

# MENTORING



**PHOTOGRAPHY  
STUDIES COLLEGE**

There are many ways to improve your photography, and one choice we offer for those who wish for individualised assistance, is working with a mentor. A mentorship is where a professional photographer exchanges his or her own knowledge with you, including the lessons they have learnt first-hand through their own successful career. Mentoring is a collaboration between a mentor, who possesses skills, knowledge and experience in a given area and a mentee, who is looking to increase his or her skills, knowledge and experience. The mentor and mentee work together to determine the goals of the partnership and strategise how those goals will be achieved.

Key elements: improving performance, encouraging and sharing knowledge, professional feed-back. The mentor can:

- assist the learner to clarify their goals;
- lead the learner to reflect on their experience and draw out learning;
- support thinking and experimenting with new ways of working;
- help the learner to gain insight into their own processes;
- share his or her experience to help the learner develop their practice;
- support the learner's career development, and
- act as a critical friend.

The role of critical friend is one of the most important mentoring roles. It requires the mentor to listen, encourage, draw out, reflect back and challenge assumptions, and, if necessary, provide critical feedback on ideas, plans and work being developed.

The learner can:

- benefit from someone else's vision, experience and expertise;
- develop skills & knowledge;
- clarify career direction;
- explore new ways to practise;
- increase professional confidence;
- receive planning assistance;
- gain help solving problems, and
- have access to a skilled and focused person to bounce ideas off.

Mentoring is multi-dimensional and involves more than learning a new process or concept. It is a personal enhancement strategy through which one person shares knowledge, skills, information and perspectives to foster another's professional growth.

Acquiring a photography mentor will give you the opportunity to learn from the best.



Photograph by Michael Coyne

<b>PSC.EDU.AU</b>	<b>+61 3 9682 3191</b>	<b>study@psc.edu.au</b>
	Photography Studies College (Melbourne) 37-47 Thistlethwaite Street South Melbourne 3205	Photography Studies College (Melbourne) is a division of Photography Holdings Pty. Ltd. ACN 005 525 306   ABN 58 860 041 097 CRICOS Provider No 00257G   TEQSA Provider No 12200   RTO Code 0111