

BA(Hons) Marine and Natural History Photography at University College Falmouth – LEVEL 1

Congratulations on gaining a place on BA(Hons) Marine and Natural History Photography.

Your first official day of attendance will be on **Monday 26 September 2011**. Please report to the **Chapel Lecture Theatre, Tremough Campus** for a Welcome Talk at **10:30am**.

In your first week you will undertake a number of inductions that will give you access to the UCF facilities and orientate you with the Tremough Campus. You will also be undertaking a photographic project. There is an equipment/book list attached.

Please bring your portfolio containing recent work and your camera equipment. You will need a digital SLR camera and a digital light meter during the first week at College. Our suggestion is that you invest in a digital SLR camera.

You will be aware that underwater photography can form part of the course. It is planned this will start sometime after Christmas. Please read the enclosed documents on diving qualifications and underwater photography. If you wish to undertake this element of the course you are expected to arrive on the 26 September **already qualified to at least PADI Advanced Open Water or equivalent**. But please remember this is **optional**. There are additional costs involved in the underwater photography programme for which the student pays (details are in the enclosed paperwork).

If you have been made a conditional offer to study at Falmouth, your place is subject to meeting those conditions. If you have any questions, please contact Cyd Roberts in Admissions on 01326 213783 or cyd.robbers@falmouth.ac.uk

During the holidays you will be emailed important information for new students. If you will be away, please ask someone else to check your emails regularly and reply on your behalf.

Have a good summer and we look forward to seeing you in September.

Yours sincerely

Sue Boafo
Award Leader, BA(Hons) Marine & Natural History Photography

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sue.boafo@falmouth.ac.uk



BA(Hons) Marine & Natural History Photography Equipment and Reading List

General information for students

You are required to have your own **DSLR camera system and all the items listed below**. You may need to purchase other items but this will become clear as you progress through the course. If you are purchasing new equipment, consider getting Nikon as UCF has lenses and accessories for this system which you can borrow.

You are expected to provide most of the photographic materials yourself e.g. film, printing paper etc. The actual cost will depend on the amount of work you do and, of course, wastage.

There will be a number of field trips during the course. Normally, two of these will be compulsory. You will need to pay for transport. Last year this was £7.50 each per trip to cover the hire of mini-bus. Costs will be higher if specialist guides are used on some of these field trips.

Underwater camera systems are provided by UCF for students undertaking the underwater photography element of the course. If you wish to be involved with underwater photography, please read carefully the enclosed document. These will give you both the entry requirements and the cost of both the diving qualifications and the contribution you will need to make to the course.

Photographic equipment list

Please note the equipment marked in bold are items you will need in the first week of the course.

The first half of the academic year will be digital based. You will need:

- **Digital SLR camera** of reasonable quality **with manual override** to any automatic settings (Nikon is recommended as it is compatible with UCF equipment)
- **Digital SLR memory card (high speed) not less than 2GB**
- **Digital portable hard drive**
- **Digital light meter** (Sekonic L308 is recommended)
- Lens hood and UV/skylight filter for each of your lenses
- **Camera equipment holdall** – large enough for extra items you may wish to use/purchase during the course
- **Sturdy tripod**
- **12" cable release with lock**
- Blower brush
- Lens cleaning cloth
- Academic year diary (available from Tremough shop)

The second half of the year will be film based. You will need:

- Film SLR camera (an advantage – please bring that along if you have one)
- Other filters e.g. red, green, yellow may also be useful if you are using film
- Negative filing system binder (loose leaf type)
- 120 negative filing pages for above binder
- 16"x12" print box for storing prints and submitting them for assessments (Print boxes Magnifier – Linen tester or Lupe)
- **Small spirit level (no longer than 4")**
- **2 * Toyo or Fidelity 4 x 5 dark slide**
- **Black focusing cloth (or piece of black cotton cloth 1 metre square)**
- A cable release to fit an analogue camera (screw thread)
- Pair of rubber gloves
- Spotting brush – No1 sable



- Black print spotting medium or tube of black water colour or gouache
- In addition, there will also be a number of stationery items that you will need to purchase during the course e.g. notepads, A4 binders, Stanley knife, scissors etc.

