

PHOTOSHOP PROFESSIONAL

24-Class Student Course Structure

Course format	24 Classes Project Based Portfolio Driven
Primary software	Adobe Photoshop
Level	Beginner to Professional
Course approach	Learn by doing through source-listed practical projects

How the course is organised

The 24 classes from the source course outline are grouped into five larger modules for student learning and tracking. Each class keeps the original class topic and project name. Practical notes, project hours and evaluation criteria are defined from the listed learning topics so the document can be used as a student-facing course structure.

Module	Classes	Focus
MODULE 1	01-05	Photoshop Essentials
MODULE 2	06-10	Image Enhancement & Creative Effects
MODULE 3	11-15	Creative Design & Composition
MODULE 4	16-20	Social, Print & Production
MODULE 5	21-24	Professional Workflow & Portfolio

MODULE 1 - Photoshop Essentials

Module description: Build core Photoshop skills for documents, brushes, selections, typography and layer-based composition.

Learning objectives:

- Understand Photoshop workspace and document setup.
- Use core tools, layers, brushes, selections and typography.
- Create structured, editable PSD files.

01 Photoshop Fundamentals

Duration: 2 hours

Learning topics	• Interface & Workspace • New Document • Resolution, RGB vs CMYK • Layers & Basic Operations
Practical notes	Create a new file, set document dimensions and colour mode, and organise basic layers. Keep file naming and layer names clear.
Project	Creative Moodboard Create a simple visual moodboard using a new Photoshop document, organised layers and basic placement tools.
Estimated project hours	3 hours
Deliverables	New Photoshop file; organised layer structure; final moodboard image
Evaluation criteria	Correct document setup; organised layers; clean composition; final output matches the intended moodboard.

02 Brushes & Digital Painting

Duration: 2 hours

Learning topics	• Brush Types & Settings • Colour & Gradients • Custom Brushes • Brush Dynamics
Practical notes	Test brush settings before creating the artwork. Use brush opacity, size and colour deliberately rather than relying on random strokes.
Project	Digital Artwork Create a small digital artwork using selected brushes, colour and brush dynamics.
Estimated project hours	3 hours
Deliverables	Layered digital artwork; source PSD
Evaluation criteria	Brush control; colour handling; layer organisation; overall visual finish.

03 Selection & Cutouts

Duration: 2 hours

Learning topics	• Marquee, Lasso, Magic Wand • Object Selection • Refine Edge • Pen Tool Basics
Practical notes	Practice selecting clean edges on simple and detailed subjects. Use the appropriate selection method for the subject.
Project	E-commerce Product Prepare a clean product cutout suitable for an e-commerce creative.
Estimated project hours	2 hours
Deliverables	Cutout product image; PSD with editable selections/layers
Evaluation criteria	Selection accuracy; clean edges; non-destructive organisation; usable final cutout.

04 Advanced Selections		Duration: 2 hours
Learning topics	• Quick Selection • Channels • Refine Hair • Select & Mask	
Practical notes	Work carefully around fine details such as hair and transparent edges. Check selections against a contrasting background.	
Project	Travel Poster Create a travel poster composition using a refined subject selection.	
Estimated project hours	3 hours	
Deliverables	PSD poster; final JPG/PNG	
Evaluation criteria	Refined subject edges; good masking; balanced composition; correct output.	

05 Layers & Typography		Duration: 2 hours
Learning topics	• Layer Management • Type Tools • Type Pairing & Character	
Practical notes	Use readable type hierarchy and keep text layers editable. Organise the layer stack logically.	
Project	Luxury Advertisement Create a simple luxury-style advertisement using typography, imagery and a structured layer hierarchy.	
Estimated project hours	3 hours	
Deliverables	Editable PSD; final advertisement	
Evaluation criteria	Typography hierarchy; layer organisation; alignment; visual consistency.	

MODULE 2 - Image Enhancement & Creative Effects

Module description: Develop image correction, retouching, masking and effects skills for controlled image editing.

Learning objectives:

- Correct and enhance images using tonal and colour controls.
- Use retouching and masking techniques.
- Apply effects while maintaining editability.

06 Layer Styles & Blend Modes		Duration: 2 hours
Learning topics	• Blending Options • Effects (Shadow, Glow etc.) • Blend Modes • Advanced Effects	
Practical notes	Apply effects with restraint and keep important elements editable. Compare blend modes to understand their effect on imagery.	
Project	Gaming Poster Create a gaming poster using layer styles, blend modes and controlled visual effects.	
Estimated project hours	3 hours	
Deliverables	PSD poster; final JPG/PNG	
Evaluation criteria	Appropriate effect use; readable text; controlled blending; clean composition.	

07 Camera RAW		Duration: 2 hours
Learning topics	• Basic Adjustments • Tone, Color, Detail • Lens Corrections • Presets & Profiles	
Practical notes	Use corrections to improve the source image without over-processing it. Compare before and after versions.	
Project	Fashion Catalogue Prepare a fashion image for catalogue use using Camera RAW adjustments.	
Estimated project hours	2 hours	
Deliverables	Edited image; before/after reference	
Evaluation criteria	Balanced exposure and colour; suitable detail; natural correction; export quality.	

