate knowledge, skills and practices required for careers in the industry. | **Learning and Teaching Methods**:* Lectures, tutor directed tutorials, supervised practical sessions, learner led seminars and use of the College’s Virtual Learning Environment.

**Assessment Methods:** * Coursework related to assignments, case studies and projects, presentations, practical examination/observation and project reports.
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| 3B. Cognitive skills |
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| Learning outcomes: | Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods |
| **B1:** Analyse current practices in the photography and cinematography industries to initiate improvement.**B2:** Locate, extract and analyse data from multiple sources, including the appropriate acknowledgement and referencing of sources. | **Learning and Teaching Methods**:* These intellectual cognitive skills are developed through lectures, seminars, tutorials or practical based activities, independent project work and work based learning activities.
* As with Level 4, learners will be presented with briefs however, at Level 5, project based learning will move to more complex industry defined problems, forcing the learners to develop their critical thinking, creativity and communication skills.
* At Level 5, WBL will guide the learners to develop more critical awareness, enabling learners to formulate ideas and confidently research and experiment to strengthen their outcomes.

**Assessment Methods:** * The formative and summative assessment focuses on coursework submissions, essays and project reports. Other assessment evidence may be generated using Log Books / Diary / Digital Diary, Reflective Journals, A/V evidence and completed products.
* Assessment strategies offer learners clear guidance regarding future development. Self reflection and peer evaluation constitute an important part of formative assessment.
* Where learners solve real life problems, cognitive skills are assessed via pitching and presenting ideas and peer feedback.
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| 3C. Practical and professional skills |
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| Learning outcomes: | Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods |
| **C1:** Plan, design and execute practical activities using techniques and procedures appropriate to the commercial photography and cinematography industries.**C2:** Demonstrate practical/professional skills within a team setting - adapting and developing new skills and procedures for new situations whilst developing the product.**C3:**  Plan, design and create products using appropriate equipment/technology. **C4:** Employ creative techniques to business related problems. | **Teaching and Learning Methods:** * Lectures, tutor directed tutorials, learner led seminars, supervised practical sessions and self-directed learning and use of the College’s Virtual Learning Environment.

**Assessment Methods:** * Coursework related to assignments, case studies and projects, presentations, practical examination/observation and project reports.
* Site visits to organisations and companies to reflect on industry standards, procedures, best practice and current trends.
* Use of project-based module and case studies to build on knowledge and apply theoretical concepts and practical skills to real life situations.
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| 3D. Key/transferable skills |
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| Learning outcomes: | Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods |
| **D1:** Discover key problem areas and choose appropriate tools and methods, numeracy and literacy skills, data and information for their resolution.**D2:** Interact effectively within a team, giving and receiving information and ideas and modifying responses where appropriate, to develop professional working relationships. **D3:** Demonstrate personal and interpersonal skills such as the effective planning, organising, management of and responsibility for contributing to the bringing of projects to completion on time either independently or as a team member.**D4:** Evaluate own strengths and weaknesses, challenge received opinion and develop own criteria and judgement. | **Learning and Teaching Methods:** * Key/transferable skills will be developed through lectures, seminars and tutorials. This also includes ICT skills, information management, library research skills and preparation for placement activities. All transferable skills apply to theoretical disciplines, practical and work based activities. Other learning and teaching methodologies include team teaching, demonstration and peer learning.
* Learners will be provided with key information which they will research, analyse and interpret, then seek out further reading where they must independently broaden their understanding of specific problems and creative design principles. The fundamental design of the programme is to stretch learners, develop their skills at Level 5 as preparation for Level 6 and industry.
* Work Based Learning at Level 5 enable students to work in industry (or simulated) contexts driving them to become effective in their time management, taking responsibility for their work and managing working with others in a professional environment.
* Creative thinking and critical analysis are applied to all aspects of the programme and will be further fostered and encouraged through lecturer mentoring weekly. Discussion and critiques support the development of problem resolution at a higher intellectual level. At Level 5, learners are encouraged to develop their self reflection and set targets with the tutor, reflecting on feedback and responding to this.