Essential personal items

You will be expected to work in all sorts of locations and weather conditions. It is essential that you come fully prepared with the right sort of personal clothing to protect yourself from the elements and meet risk assessment requirements. This list is not exclusive so please use it as a guide.

- Anorak or weather-proof jacket
- Warm headgear
- Strong waterproof boots/shoes
- Wellington boots
- Gloves
- Waterproof trousers – jeans are not always appropriate particularly in wet weather
- Mobile phone for emergencies
- Binoculars 8x30 – these can be purchased in Falmouth from Associated Photography. The course has negotiated a discount of 20 – 30% depending on the brand. You will need to show your student ID card, once you have enrolled.

Associated Photography
30 Arwenack Street
Falmouth
Cornwall
TR11 3JB

01326 319591
associatedphotography@btconnect.com

Reading list

We recommend the following books as an important aid to your studies:

- Attenborough, D. 1979. *Life on Earth*, BBC Books.
- Begon, M et al. 2005. *Ecology: from Individuals to Ecosystems*, Blackwell Publishing.
- Carson, R. 1998. *The Edge of the Sea*, Manner Books.
- Davies, A and Fennessy, P. *Digital Imaging for Photographers*
- Evening, M. *Adobe Photoshop for Photographers*.
- Fish, J and Fish, S. 1996. *A Students Guide to the Seashore*, Cambridge University Press.
- Gibson, R et al. 2001. *Photographic Guide to the Seashore*, Oxford University Press.
- Haywood, P. 1996. *Seashore*, Collins Guides, Harper Collins Publishers.
- Ingledeu, J. *Photography*. Portfolio.
- Jeffrey, I. *Photography – A Concise History*, Thames and Hudson.
- Langford, M. *Advanced Photography*, Focal Press.
- Langford, M. *Basic Photography*, Focal Press.
- Piney, P. 1991. *Oceanography: An Introduction to the Planet Oceanus*, West Publishing Company.
- Smith, C. 2004. *Complete British Wildlife: Collins Hand Guides*, Collins.

BA(Hons) Marine & Natural History Photography Underwater photography – student guide

1.0 Introduction

This document has been produced for student reference and is intended to provide guidance on the prerequisites, content and costs of the taught underwater photography course offered to 1st year Marine and Natural History Photography (MNHP) students. A brief description of the pre-requisites for the taught 2nd year course and for conducting independent student projects is also provided. Requirements are summarised in Appendix 1.

2.0 1st Year (Level 4) MNHP Underwater Photography Course

The 1st year MNHP underwater photography course will take place from February to May 2012 and provides an introduction to the theory and practice of macro and wide-angle underwater photography through a combination of classroom and pool sessions and sea dives using Nikon D200 cameras.

2.1 Pre-requisites

In order to take part in the 1st year underwater photography course students must, by October 2011:

- be a certified diver to a minimum of PADI Advanced Open Water Diver or BSAC Sports Diver or CMAS 2* or equivalent
- have a valid certificate of fitness to dive (as issued by your dive training organisation)
- have conducted a dive in UK waters in the previous 6 months.

An experience dive will be offered in October 2011 in order to familiarise you with the local dive site. The cost for this dive will be over and above the course fee. The anticipated cost for this dive will be approximately £30.

2.2 Dive Training

You are strongly advised to commence your dive training now if you have not already done so. If you wish to undertake PADI training (Professional Association of Diving Instructors) you can visit www.padi.com to identify your nearest PADI dive school. If you wish to undertake BSAC (British Sub-Aqua Association) training you can visit www.bsac.com to find your nearest branch. Please note that BSAC training is often scheduled over a longer time period than PADI training and that both PADI and BSAC course completion is subject to delays in bad weather. Don't leave it to the last minute!

