The Scientific Photography program at RMIT University is one of only two undergraduate programs in the world that blend the science of photographic materials, equipment and processes with the art of photography to service an extremely wide range of industries. The program embraces new technologies in imaging and communications. It aims to produce graduates whose individual skills and goals are rewarded by the diversity of the marketplace. It is an academic program that embraces vocational skills.

With an international focus, the program supports student and staff exchanges to the United States, Europe and the UK. Many of our graduates are working around the world. It also encourages qualification upgrades and supports recognition of prior learning to enhance its research profile.

Local and Interstate Applicants

You must apply through VTAC. All Victorian applicants for the undergraduate Scientific Photography program must attend Information Day, Monday, 26 November 2007, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM in the Radio Theatre, RMIT City Campus, building 9, level 1. During that time, the specific nature of the program is explained in depth.

At the conclusion of the Information Day session, you may choose to arrange an interview time. Interstate and country applicants are given preference for the earlier interview times (usually on the same day). The interview times run Monday through Wednesday.

If you have not already received a Prospective Student Information Sheet you will be given one to complete. This form must be given to the interview panel at or before your interview. Please note that a photograph is requested (passport or wallet size is recommended). It is to your advantage to come to the interview properly prepared with the form completely filled out and a photograph attached.

Interviews may not be arranged for applicants who do not attend Information Day (except for interstate and international applicants who have made prior alternative arrangements).

Entrance into the program is on the basis of interview and academic performance.
Overseas applicants

Because of the expense and logistics encountered by international applicants living overseas, attendance on Information Day is not mandatory. International applicants living in Australia, however, should attend.

International, overseas applicants will be required to make a written statement with respect to the selection criteria as outlined in Selection Criteria - The Interview. Before an application can be considered, this information must attached to the official RMIT International Application Form.

International applicants currently studying the VCE must apply through the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC), 40 Park Street, South Melbourne 3205. VTAC Infoline 1902 241 114. In addition, international VCE students should contact RMIT International to register their interest or sent via email to sciphoto.selection@rmit.edu.au.

Choice of a program is a serious and expensive decision. Select a program with your future in mind.

Selection Criteria - The Interview

There are three general areas that will be discussed during the interview. For overseas applicants, a written statement addressing the points must accompany the official RMIT University international application form.

1. You must demonstrate your potential to successfully pass tertiary level science courses.
   (It is recommended that you bring evidence of academic results). Questions you should address are: Do I have a background in science? What is my interest in science and technology? Does my academic record support this point?
   Note: We have taken students who have had little or no science background. You must still, however, demonstrate you have the ability to pass tertiary science.

2. You must demonstrate a knowledge of the industry.
   What is your perception of industrial, scientific and technical photography? Why do you want to do this program rather than more traditional photography programs such as fine art or commercial/wedding/portrait? What books or photographers have inspired you to enquire into scientific photography? What are your vocational goals?
3. **You must demonstrate enthusiasm and dedication to complete a tertiary degree in scientific photography.**

Questions you should address are: What have I been doing recently to prepare myself for this type of work? Why spend the next three years studying at university - why not start work now? Have I looked at TAFE/VET or short courses? What are my professional goals?

Additional selection considerations include your general academic results, prior tertiary experience, work experience, and other supporting information. You will be invited to show the panel any other documentation that may influence the panel to select you. This may be a sample of photographs or art work, academic records, letters of recommendation, work experience reports, etc.

Recent high school graduates may find some points a bit intimidating, however, the panel will consider the overall experience of the applicant. The majority of the intake comes from recent high school graduates. It is highly recommended that you discuss this information sheet with your careers advisor to better prepare yourself for the interview.

Each applicant is rated on an overall 10 point scale by each panel member. An average is calculated and an initial rank order for offers is determined. Academic results may subsequently be used to re-rank applicants. If any further information on the applicant is available, it will be considered and may change the order of ranking.

Come prepared. Be on time. This is your only chance to convince the panel you are the type of applicant we are seeking!

**The Interview Panel**

The interview panel is comprised of at least three people and may include the Program Leader, academic staff, industry representatives, post-graduate students and recent graduates. The panel is concerned with choosing the right person for the program, but also with making sure the program is right for the applicant. Discussions revolving around the selection criteria will be the main purpose of the interview, however, the applicant will have time to ‘sell’ themselves to the panel.

Fifteen minutes is allotted for the interview. Be prompt - be early. Have your information sheet completely filled out and ready to hand to the panel if it has not already been mailed to us. If you need to cancel or change your appointment, please call the office at (03) 9925-2502.
Other Points of Information

Portfolios are not Mandatory

Our students come from varied backgrounds. We have a notable percentage of students with previous tertiary experience (many having qualifications), but most of our intake are recent high school graduates. An exhibited knowledge or previous experience in photography is not a prerequisite for entry into the program. Many of our students have had little or no previous photography experience. Many of them have gone on to be leaders in their field and won awards for photographic excellence while in the program. The B.Sc. Scientific Photography program will begin with the basics. Even those who have had various levels of experience will learn many new things and be challenged by new applications and depth of knowledge.

Academic Results are Important

Although there is no specific cut off point for the Equivalent National Tertiary Entrance Rank (ENTER) score, it is considered along with other information. The program is rigorous and a solid academic background is important. Proven success in science subjects is considered an advantage.

Selection is Non-discriminatory

The Scientific Photography program follows closely the University’s policy of non-discrimination. Motivation and dedication is a strong indicator for success. Mature age students are strongly encouraged to apply.

Articulation

Students who have completed a certificate or diploma from an accredited TAFE or VET institution teaching photography may be eligible for exemptions or advanced standing. You must contact the Scientific Photography Program Leader for further information.

Articulation is encouraged. Check with your Program Leader to determine if there is an articulation agreement between your school/institution and the RMIT Scientific Photography program.
Recognition of Prior Learning
In some cases, applicants who have worked extensively in the professional photographic industry may be eligible for exemptions toward the degree of Bachelor of Science in Scientific Photography. You must contact the Scientific Photography Program Leader for further information.

Exemptions for Previous Tertiary Study

Students who have successfully completed courses at RMIT University or other higher education institutions may receive exemptions for electives, core or science courses. These exemptions are applied towards the requirements for the award of B.Sc. Scientific Photography and reduce the overall student load of courses.

Please note that a student is not obliged to apply for exemptions.

Important Dates:
Information Day, Monday, 26 November 2007, 10:00 AM, RMIT City Campus.

RMIT Open Day is Sunday, August 13, 2007. The Scientific Photography Office is located on the City Campus, building 5, level 2. Staff, students and industry representatives will be present to answer any questions.

For further information, contact Mr. Phred Petersen:

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Web: www.rmit.edu.au/sciphoto

VTAC Codes: (undergraduate)
Photography (Bachelor of Science in Scientific Photography)
32351 (HECS)
32352 (Full Fee)
32353 (International Fee)

Note: Please read the 2008 VTAC Guide and follow the instructions for lodging an application.

Web site: www.rmit.edu.au/sciphoto