

**DEPARTMENT: PHOTOGRAPHY**  
**2023 EQUIPMENT RECOMMENDATION**



Student work:  
**Claire van Niekerk**  
Pangolin Award Nominee

## FIRST YEAR / ONE YEAR PROGRAM

- **Mirrorless camera or Digital DSLR camera body**
- **1x Good multi-purpose zoom lens**, wide to telephoto range (16-55mm)  
(Generic lenses like SIGMA and Tamron is more than adequate. Please discuss your options with the relevant service providers attached later in the document.)
- **1x Reflector board** (107 - 110cm).  
Please do not buy a reflector smaller than this.
- **1x Strong sturdy tripod** (invest in a good tripod that can support your camera and lens.
- **1x Cable Release**
- **1x Extra Camera battery**
- **2x Memory card** (with a write speed of atleast 150mb/s)( micro SD Card in an Adapter is not acceptable)( The cards are Camera model dependent so they change from camera to camera, but we recommend "Professional series" cards from Lexar and Sandisk. Lexar's "silver and gold coloured" memory cards. Sandisk's "Black and Red colored" memory cards. Both have a lifetime warranty on the cards. The cheaper/slower cards do not have the same warranty on them. Please speak to our recommende suppliers.
- **Cleaning kit**
- **Memory Card Reader**

### RECOMMENDED CAMERA BODIES

FujiFilm, Nikon, Canon and Sony are the only four digital camera brands we recommend. Although there are other great brands on the market; we have found that in terms of product range and support these brands have a very strong presence in South Africa.

The following camera bodies are especially popular:

## FUJIFILM MIRRORLESS CAMERAS

FUJIFILM X-S10



FUJIFILM X-T4



FUJIFILM X-T5



FUJIFILM XH-2 / XH-2s



FUJIFILM GFX-50s II



FUJIFILM GFX-100S



## FUJIFILM LENSES

FUJIFILM XF 16 – 55MM F2.8



FUJIFILM XF 18 – 55MM F2.8 - 4



NICE TO HAVE (FUJIFILM XF 56MM F1.2)



NICE TO HAVE (FUJIFILM XF 80MM F2.8 MACRO)



## SONY MIRRORLESS

SONY A7m3



SONY A7C



SONY A7m4



SONY a9 II



SONY A7R



## SONY LENSES

SONY FE 24-105MM G OSS



SONY FE 85MM F1.8



SONY FE 24-70MM F2.8 GE





## NIKON MIRRORLESS

NIKON Z6 II



NIKON Z7 II



NIKON Z5



NIKON Z50



NIKON Zfc



NIKON Z9



## NIKON MIRRORLESS LENSES

NIKON FTZ ADAPTER



Nikon Z 85mm F1.8 S



NIKON Z 24-70MM F4 S



## NIKON DSLR CAMERAS

NIKON D7500



NIKON D500



NIKON D850



NIKON D780



## NIKON DSLR LENSES

### CROP SENSOR: (D7500 AND D500)

- > Nikon DX 17 – 55mm  
Sigma or Tamron

### FULL FRAME: (D780 AND D850)

- > Nikon FX 24 – 70mm F2.8  
Sigma or Tamron

Nikon DX 17 – 55mm



Nikon FX 24 – 70mm F2.8



Please do not invest in a Nikon D3000 series body. If you do however own one please talk to your lecturer.

## CANON MIRRORLESS

CANON EOS R



CANON EOS RP



CANON EOS R5



CANON EOS R6 MK II



CANON EOS R7



CANON EOS R8



CANON EOS R10



## CANON MIRRORLESS LENSES

### CANON MIRRORLESS

- > Canon RF 24-70mm F2.8
- > Canon RF 24-105mm F4 L USM
- > CANON RF-S 18-50MM F3.5-F6.3
- > Canon Mount RF-EF Adapter EF-EOS R

CANON MOUNT RF-EF ADAPTER EF-EOS R



CANON RF 18-105MM F4-F7.1





## CANON DSLR CAMERAS

CANON EOS 6D MARK II



CANON EOS 90D



CANON EOS 5D MARK IV



CANON EOS 80D



## CANON DSLR LENSES

### CROP SENSOR: (80D AND 7D MARK II)

- > Canon EF 17 – 55mm  
Sigma or Tamron

### FULL FRAME: (5D MARK IV, 5DS, 5DS R AND 6D MARK II)

- > Canon EF 24-70mm F2.8  
Sigma or Tamron are generic lenses  
you can also consider

CANON EF 17 – 55MM



CANON EF 24-70MM F2.8



Please do not invest in the following models, Canon 250D, Canon 1200D, Canon 2000D, Canon 4000D. If you do however own one please talk to your lecturer.