You can complete dive training when abroad, but diving in tropical waters does not readily compare to diving in UK waters so you should ideally do some diving in the UK once qualified. There are local dive training providers here in Falmouth but remember that this option would require you to come to Cornwall ahead of the start of your academic year to complete your dive training.

2.3 Costs

There is a fee for taking part in the 1st year MNHP underwater photography course. The exact cost depends on the numbers taking part, but in 2011/12 the fee will not exceed £300. This fee includes the provision of:

- all classroom sessions
- tutor supervised pool and sea dives
- the use of Nikon D200 cameras, underwater housings and strobes for all pool and sea dives
- hire of the pool for initial training sessions
- the hire of diving equipment supplied by an external contractor for all pool and sea dives
- the provision of safety divers and shore cover, supplied by an external diving contractor, for all pool and sea dives.

2.4 Personal Diving Equipment

Although the core diving equipment is supplied by an external diving contractor, students should acquire some basic diving equipment of their own.

- Timing devices are not supplied by the diving contractor. Priority should therefore be given to acquiring a timing device, either a dive computer or a dive watch. As a minimum, you should have a dive watch with a bezel (to be suitable for diving they should be depth rated to 200m). These can be bought for as cheaply as £20 from outlets such as Argos. Dive computers represent a greater initial investment (Suunto dive computers start at about £180) but provide more information about your dive and are an essential purchase if you are planning to go on diving holidays (conducting multiple dives over multiple days) or conduct boat dives.
- Students should acquire their own diving gloves as these are not supplied by the dive contractor. A thickness of 3mm provides some thermal protection while still allowing manual dexterity with the cameras. 5mm gloves will provide more thermal protection but create some loss of dexterity when handling the camera equipment. The approximate price for diving gloves is from £15 upwards.
- Students are also very strongly encouraged to acquire their own mask and hood and fins to ensure personal fit and comfort.
- Suits are supplied by the diving contractor but to ensure maximum fit and comfort, students are very strongly encouraged to acquire a semi-dry suit (a 5mm under suit and a 5mm over suit is the norm) or a dry suit. If you are a dry suit diver, you should have proof of dry suit training.

If you already own all of your own diving equipment, and only require tank and weights to conduct your dives, there will be a reduction in the fee for the course as negotiated between the University and the Dive Contractor.

2.5 Personal Camera Equipment

All camera equipment is supplied by UCF but students must supply:

- Batteries for strobes. You may wish to consider purchasing re-chargeable batteries but a pack of 4 AA batteries (each strobe requires 4 batteries) can be purchased from the University Photography Centre for approx. £1.50 per pack. One pack of batteries will generally cover two dives.
- Compact flash memory card. A minimum memory size of 4GB is recommended as you will want to shoot in raw format or raw and jpeg format simultaneously. These are available for less than £15 from outlets such as Amazon. The types of San Disk compact flash cards tested and approved for use in the Nikon D200 are presented in the table below.

SanDisk	SDCFB	128MB, 256MB, 512MB, 1GB, 2GB, 4GB
	SDCFB (Type II)	300MB
	SDCF2B (Type II)	256MB
	SDCFH (Ultra II)	256MB, 512MB, 1GB, 2GB, 4GB, 8GB
	SDCFX (Extreme III)	1GB, 2GB, 4GB

2.6 Academic Assessment

Assessment of academic accomplishment will include:

- record of attendance (classroom, pool and sea)
- weekly presentation and critical review of photographs in class
- submission of a workbook of pool and sea photographs with critical review of the photographs presented. A detailed brief for the work book will be supplied.
- submission of 6 photographs (2 macro, 2 wide-angle, 2 half-in/half-out shots) in jpeg format on CD.

2.7 Practical Skills Assessment

In addition to academic assessment, through tutor observation, assessment will take place of:

- correct camera preparation, operation and post-dive maintenance
- buoyancy control
- ability to correctly handle and use the camera equipment underwater
- attitude towards safety and observation of diving codes of practice.

