



Regional BIU Admission Center : IIP Academy, B7, Sector 2, Noida 201301 | 98711 20402

ONE-YEAR ONLINE PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMA IN PHOTOGRAPHY (OPDP)

Interactive Programme

Aligned with National Education Policy (NEP) 2020

Programme Duration: One Year

Programme Structure: Four Trimesters

Mode of Delivery: Online Interactive Learning

Pedagogy: 80% Practical and Project-Based Learning

Teaching Mode: Live Online Classes, One-to-One Mentorship, Online Critique and Portfolio Reviews

PROGRAMME PHILOSOPHY

The One-Year Online Professional Diploma in Photography (OPDP) is designed for aspiring photographers who wish to transform their passion into a profession while learning from anywhere in the world. The programme combines technical proficiency, artistic development, critical thinking, and entrepreneurial skills through a highly interactive online learning environment.

The programme is based on the philosophy that photography is not merely the process of operating a camera but an expressive visual language that enables individuals to communicate ideas, emotions, and social concerns.

The curriculum emphasizes:

- Visual literacy and aesthetic understanding
- Technical mastery of camera systems
- Practical assignments and critique-based learning
- Creative expression and visual storytelling
- Professional portfolio development



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- Industry preparedness and entrepreneurship

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

The programme aims to:

1. Develop a strong foundation in photography and visual communication.
2. Build technical proficiency in digital photography and image processing.
3. Introduce students to the historical, philosophical, and contemporary aspects of photography.
4. Develop storytelling and conceptual thinking abilities.
5. Provide exposure to various genres and specializations of photography.
6. Equip students with professional and entrepreneurial competencies.
7. Enable students to create industry-ready portfolios.

PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the programme, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate proficiency in DSLR and mirrorless camera operations.
- Apply principles of exposure, composition, and lighting creatively.
- Understand photography as an artistic, cultural, and social medium.
- Analyze and critique photographs from historical and contemporary perspectives.
- Execute assignments in different genres of photography.
- Edit and process images using professional software.
- Develop personal projects and professional portfolios.
- Understand marketing, branding, and commercial practices in photography.

PEDAGOGICAL APPROACH

The programme follows the principles of NEP 2020 through:

- Flexible and technology-enabled learning
- Experiential and project-based pedagogy
- One-to-one mentoring



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- Reflective and self-directed learning
- Continuous assessment and portfolio development
- Skill enhancement and entrepreneurship education

PROGRAMME FEATURES

- Weekly Live Interactive Classes
- One-on-One Mentorship
- Monthly Online Discussions and Reviews
- Assignment-Based Learning
- Portfolio Critique Sessions
- Live/Recorded Workshops
- Documentary and Film Screenings
- Online Community through IIPian Dashboard
- Participation in Online and Offline Exhibitions
- Updates on National and International Photography Competitions
- Guidance on Selling Photographs and Freelancing Opportunities

TRIMESTER I

Foundations of Photography

Course 1: Introduction to Photography and Visual Studies

Units

Unit I: History of Photography

- Evolution of Photography
- Early Photographic Processes
- Development of Photography as an Art Form

Unit II: Philosophy of Photography

- Photography and Reality
- Photography as Expression
- Photography and Society



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Unit III: Contemporary Photography

- Contemporary Practices
- New Media and Digital Photography

Unit IV: Understanding Images

- Visual Literacy
- Reading and Interpretation of Photographs

Unit V: Important Photographers and Their Work

- Ansel Adams
- Henri Cartier-Bresson
- Steve McCurry
- Raghu Rai
- Sebastião Salgado
- Annie Leibovitz

Course 2: Camera Controls and Creativity

Units

- Camera Anatomy and Functions
- DSLR and Mirrorless Systems
- Exposure Triangle
- Aperture, Shutter Speed and ISO
- White Balance and Metering
- Focusing Systems
- File Formats and Workflow

Course 3: Fundamentals of Composition

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- Elements of Design



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- Rule of Thirds
- Framing and Perspective
- Colour Theory
- Balance and Symmetry
- Storytelling Through Images

Practical Assignments

- Camera handling exercises
- Exposure studies
- Composition assignments
- Visual diary
- Weekly image submissions

Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- Understand the fundamentals of photography.
- Develop technical proficiency in camera operations.
- Learn to analyze and appreciate visual imagery.