08 Colour Correction		Duration: 2 hours
Learning topics	• Curves & Levels • Hue & Saturation • Color Balance • Selective Color	
Practical notes	Adjust colour in controlled stages and check skin tones and neutral areas where applicable.	
Project	Color Correction Project Correct and balance colour on a supplied image using tonal and colour controls.	
Estimated project hours	2 hours	
Deliverables	Corrected image; layered PSD	
Evaluation criteria	Balanced tones; controlled saturation; accurate colour adjustments; clean output.	

09 Retouching Techniques		Duration: 2 hours
Learning topics	• Skin Retouching • Frequency Separation • Dodge & Burn • Beauty Retouch	
Practical notes	Retouch with a natural finish. Preserve important texture and avoid making the subject look artificial.	
Project	Magazine Cover Retouch a portrait suitable for a magazine cover.	
Estimated project hours	3 hours	
Deliverables	Retouched portrait; magazine-cover PSD	
Evaluation criteria	Natural retouching; preserved detail; consistent tones; clean final presentation.	

10 Advanced Masking		Duration: 2 hours
Learning topics	• Layer Masks • Clipping Masks • Channel Masks • Blend If	
Practical notes	Use masks instead of permanently deleting pixels wherever possible. Practise combining different masking methods for complex images.	
Project	Double Exposure Create a controlled double-exposure composition using masks and blending.	
Estimated project hours	3 hours	
Deliverables	Editable PSD; final composite	
Evaluation criteria	Mask accuracy; clean blending; editable structure; coherent visual result.	

MODULE 3 - Creative Design & Composition

Module description: Apply repair, manipulation, painting and poster-design techniques to create finished visual compositions.

Learning objectives:

- Combine images into coherent compositions.
- Use painting, layout, hierarchy and typography for creative outcomes.
- Create finished visual pieces for print and digital use.

11 Object Removal & Repair

Duration: 2 hours

Learning topics	• Clone Stamp • Healing Brush • Content Aware Fill • Remove Tool
Practical notes	Choose the repair method according to the image area. Check repeated patterns and edges for visible artefacts.
Project	Photo Restoration Repair and clean a supplied photograph using non-destructive correction methods where appropriate.
Estimated project hours	3 hours
Deliverables	Restored photo; before/after
Evaluation criteria	Clean repairs; minimal artefacts; preserved detail; consistent texture.

12 Filters & Creative Effects

Duration: 2 hours

Learning topics	• Smart Filters • Liquify • Blur Gallery • Distort & Stylize
Practical notes	Convert layers to smart objects when useful and keep filter settings editable. Use effects only where they support the intended visual.
Project	Fashion Poster Create a fashion poster using selected filters and creative effects.
Estimated project hours	3 hours
Deliverables	PSD poster; final export
Evaluation criteria	Controlled filter use; clear focal point; readable layout; polished output.

13 Photo Manipulation

Duration: 2 hours

Learning topics	• Image Compositing • Lighting & Shadows • Perspective & Warping • Advanced Composites
Practical notes	Match scale, lighting, colour and perspective when combining images. Build the composite in organised layers.
Project	Movie Poster Create a movie-poster style composite from multiple visual elements.
Estimated project hours	4 hours
Deliverables	Layered PSD; final poster
Evaluation criteria	Composite realism; lighting consistency; perspective; clean masking; visual storytelling.

14 Digital Painting		Duration: 2 hours
Learning topics	• Mixer Brush • Custom Brushes • Painting Techniques • Concept Art	
Practical notes	Use selected brushes and painting techniques to build form, colour and texture. Work in stages rather than overpainting everything at once.	
Project	Character Illustration Create a stylised character illustration using digital painting techniques.	
Estimated project hours	4 hours	
Deliverables	Layered illustration; final PNG/JPG	
Evaluation criteria	Brush handling; form and colour; character readability; clean final artwork.	

15 Poster Design		Duration: 2 hours
Learning topics	• Image & Color Composition • Visual Hierarchy • Typography • Color & Contrast	
Practical notes	Plan the hierarchy before placing elements. Ensure the headline, supporting information and imagery are clearly prioritised.	
Project	Advertising Poster Create an advertising poster with a clear visual hierarchy and controlled colour contrast.	
Estimated project hours	3 hours	
Deliverables	Editable poster PSD; final export	
Evaluation criteria	Hierarchy; typography; contrast; alignment; effective communication.	

MODULE 4 - Social, Print & Production

Module description: Create social and print outputs while building reusable workflows and preparing files for delivery.

Learning objectives:

- Adapt designs for social media and print.
- Use mockups and presentation boards to present work.
- Automate repetitive tasks and export files appropriately.