2.8 Missed sessions

The 1st year underwater photography course represents a succession of skills development through the classroom, pool and sea dives. It is therefore vitally important that students do not miss sessions. If illness or another legitimate reason prevents a student from attending a classroom, pool or sea session the tutor must be informed as early as possible. Repeatedly missing classroom sessions or dives will lead to failure of the programme. There will be no refund for missed sessions.

2.9 Successful Completion of the 1st Year Underwater Photography Course

If all elements of the 1st year underwater photography course are completed to the tutor's satisfaction, the student will receive a pass. Students who pass the 1st year course may then progress to the taught second year course if they wish to.

3.0 Second Year Underwater Photography Course (October to November 2012)

To further develop your skills in handling the underwater camera systems, to try additional techniques and equipment and to further develop your personal portfolio of underwater images, a taught 2nd year underwater photography course will be offered. A brief on the aims, content and cost of the taught second year course will be supplied towards the end of the 1st year course. No additional dive training will be required to take part in the taught 2nd year course, i.e. a PADI Advanced Open Water certificate or BSAC Sports Diver or CMAS 2* or equivalent remains the minimum requirement.

In addition to the second year taught course, an underwater photography field trip abroad will be offered in 2013 to provide a further opportunity to develop your underwater photography and build your portfolio.

Both the second year taught course and the underwater photography field trip are entirely optional. You can choose to do one, both or neither.

4.0 Independent Student Diving Projects

At the end of the 1st year underwater photography course, students will also be assessed as to whether they are competent to use the underwater camera systems without tutor supervision. In order to conduct **independent** Student Diving Projects with the camera systems in the second and third years, however, students must have acquired the **PADI Rescue Diver qualification or equivalent**, produced a project plan and risk assessment and had their project plan and risk assessment approved by the Diving Safety Officer. Tutor support will be available to help with the project plan and risk assessment process. More detailed briefs on the requirements and conduct of Student Diving Projects will be supplied towards the end of the 1st year underwater photography course.

5.0 Further Enquiries

We hope you have found this student guide helpful. If you have any further queries please contact:

Gaynor Bennett M.A. MSc.

Underwater Photography Course Lecturer, Diving Safety Officer, PADI Staff Instructor
BA(Hons) Marine and Natural History Photography

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APPENDIX 1

MNHP 1st Year Underwater Photography Prerequisites and Skills Development

MNHP 1st year students who wish to take part in the underwater photography course must meet the following Stage 1 prerequisites to attend the underwater photography course and must meet the criteria at Stages 2 and 3 to achieve a pass for the Level 1 underwater photography course.

MNHP 1st Year Underwater Photography Prerequisites and Skills Development				
Stage 1 Prerequisites	Requirement	Purpose	Service Provider	Comments
Dive Certification	Students must be qualified to at least PADI Advanced Open Water Diver or equivalent.	To have acquired formal certification as evidence of a specified level of competence in recreational diving.	Any nationally or internationally approved dive training provider (e.g. PADI, BSAC, CMAS).	Students may have been qualified for many years or have newly qualified for the purposes of joining the MNHP award.
Medical Fitness	Students must have a valid Certificate of Medical Fitness. This may be an HSE certificate or that recommended by their recreational dive training organisation (PADI or BSAC).	To ensure fitness to dive for the student's safety and the safety of others.	Medical forms may be sourced from dive service providers or from the UCF Course Tutor. A GP may be required to sign the medical form. There may be a charge associated with this.	Medicals are valid for 12 months from date of signing and must be refreshed annually. A GP signature will be required if students answer 'yes' to any questions on the medical form.
Scuba Review/ Skills Refresher	Students should have conducted at least one dive in the 6 months prior to commencing their pool dives with cameras. If they have not dived within this period they must	To refresh both theory and practical dive skills through classroom, pool and sea dive sessions.	Any nationally or internationally approved dive training provider (e.g. PADI, BSAC or CMAS).	The scuba review/skills refresher should be recorded in the student's dive log and signed by the instructor who completed the review.