TRIMESTER II

Advanced Photography and Storytelling

Course 4: Language of Photography and Visual Narratives

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- Understanding Visual Aesthetics
- Visual Literacy
- Reading and Reviewing Photographs



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- Photography and Social Context
- Visual Storytelling
- Photography and Expressionism

Course 5: Street and Documentary Photography

Units

- Street Photography
- Human Interest Stories
- Documentary Approaches
- Ethics in Photography
- Environmental Reading and Observation
- Building Visual Narratives

Course 6: Night and Long Exposure Photography

Units

- Understanding Low Light Photography
- Long Exposure Techniques
- Creative Use of Light
- Motion and Time in Photography
- Astrophotography Basics

Practical Assignments

- Documentary project
- Street photography assignments
- Photo essay
- Long exposure project

Learning Outcomes



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Students will:

- Understand photography as a visual language.
- Develop storytelling abilities.
- Execute projects in documentary and street photography.

TRIMESTER III

Genres and Specializations

Course 7: Portrait and Lighting Techniques

Units

- Principles of Portraiture
- Natural and Artificial Light
- Basic Studio Lighting
- Environmental Portraits
- Creative Portrait Techniques

Course 8: Specialized Photography Practices

Units

Travel Photography

- Visual narratives and culture

Wildlife Photography

- Ethics and conservation

Landscape Photography

- Light and composition

Interior and Architecture Photography



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- Space and perspective

Fashion Photography

- Styling and editorial approaches

Food Photography

- Composition and commercial applications

Fine Art Photography

- Conceptual approaches and experimentation

Course 9: Editing and Post Production

Units

- Adobe Lightroom Workflow
- Adobe Photoshop Basics
- RAW Processing
- Colour Correction
- Retouching
- Digital Asset Management

Practical Assignments

- Genre-based projects
- Editing exercises
- Mid-term portfolio review

Learning Outcomes

Students will:



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- Understand various professional photography genres.
- Develop technical and creative specialization skills.
- Build an initial professional portfolio.

TRIMESTER IV

Professional Practice and Portfolio Development

Course 10: Photography Business and Marketing

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- Personal Branding
- Building an Online Presence
- Social Media Marketing
- Freelancing and Pricing
- Copyright and Licensing
- Selling Photographs
- Entrepreneurship in Photography

Course 11: Professional Portfolio Development

Units

- Portfolio Editing and Sequencing
- Artist Statement Writing
- Presentation Techniques
- Print and Digital Portfolios
- Website and Social Media Portfolios

Course 12: Final Project and Specialization

Students may choose one specialization:

- Documentary Photography



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- Fine Art Photography
- Fashion Photography
- Portrait Photography
- Wildlife Photography
- Travel Photography
- Food Photography
- Architecture Photography

Final Deliverables

- Final Project Submission
- Artist Statement
- Professional Portfolio
- Digital Presentation
- Online Portfolio Exhibition

PRACTICAL COMPONENTS THROUGHOUT THE PROGRAMME

- Weekly Assignments
- Online Critique Sessions
- Project-Based Learning
- Photo Essays
- Documentary Projects
- Portfolio Reviews
- Individual Mentoring Sessions
- Self-Assessment and Reflection

VALUE-ADDED COMPONENTS

IIPian Global Dashboard

A dedicated online platform to:

- Connect with fellow learners globally
- Share projects and feedback
- Participate in discussions and exhibitions



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Additional Learning Opportunities

- Online and Offline Photography Exhibitions
- National and International Photography Contest Updates
- Live and Recorded Workshops
- Motivational Talks by Photographers
- Documentary and Film Screenings
- Professional Guidance on Selling Photographs

ASSESSMENT SCHEME

Component	Weightage
Practical Assignments	40%
Project Work	20%
Online Participation and Critique	10%
Portfolio Development	20%
Final Project and Viva Voce	10%

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

- Weekly Live Online Lectures
- One-to-One Mentorship (only Saturdays)
- Peer Learning and Discussions
- Assignment-Based Learning
- Project-Based Learning
- Portfolio Critiques
- Reflective Learning Practices

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Upon successful completion of the programme, learners may pursue careers as:



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- Professional Photographer
 - Freelance Photographer
 - Documentary Photographer
 - Travel Photographer
 - Fashion Photographer
 - Portrait Photographer
 - Photo Editor
 - Content Creator
 - Visual Storyteller
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- Photography Educator
 - Social Media Content Producer
 - Photography Entrepreneur

PROGRAMME OUTCOME OF OPDP

The programme seeks to develop photographers who possess:

- Technical mastery and artistic sensitivity.
- Visual literacy and critical thinking abilities.
- Understanding of photography as a social and cultural practice.
- Entrepreneurial and professional competencies.
- A distinctive photographic voice and industry-ready portfolio.

The Online Professional Diploma in Photography aims not only to teach the mechanics of photography but also to nurture individuality, creativity, and a lifelong engagement with the art and profession of image-making.