**Assessment Methods:** * Formative and summative assessments will be shown through coursework submissions, essays and project reports. Other assessment evidence may be generated using Logbooks / Diary / Digital Diary, Reflective Journals, audio visual evidence and completed products, peer and supervisory review/evaluation.
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| **4. Distinctive features of the programme structure*** **Where applicable, this section provides details on distinctive featurs such as:**
* where in the structure above a professional/placement year fits in and how it may affect progression
* any restrictions regarding the availability of elective modules
* where in the programme structure students must make a choice of pathway/route
* **Additional considerations for apprenticeships:**
* how the delivery of the academic award fits in with the wider apprenticeship
* the integration of the ‘on the job’ and ‘off the job’ training
* how the academic award fits within the assessment of the apprenticeship
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| This programme will facilitate the opportunity for successful progression from a variety of Level 3 programmes: Creative Media, eSports, Visual Effects, Games Development, Graphic Design, Art and/or I.T Data Practitioner to a Foundation Degree in commercial photography and cinematography industries. The FD Programme is subject to prominent levels of employer engagement in areas such as curriculum and module design. Employer engagement will be encouraged throughout the programme in curriculum development, evaluation and self-sourced placements on an ongoing basis. The course programme is designed to provide a high-quality academic experience for students and enables student achievement and reliable assessment.This programme of study will also offer clear routes that facilitate opportunities for successful progression from relevant A-Level qualifications such as Moving Image Arts, Photography and Media Studies. Learners will engage and develop skills for personal and professional development. This is embedded throughout the programme modules and the Work Based Learning module (WBL) in year 2. Personal development planning is embedded into tutorials and lessons, whereby learners will engage in activities to allow them to complete their course and progress into employment or level 6 education. This includes career planning, job searching, applications and interview techniques. Access to a strong teaching team with a range of industry experience, academic and professional qualifications supporting high quality teaching and learning. Continuing professional development of staff responsible for learning and teaching is paramount to the ongoing progression of students. The College is committed to continuous staff training through staff contracts, the lecturers into industry initiative, training needs and staff development seminars. The College’s online learning platform is used extensively to deliver and support learning. Learners will have the opportunity to engage in research in areas of their choice. The added value of such an approach is to ensure the relevance of the programme requirements to the commercial photography and cinematography industries. Side by side with the academic development of learners, the programme looks to develop the learner’s key skills profile. The importance of such personal, transferable skills in graduates is widely recognised.The learners will have the ability to create commercial films and a range of photographic content that can be submitted to both learner and professional global film/photo festivals and competitions. This content will be submitted for assessment and completed in three formats; organised content creation events set up by the lecturing team, external learner led projects and directly working for local organisations. Workshops and industry talks with small, medium and large media organisations will be conducted throughout the academic year. This will give learners the ability to learn about the industry and network with local professionals. Industry experiences and placements will also be offered to learners when available.  |

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| 5. Support for students and their learning. *(For apprenticeships this should include details of how student learning is supported in the workplace)* |
| The department for Learner Success sits alongside the five curriculum schools and the department for Curriculum Operations and Planning Services (COPS) as part of the remit of the Chief Operating Officer. The Department’s primary role is to enable learners to succeed at Belfast Metropolitan College. This is done by providing effective operational and support services via our Student Services teams and our Student Support teams. The Student Services function is made up of the Admissions, Examinations Services and Library and Information Services teams. The Student Support function is made up of the Careers and Employability, Inclusive Learning, Student Funding, Students’ Union and Student Wellbeing teams.As well as supporting our students, the Department also provides related support to staff throughout the College.  The College offers a wide range of student support services. These include: · The Careers and Employability service.· The Inclusive Learning service.· The Student Finance Service.· Students’ Union.· The Faith Room.· Centre for Student Wellbeing.· Safeguarding Services; and· Administration Services.  Further details can be accessed through the [College website](https://www.belfastmet.ac.uk/life-at-the-met/students-support/careers-and-employability/) and the College Student Activities and Advice section on Canvas (VLE). College Student Activities and Advice notifications are also displayed at Campus reception and in the Student Union in every campus. As part of a NI College Approach, BMC has invested and rolled out EBS as a data and performance dashboard; this is a software tool which consolidates relevant data from multiple sources into a single application and presents data through graphics and dashboards. The system is now firmly embedded to ensure the availability of data right down to team level to aid quality improvement, to improve data and its reporting across the College and underpin the performance review process. Live student attendance reports are available to be able to identify students at risk and trigger support interventions as well as course retention, achievement and success rates. These approaches to evaluate performance, support and monitor learners have substantially contributed to the sustained year on year sustainability in college’s learner success rates. The College has a Work Based Learning pack to support students on placements (where applicable). The Work based Project will be college and employer driven and provide the student with the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills acquired during year one of the programme to undertake a project. Guidance to employers, learners and assessors regarding appropriate roles and responsibilities is provided along with documentation templates for the monitoring/assessment process. In cases where a learner is an employee of the company, the module may be completed in the learner’s workplace or part of it may be designed to include components of their current working activities. The College will follow the Quality Code guidance:<https://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/quality-code/advice-and-guidance/work-based-learning>This is course/module specific.The College will ensure employer involvement in the monitoring of progress by following the Quality Code, Advice and Guidance Theme ‘Monitoring and Evaluation’<https://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/quality-code/advice-and-guidance/monitoring-and-evaluation>In addition, Higher Level Apprentices will have a college mentor who will liaise with their workplace mentor to monitor progress and to offer support. |