## EXTRAS

5-IN-ONE REFLECTOR  
(107CM/ 109CM/ 110CM)



TRIPOD

(Be mindful of the entry-level tripods, refer to the supplier list in this document for guidance)



CABLE RELEASE



MEMORY CARD READER



CLEANING KIT



EXTRA MEMORY CARD



## SECOND YEAR / ONE YEAR PROGRAM

### FIRST YEAR EQUIPMENT PLUS:

- **1x Speedlight flash**  
(Generic brands like the Yungnuo and Godox flashes are more than adequate)
- **1x wireless flash trigger**
- **1x Studio Light with Battery Pack.**
- **1x Light stand**  
(Recommended boom stand) - C-stands is expensive but durable
- **1x Any light shaper**  
(Umbrella, beauty dish, softbox)
- **8x AA batteries**  
(Recyko or similar) with a charger
- **8x AAA batteries**  
(We found that Duracell actually lasts longer than rechargeable AAA's)
- A nice to have but by no means a must-have: (It is recommended to acquire 1x good portrait lens (i.e the Nikon 105mm Macro f2.8 lens or the Fuji XF 50-140mm F2.8R LM WR lens or Sony 85MM F1.8 or Sony 85mm F1.4 G Master ).

Second-year equipment is an extension of gear already purchased in first year. If a student does not have a proper DSLR camera it is recommended to purchase one in the second year, as students are already encouraged to do real industry-related assignments from the second semester in second year.

It is always great to have one professional lens. (Consult the list of recommended camera dealers). Keep in mind that in commercial photography professionals always make sure they have one good portrait lens, as people are more often a photographer's subject matter, irrespective of the genre of photography you end up pursuing. Students will by no means be penalized if they cannot acquire such a lens at this stage. Studio and flash (Strobist) photography make out a big part of a professional's kit. Students need to purchase at least one Speedlight. FujiFilm, Nikon and Canon flashes are very expensive so we always recommend that students settle for generic brands like Yongnuo and Godox flashes. Our students have been using them frequently in the past and we are confident in endorsing them.

PROFOTO is the top professional studio lighting equipment brand on the market. If the student has the budget to purchase a PROFOTO the B1 or B2 lighting kit is recommended, but Camera Stuff and Kameraz in Johannesburg and Outdoor photo in Pretoria offer a wide range of generic lighting equipment at a third of the price. Please refer to the list of retailers. They will be able to assist you in buying the right equipment within your budget.

## STUDIO AND FLASH LIGHTING EQUIPMENT & TRIGGERS

PROFOTO B10 PLUS WITH RADIO



GODOX AD600PRO WITSTRO  
ALL-IN-ONE OUTDOOR FLASH



GODOX AD 400



GODOX TT685 TTL FLASH



GODOX V860II TTL LI-ION FLASH KIT



GODOX XPRO TTL WIRELESS  
FLASH TRIGGER



GODOX X2T TTL WIRELESS  
FLASH TRIGGER TRANSMITTER



GODOX AD200 PRO TTL  
POCKET FLASH KIT



## THIRD YEAR

### SECOND YEAR EQUIPMENT PLUS:

- **1x Studio Light with Battery pack**
- **1x Light stand** (recommended boom stand) – Manfrotto and/or C-stands are expensive but durable
- **1x Any light shaper**

Most gear has already been purchased in first and second year. A student now only needs to acquire one extra studio light to make them ready for the industry. Third-year is about introducing students to the market and kick-starting their business, in order to do that students not only need to have the right equipment, but they must also be familiar with their equipment.

Third-year equipment is an extension of gear already purchased in first year and second year. If a student does not have a proper DSLR camera it is recommended to purchase one in the second year, as students are already encouraged to do real industry-related assignments from the second semester in second year.

It is always great to have one professional lens. (Consult the list of recommended camera dealers). Keep in mind that in commercial photography professionals always make sure they have one good portrait lens, as people are more often a photographer's subject matter, irrespective of the genre of photography you end up pursuing. Students will by no means be penalized if they cannot acquire such a lens at this stage. Studio and flash (Strobist) photography make out a big part of a professional's kit. Students need to purchase at least one Speedlight. FujiFilm, Nikon and Canon flashes are very expensive so we always recommend that students settle for generic brands like Yongnuo and Godox flashes. Our students have been using them frequently in the past and we are confident in endorsing them.

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## SERVICE PROVIDERS

Buying equipment is more than just finding the best bargain or buying the cheapest camera available. It is also about building relationships. The following list of service providers are people that we have found are not only committed to giving our student's good deals and outstanding service but also committed in supporting students in establishing their careers.