	show evidence of having completed a scuba review/skills refresher			
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Local Orientation Dives	Students should have conducted at least one sea dive in UK waters prior to the first sea dive with camera. A local orientation dive will be offered in October 2011 (section 2.1).	To ensure familiarity with: -UK diving -the dive equipment -the main site used for photography dives.	Approved local provider or student's choice of dive service provider (ideally UK dive(s) dive site should include Pendennis Silver Steps, Falmouth).	Even students who have been qualified for many years and who are familiar with UK diving are advised to familiarise themselves with the dive site at Pendennis.
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Stage 2 Classroom and Pool Sessions	Requirement	Purpose	Service Provider	Comments
Classroom Sessions	To attend scheduled classroom theory sessions and dive briefings.	To ensure knowledge of underwater photography and logistical and safety considerations.	UCF Lecturer.	Classroom sessions immediately prior to pool and sea dives include vital dive logistics and safety briefings.
Camera Induction	To attend a camera housing induction.	To ensure familiarity with camera operation and housing preparation and maintenance.	Photography Centre nominated person.	This maximises the opportunity for successful pool and sea dives and reduces risk to camera equipment from flooding.
Pool Dives	To attend two supervised pool dives with camera.	To orient to camera use and buoyancy characteristics of camera equipment.	UCF Lecturer and Photography Centre nominated person.	This maximises the opportunity for successful sea dives and is an essential prerequisite for taking part in the sea dives.

Stage 3 Sea Dives, Course Completion and Final Approval	Requirement	Purpose	Service Provider	Comments
Sea Dives	To complete a minimum of four sea dives with camera equipment.	To ensure competence in buoyancy control and camera operation, preparation and post-dive maintenance.	UCF Lecturer and Dive Service Provider.	A minimum of four sea dives must be completed in order for students to pass the 1 st year underwater photography course.
Fulfil Course Requirements and Achieve a Pass	To fulfil attendance requirements. To submit a logbook of pool and sea photographs as briefed. To submit 6 photographs (2 macro, 2 wide angle and 2 half in/out shots).	To ensure competence and knowledge acquisition.	UCF Lecturer and Student.	The submissions will be assessed and the student will receive a Pass or a Refer. Individual feedback will be recorded on the assessment sheet. If referred, additional work will be set.
Final Approval	To be signed off as competent to book out underwater camera equipment independently.	To ensure safety of student and camera equipment.	UCF Lecturer.	The lecturer's decision as to competence is final.

Optional Progressions	Prerequisites	Purpose	Service Provider	Comments
2nd year Underwater Photography Taught Course	A pass at 1 st Year Underwater Photography. PADI Advanced Open Water Certificate or equivalent. Certificate of Medical Fitness. To have dived in UK waters in the	To further develop skills in underwater photography. To try additional techniques. To further develop personal portfolio.	UCF Lecturer and Dive Contractor.	Progression to the 2 nd year taught course is optional. There will be an additional fee for participation in this course.

	previous six months.			
Underwater Photography Field Trip Abroad	A pass at 1 st Year Underwater Photography. PADI Advanced Open Water Certificate or equivalent. Certificate of Medical Fitness. To have dived in the previous six months.	To further develop skills in underwater photography and develop personal portfolio.	UCF Lecturer and Tour Operator.	Taking part in the Underwater Photography Field trip is optional. You do not have to have enrolled in the 2 nd year taught course in order to join the underwater photography field trip. The cost of this fieldtrip is met by the student.
Independent Underwater Photography Student Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -To have achieved a Pass at 1st year underwater photography. -To be signed off as competent to book out underwater camera equipment independently. -To be qualified to minimum PADI Rescue Diver or equivalent. -To have academic tutor approval for the planned project. -To have completed a Project Plan and Risk Assessment with support from and approved by the Diving Safety Officer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -To ensure safety of -the student. -those diving with the student. -the camera equipment used. 	The student is responsible for the logistics and costs of their independent diving project.	In addition to Underwater Photography Projects, you may be interested in conducting Snorkelling Projects or 'Splash' Photography Projects. The latter projects do not require certification to Rescue Diver level but are subject to the need to produce a Project Plan and Risk Assessment with support from the Diving Safety Officer.