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| 6. Criteria for admission*(For apprenticeships this should include details of how the criteria will be used with employers who will be recruiting apprentices.)* |
| **Students who wish to gain admission at first year of the Foundation Degree.** Applicants must have reached the age of 18 years on admission.  GCSE English & Maths Grade C or equivalent.  80 tariff points has been set for this programme of study and is reflective of the number of tariff points required for similar Level 5 programmes across the 6 colleges within the FE Sector in Northern Ireland. This will also allow the programme to competitively position itself alongside other programmes offered by both Queens University and Ulster University also located in the city of Belfast.  Applicants who do not hold any formal Level 3/4 qualifications but hold significant relevant Industrial experience may gain admission through experiential learning and should request the College APEL procedure.**Students may gain admission through Recognised Prior Learning.**RPL is the process by which the College can identify, assess and certify an applicant’s past educational and vocational achievements. Applicants wishing to be considered for APL for a particular program for the purpose of admission or credit must bring this to the attention of the course director at the application and interview stage. Applicants wishing to be considered for direct entry into a level above four or five would normally only be credited a maximum of 240 credits. APEL is where applicants can gain admission to a program based on their experiential learning. At the application stage applicants should inform the admissions staff and the relevant course director of their intention to apply for APEL. APEL can only be used for admission purposes and not to gain credit or exemptions.**International Students**An international student is defined as a student who requires a Tier 4 (student) visa to study in the UK. Such applicants may or may not be living overseas at the time of making their course application. International applicants should apply via the usual route for full-time undergraduates, All International students must meet the College general entry requirements and academic qualifications requirements of the course. In addition, international students must have the required level of English Language IELTS academic 6.0.All international qualifications will be checked for academic comparability using the online UKNaric qualifications database. The Admissions team has access to UKNaric training materials and guidance on the evaluation and verification of international qualifications. |

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| 7. Language of study  |
| *English only* |

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| 8. Information about non-OU standard assessment regulations (including PSRB requirements) |
| Modules will be assessed by a mix of continuous assessment, coursework and group work. Within the Work based learning module, there will be a final year project that will be assessed through a portfolio of evidence based on their work placement experience. This module will be 45 credits. In each module students will be required to complete a number of coursework assignments. Assignments will assess knowledge and understanding; cognitive skills; practical and professional skills and key/transferable skills. The Foundation Degree in Commercial Photography and Cinematography is a mixture of coursework, practical exercises and group work. The aims and learning outcomes of the programmes are achieved through the application of a variety of learning and teaching methods across the modules. The range of modules allows a varied and interesting mix of methods to be used to enhance knowledge and understanding as well as allowing students to practice and develop their professional and transferable skills. A variety of teaching methods and learning environments are utilised within the programme to provide an optimal framework for study, the development of skills and expertise, the production of coursework, work ready skills and preparations for examinations. Assessment is provided in both formative and summative formats. Learners' experiences on their course should be as such to meet the aims of the course in developing their facility for critical thinking, problem solving, professional attitudes and the capacity for sustained independent work. In each taught module, the relative weighting assigned to all assessment constructs is specified. Assignments will take the form of case studies, practical activities, exhibitions, pod casts and/or research, video records and observations. Staff members provide prompt and detailed feedback to all students within 15 working days. The Course Director and Team currently monitor the assessment burden on learners in each year and takes action where necessary. The staggering of submissions is considered essential in determining learner workload is as balanced as possible throughout the semester. It is also hoped that the indirect impact of which is that marking and feedback workload for the teaching is also addressed in increments. Assessment strategies will be closely related to the aims and learning outcomes of individual modules, but similar types of strategies are assessed and given feedback by standard methods to promote consistency across modules. Central to any assessment strategy is the need to assess whether learning outcomes have been met by candidates in relation to not only the course aims and objectives but also as a form of feedback to learners in terms of their learning progression. It is in furthering this clarity that feedback sheets (included in the assessment details and brief), contain a marking scheme with detailed reference to the learning outcomes also stated on the Cover Sheets.Learners will be provided with comprehensive information at the start of each module detailing assessment schedules throughout. Individual Assessment Specifications clearly articulate requirements (including submission and return deadlines) and a marking scheme will be provided.A comprehensive range of assessment strategies will be employed by the course team, involving both individual and group work. These are essential to assess learners’ skills of report writing and incorporates the understanding and development of academic skills in helping students to appreciate a range of presentation media and appreciate where and how best to apply these media. Coursework is also a vehicle with which to allow learners to illustrate academic rigour in research and referencing. Learners are made aware of the concepts of intellectual property and plagiarism. Coursework can be presented in a variety of assessment methods such as:* Group Based work.
* Time Constrained Practical Exercises.
* Exhibitions.
* Project Reports.
* Observations.
* Portfolios of evidence.
* Pod casts.
* Live Streams.
* Recordings.
* Film Projects.
* Photography Projects.

