

Adjusting Your Images

Selecting your work:

Whenever you are sending your work, it is not necessary to send in every photograph you have shot. Choose the best image of each work, with some close-ups to reveal details. Remember, you need to select images which best represent your work. Editing is an important skill to master. A good guide is to select a maximum of 15-20 images if you are presenting a range of photography for your tutor or a prospective gallery show. If you send in everything you have shot, this may convey the impression that you don't know if your work is any good and you are relying on others to do your quality control for you.

Adjusting the brightness and contrast:

Your camera meter reads the scene through the lens and will average out the tones to a mid-grey. Few cameras are clever enough to recognise that a black object should be dark in a photograph or that a really white object should stay white. That is why photographs of snow scenes frequently look dull and grey. If you are shooting a white piece of paper it may come out looking a muddy grey. You can tweak things using a computer but be careful as even Photoshop cannot rescue a bad photograph. If an image is very dark or very bright you may need to take it again. **DO NOT ADJUST THE CONTRAST SO MUCH THAT IT BLOWS OUT THE HIGHLIGHTS OR SHADOWS.** It is important to see all of your work; remember this photograph needs to be a good representation of your image.

If you are using a PC:

1. Right-click on the file and in the menu, go to **Open with\Microsoft Photo Editor**.
2. Click on the yellow sun icon along the top menu bar. Or go to the Image menu and choose **Balance**.
3. Make the image lighter by sliding the top slider to the right. Give it more contrast by sliding the middle slider to the right. Adjust these two in relation to each other – if you add more contrast after lightening the image, you may have to darken it again slightly to stop the highlights 'blowing out'. In other words, you will lose details in the highlighted areas of your image.

Microsoft's website has tutorials that cover the image editing software which comes with your PC if you don't have Photo Editor. Just go to Microsoft's website and look under the version of windows your computer is running.

<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/products/default.aspx>

If you are using a Mac:

You will probably have a programme called Apple iPhoto installed. This programme has a good 'help menu' in it which links to Apple's website. On the Apple website you will find video tutorials that cover how to adjust your images and resize them for e-mailing.

<http://www.apple.com/ilife/tutorials/#iphoto>

NB: There are many types of image editing software. All will have brightness and contrast adjustments in them. Unfortunately we can't include instructions for all of them, but most will have some kind of 'help menu' you can search in.

Examples of good photo editing software include.

Photoshop - <https://www.photoshop.com/>

Corel Paintshop Photo - <http://www.corel.com/>

Gimp - <http://www.gimp.org/>