16 Social Media Design

Duration: 2 hours

Learning topics	• Post Design • Templates • Stories & Reels • Banners & Ads
Practical notes	Design to the intended social format and keep key content within safe areas. Create reusable visual consistency across variations.
Project	Social Media Campaign Create a small social media campaign with post, story and banner variations.
Estimated project hours	3 hours
Deliverables	Campaign set; editable PSD files
Evaluation criteria	Consistent brand treatment; format suitability; hierarchy; export quality.

17 Mockups & Presentations

Duration: 2 hours

Learning topics	• Product Mockups • Mockup Editing • Product Mockups • Presentation Boards
Practical notes	Place artwork accurately into mockups and maintain perspective, lighting and scale. Present work with supporting context.
Project	Brand Presentation Present selected brand work using mockups and a simple presentation board.
Estimated project hours	3 hours
Deliverables	Mockup files; presentation board
Evaluation criteria	Accurate placement; realistic perspective; clean presentation; consistent branding.

18 Print Design

Duration: 2 hours

Learning topics	• Brochures • Flyers • Packaging • Print Guidelines
Practical notes	Set up print layouts carefully and check dimensions, typography and image quality before export.
Project	Brochure Design Create a simple brochure layout prepared for print.
Estimated project hours	4 hours
Deliverables	Editable PSD; print-ready export
Evaluation criteria	Layout accuracy; readable typography; image quality; correct print preparation.

19 Automation & Productivity		Duration: 2 hours
Learning topics	• Actions • Batch Processing • Image Processor • Libraries	
Practical notes	Identify repetitive steps and convert them into a repeatable workflow where appropriate. Test automation on multiple files before final use.	
Project	Product Catalogue Prepare a set of product images or pages using repeatable Photoshop operations.	
Estimated project hours	3 hours	
Deliverables	Processed image set; action/library setup	
Evaluation criteria	Repeatability; consistent output; correct processing; organised workflow.	

20 Export & Delivery		Duration: 2 hours
Learning topics	• File Formats (PNG, JPG, TIFF) • Web Export • PDF Export • Print Settings	
Practical notes	Choose the output format based on the final use. Check dimensions, quality and file naming before delivery.	
Project	Delivery Package Prepare final web and print exports from a completed design.	
Estimated project hours	2 hours	
Deliverables	PNG/JPG/PDF or TIFF exports as applicable	
Evaluation criteria	Correct formats; appropriate quality; clean filenames; delivery-ready files.	

MODULE 5 - Professional Workflow & Portfolio

Module description: Apply a client-style workflow, complete a live project and prepare portfolio and career materials.

Learning objectives:

- Work from a brief through research and concept.
- Complete a client-style project and respond to feedback.
- Prepare portfolio and presentation materials for career use.

21 Agency Workflow

Duration: 2 hours

Learning topics	• Client Brief • Research • Moodboard • Plan & Strategy
Practical notes	Translate a brief into clear visual direction before designing. Document the brief, research and moodboard in a concise working format.
Project	Ad Campaign Project Develop a design direction for an advertising campaign from brief through planning.
Estimated project hours	4 hours
Deliverables	Brief summary; research notes; moodboard; campaign draft
Evaluation criteria	Brief understanding; relevant research; coherent concept; presentation clarity.

22 Live Client Project

Duration: 2 hours

Learning topics	• Concept to Completion
Practical notes	Follow the project from initial concept through revisions and final delivery. Keep feedback and revisions organised.
Project	Live Client Project Complete a practical client-style project from concept to final output.
Estimated project hours	6 hours
Deliverables	Final editable file; final exports; presentation copy
Evaluation criteria	Brief alignment; response to feedback; design quality; final delivery accuracy.

23 Portfolio Development

Duration: 2 hours

Learning topics	• Behance Setup • Case Studies • Resume Design • Online Presence
Practical notes	Select and organise strong work into a consistent portfolio. Write concise case-study context and keep the presentation focused on the work.
Project	Professional Portfolio Prepare selected Photoshop work for a professional portfolio and online presentation.
Estimated project hours	4 hours
Deliverables	Portfolio project pages; case-study text; resume layout
Evaluation criteria	Work selection; presentation consistency; clear case studies; professional formatting.

24 Career Readiness

Duration: 2 hours

Learning topics	• Freelancing • Pricing Projects • Client Communication • Interview Preparation
Practical notes	Practise communicating project scope, pricing considerations and project decisions. Prepare a concise portfolio-led introduction for interviews.
Project	Final Presentation Present the final portfolio and explain selected projects, process and outcomes.
Estimated project hours	3 hours
Deliverables	Final presentation; portfolio review checklist
Evaluation criteria	Clear communication; project explanation; portfolio readiness; professional presentation.

Course Completion Summary

The final portfolio should reflect the practical work completed across the 24 classes.

Core skill areas	Photoshop fundamentals, image enhancement, masking, retouching, compositing, creative effects, design, workflow and delivery.
Portfolio direction	Moodboards, digital artwork, product and fashion edits, posters, social media designs, print layouts, campaign work and a final portfolio.
Professional workflow	Brief -> Research -> Moodboard -> Plan -> Design -> Production -> Delivery -> Portfolio.
Career readiness	Freelancing, pricing projects, client communication and interview preparation.