All coursework material is both internally and externally moderated prior to it being made accessible to learners. Also following its marking, cross marking is generally accepted as essential before summative feedback is delivered to the learners to ensure adequate validity, reliability and fairness.  Innovative approaches are used in the assessment process, including observations, practical exercises, case studies, podcasts, broadcasting and Live Streaming, etc. In some units the assessment involves group activity.The following outlines those regulations specific to the programme:* Pass mark for the module shall be 40%. Where a module is assessed by a combination of coursework and examination a minimum mark of 35% shall be achieved in each element.
* 1 module has the ability to use compensation.

**Summary of assessment requirements**The Programme adopts in full the Awarding Body Academic Principles and Regulations. Learners will be provided with a copy of the Student Assessment Regulations at the point of registration for their programme. **Internal Verification/External Verification*** **Internal Verification of Assessment**

In Belfast Metropolitan College, Internal Verification is one of the key Quality Assurance processes used to ensure consistency, transparency, validity and reliability of assessment design, grading and marking. All assessed work submitted will be sampled by an internally allocated standards verifier in accordance with College’s standard Operating Procedures, with no confirmation of criteria achieved reported to learners until this has been completed.* **Internal Verification Process**

In line with Open University Handbook for validated awards and Open University regulations:[OU-Handbook-for-Validated-Awards-2023-24.pdf (open.ac.uk)](https://www5.open.ac.uk/validation-partnerships/sites/www.open.ac.uk.validation-partnerships/files/files/OU-Handbook-for-Validated-Awards-2023-24.pdf)[OU Validation Regulations Single Awards (belfastmet.ac.uk)](https://www.belfastmet.ac.uk/siteFiles/resources/_noindex/OU/RegulationsforOUValidatedawardsatBelfastMet2021_22.pdf)Each module has an identified Internal Verifier.The process at level 4-7 is monitored and overseen by External Examiners.The College employs a three-tier system of internal assessment quality control which includes:* Assessment validation carried out by module Internal Verifier.
* Internal verification of assessment decisions by module Internal Verifier and
* Assessment sampling by External Examiners.

Every learner will have their assessed work, including the assessment decision sampled at some stage during the programme; Belfast Met considers assessment validation and internal verification of assessment decisions to be the cornerstones of the assessment Quality Assurance process. All assessment briefs are validated by an Internal Verifier prior to use and a sample of ALL assessments submitted will have the assessment decisions internally verified, prior to feedback to the learners. * **External Examination / Verification**

The programme is externally verified by an External Examiner (EE) appointed by the Open University. This will be a subject specialist who will ensure that the learner work meets the Academic Standard. This external appointee will visit annually to carry out this verification.**Assessment Principles** The Programme adopts, in full, the Awarding Body Academic Principles and Regulations. Learners will be directed to the location of the learner Assessment Regulations at the point of registration for their programme.  |

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| 9. For apprenticeships in England End Point Assessment (EPA). *(Summary of the approved assessment plan and how the academic award fits within this and the EPA)* |
| *Not Applicable*  |

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| 10. Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning. |
| The Programme is managed and operated in accordance with College and Open University regulations and procedures. This will include representation and input from employers who will contribute to curriculum development and review. Reports will be made to the College’s Quality Department (and the Awarding Body) which will take appropriate action including reviews and audits to continually enhance the programme. College standard mechanisms for review and evaluation of teaching, learning and assessment of the curriculum and outcome standards include: -* Formal cycle of student engagement and feedback to include Module Evaluations, Course Evaluations and Staff Student Consultative Committees.
* Annual Programme Review.
* External Examiners visits.
* College internal quality assurance arrangements including internal auditing of programme management.
* External quality assurance arrangements.
* Staff Appraisal; and
* Staff development including scholarly activity.