NAME	NUMBER	SERVICE
<b>ATPHOTO</b> Henry Tope	(012) 348 4890 info@atphoto.co.za henry@atphoto.co.za Unit C One Highveld Centre 5 Bellingham Street Centurion	> Printing lab
<b>CAMERASTUFF</b> Leanne Knuist	(011) 880 4155 leanne@camerastuff.co.za 473 Jan Smuts Ave, Blairgowrie, Randburg	> Flash equipment > Reflector boards > Cable releases > Studio lighting > Location lighting > Light stands > Light shapers > Rechargeable batteries
<b>GLOWHIRE</b> Chantell Fegen	(011) 880 8124 chantell@glowhire.co.za 70 Oxford Rd, Riviera, Johannesburg	> Camera and equipment rentals
<b>OUTDOOR PHOTO</b> Gunther Swart Lundi Mbanga Devan Reynders Bernard Koch  <b>ODP -ART OF PRINT</b> Dewald van Eeden	(012) 348 3693 lundi@outdoorphoto.co.za gunther@outdoorphoto.co.za devan@outdoorphoto.co.za bernard@outdoorphoto.co.za  (012) 761 3700 dewald@outdoorphoto.co.za 322 Garsfontein Road, Waterkloof Glen, Pretoria	> Second-hand equipment -All sales personnel will be able to assist with any second hand queries. All second hand items have been tested, cleaned and photographed. Outdoorphoto's 2nd hand equipment comes with a 6 month warranty. > As well as everything else
<b>KAMERAZ</b> Martin Wright Ryan Cumming	(011) 880 2885 martin@kameraz.co.za ryan@kameraz.co.za Shop 101A Rosebank Mall, 50 Bath Avenue	> Second-hand equipment > As well as everything else

Please be advised that workshop expenses may apply on any level. This changes from term to term and is very difficult to predict as venues can change last minute.

**Q: I am a first-year student and already have a camera. Can I just use the one I have?**

A: The list that we have compiled was done in such a way to assist students who would like to pursue photography as a career in the future. Entry-level cameras (even those not on the list) should be fine for first year, but when you enter second year you will be competing with professionals and unfortunately better equipment give better results. First-year is your most expensive year, as you have to lay the foundation for future purchases. **Please do not invest in the following models, Canon 2000D, Canon 1200D, Canon 250D, Canon 4000D and the Nikon D3000 series. If you however do own one of these camera bodies they will work for your first year. There are limitations to these cameras that can be problematic, especially on second and third year level. If you do however own one of these cameras they will work for your first year.**

If you already own a camera and you are unsure, you can email our studio manager at [photo@openwindow.co.za](mailto:photo@openwindow.co.za) and she can assist you.

**Q: I don't want to invest in an expensive camera only to find that I am not interested in pursuing photography as a major in second year.**

A: If you buy one of the cameras on the list we can assure you that we will be able to sell it at second-hand value (60% of the purchase value) to a first-year the following year. Provided that the camera is in good condition.

**Q: What else should I budget for?**

A: (All students): We are committed to giving students a pleasant learning experience, therefore, we always organise field trips and workshops outside usual class times as practical exercises. All students can expect an additional fee of R600 per year that should cover these field trips. Also, printing is an integral part of photography. Students are therefore expected to complete on printed assignment per term.

Second and Third Years: students will be working on professional portfolios and sourcing models, make-up artists, procuring props for shoots and location scouting can be a costly exercise. A maximum of R2000 per term should cover these expenses. Creative solutions go a long way to keep these costs down.

Third Years: Should budget for approximately R5000 for the printing of their final portfolios and artist book at the end of the year, plus an additional R2000 for exhibitions and material for their darkroom and fine arts module in term 2.

**Q: How relevant is photography as a career today?**

A: The short answer is: Very!

In many ways the doom and gloom talk on the future of photography is actually fuelled more by the fear of change than the reality of the art form. Yes analogue photography together with chemicals and silver halide crystals might have died a quick death so without question photography has changed and we are all having to adapt as a result.

The good news is that the ease of travel, the availability of cameras, the opportunity to reach a global audience thanks to the Internet, have contributed to it being one of the most exciting times in history to become a photographer. Not to mention the fact that technology itself has brought wonderful tools with it to create different and exciting new imagery with this medium.

If anything, we are witnessing a grand revival of the art. More photographs are created and sold today than ever before. The creative elite of every generation has always, by definition, sat ahead of the masses who followed. And make no mistake The Open Window Photography department is very much a part of that elite.

**Q: When do I need to purchase the equipment?**

A: You can plan your year according to the following:

	TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3	TERM
FIRST YEAR				
	Camera Tripod Grey card Cable release Workshop	Reflector board Printing Analogue Process Workshop	Printing Alternative Printing Workshop	Printing Workshop
SECOND YEAR				
	Flash with a flash trigger	Studio light/ location light		Portfolio Printing
THIRD YEAR				
	Studio light Weekend Trip Away	Fine Arts Photography module – material, darkroom rental and exhibition print and framing		Student exhibition printing and portfolio (personal project) printing
ONE YEAR PROGRAM				
	Camera Tripod Memory Card Reader Cable release	Reflector board Printing	Location light Flash and trigger	End of year portfolio: Printing Portfolio book