The committees with responsibility for monitoring, evaluating and improving quality include:* Internally
	+ The Centre for Curriculum Quality Assurance and Performance Development.
	+ HE Coordinators Forum.
	+ HE Quality Forum.
	+ Monthly Performance review Process; and
	+ Management through the Appraisal Process.
* Externally
	+ External Examiners; and
	+ The Quality Assurance Agency.

Mechanisms for gaining learner feedback on the quality of their learning experience include:* Formal cycle of learner engagement and feedback to include Module Evaluations, Course Evaluations and Staff Student Consultative Committees.
* Weekly personal tutor review of learner progress/e-ILP (Individual Learning Plan); and

Supervised Work based learning visits and reports – where applicable. |

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| 10. Changes made to the programme since last (re)validation |
| *Not applicable* |

Annexe 1: Curriculum map

Annexe 2: Notes on completing the OU programme specification template

Annexe 1 - Curriculum map – Level Four A5, A6, A7, A8, B5, B6, B7, B8, C5, C6, C7, C8, D4, D5, D6, D7 NOT APPLICABLE

This table indicates which study units assume responsibility for delivering (shaded) and assessing (ü) particular programme learning outcomes.

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|  |  | **Programme outcomes** |
| **Level** | **Study module/unit** | **A1** | **A2** | **B1** | **B2** | **C1** | **C2** | **C3** | **D1** | **D2** | **D3** |
| 4 | Image: Exposure, Lighting and Contrast | ü |  | ü |  | ü |  |  |  | ü | ü |
| Capture: Composition, Depth and Focus | ü |  |  | ü | ü |  | ü |  | ü |  |
| Production: Elements of Video Production | ü | ü | ü |  |  | ü |  | ü |  | ü |
| Delivery: Editing for Photo and Video |  | ü | ü |  |  |  | ü |  | ü | ü |

**Curriculum map – Level Five**

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| **Level** | **Study module/unit** | **A1** | **A2** | **A3** | **B1** | **B2** | **C1** | **C2** | **C3** | **C4** | **D1** | **D2** | **D3** | **D4** |
| 5 | Analogue Photographic Practice and Processes |  | ü | ü | ü |  |  | ü | ü |  |  |  | ü | ü |
| Advanced Lighting and Camera Techniques for Photography and Cinematography | ü |  |  |  | ü | ü | ü |  |  |  | ü |  | ü |
| Advanced Postproduction for Photography and Cinematography | ü |  |  | ü |  | ü |  | ü |  | ü |  |  | ü |
| Work-based Learning |  |  | ü | ü | ü |  | ü |  | ü | ü |  | ü | ü |

**Annexe 2: Notes on completing programme specification templates**

1 **-** This programme specification should be mapped against the learning outcomes detailed in module specifications.

2 – The expectations regarding student achievement and attributes described by the learning outcome in section 3 must be appropriate to the level of the award within the **QAA frameworks for HE qualifications**: <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/AssuringStandardsAndQuality/Pages/default.aspx>

3 – Learning outcomes mustalso reflect the detailed statements of graduate attributes set out in **QAA subject benchmark statements** that are relevant to the programme/award: <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/AssuringStandardsAndQuality/subject-guidance/Pages/Subject-benchmark-statements.aspx>

4 – In section 3, the learning and teaching methods deployed should enable the achievement of the full range of intended learning outcomes. Similarly, the choice of assessment methods in section 3 should enable students to demonstrate the achievement of related learning outcomes. Overall, assessment should cover the full range of learning outcomes.

5 - Where the programme contains validated **exit awards** (e.g., CertHE, DipHE, PGDip), learning outcomes must be clearly specified for each award.

6 - For programmes with distinctive study **routes or pathways** the specific rationale and learning outcomes for each route must be provided.

7 – Validated programmes delivered in **languages other than English** must have programme specifications both in English and the language of delivery.