

BACD Accreditation

Recommended Camera Systems For Accreditation Photography

General advice

The following recommendations are based on what the Accreditation examiners use in their practices. If you are new to clinical photography we would strongly recommend that you come to an Accreditation workshop to understand the required photographic views for case submission and what the examiners are looking for in each case type.

Don't try to save money by getting something that is cheap but hard to get the right photos on. These photos will be the only way that we can judge your work and if we cannot evaluate the work done due to poor quality photos the case will not pass.

We do not recommend any form of LED-based 'flash' other forms of continuous output light source – these simply do not give out enough light to correctly expose the shot at the necessary depth of field. Blurred or underexposed photos cannot be evaluated.

Do not try to use a zoom lens with a 'macro' capability – it will not produce suitable images for Case Submission, no matter what the person in the camera shop might tell you. You need a dedicated macro lens such as the ones listed below.

Camera system requirements:

1. Camera setup must be capable of taking the required views
2. Lens must be capable of producing 1:1 equivalent view
3. Manual focusing capability strongly recommended
4. Camera must be relatively simple to use in order to acquire these views correctly focused and exposed
5. Camera must support the taking of RAW format files. For convenience simultaneous capture of RAW & JPEG is strongly recommended

Canon – current models

EOS 1000D (Rebel XS)

EOS 450D (Rebel XSi)

EOS 500D (Rebel T1i)

EOS 50D

EOS 5D (Mk I or II) is a good camera but probably overkill unless photography is a major hobby!

Older models, no longer in production that are also suitable:

EOS 300D (Rebel)

EOS 350D (Rebel XT)

EOS 400D (Rebel XTi)

EOS 40D

EOS 30D

EOS 20D

Not recommended as they do not support simultaneous RAW and jpeg capture:

EOS 10D (c. 2003 model)

EOS 60D (c. 2002 model)

EOS D30 (c. 2001 model)

Lenses

Canon 100mm f 2.8 macro lens

Sigma 105mm f 2.8 macro lens

Note that the Canon EF-S 60mm macro lens is not recommended. This is because proximity to the subject makes it very easy to overexpose the shot, especially with the entry level cameras it is designed to work with.

Flashes

Canon MR14 EX ring flash

Sigma EM140 DG ring flash

In general we suggest Canon lens and ring flash or Sigma lens and ring flash as the respective flashes are designed to fit onto the lenses without the need to an additional adaptor.

The Canon MT24EX Macro twin light is a very good “second” flash to take more “artistic” photographs in the mouth, but for convenience a ring flash is better as the primary flash. Use of this unit is greatly enhanced by an additional flash bracket which allows easy repositioning of the flash elements.

For case submission purposes this level of sophistication is not necessary, so we recommend toe ring flash to all but the most experienced of users.

Nikon – current models

D60

D90

D5000

D300

Older models, no longer in production that are also suitable:

D80s

D200

Not recommended as they do not support simultaneous RAW and jpeg capture:

D70s

D100

Lenses

Nikkor 105mm macro lens

Micro-Nikkor 105mm AF-S VR lens

Sigma 105mm macro lens

Flashes

Sigma EM140DG ring flash

The Sigma flash will work well with either the Sigma or the Canon lens.

Nikon’s R1C1 macro flash (2 flash heads and hot shoe controller) is a more sophisticated flash unit, which also needs an additional flash bracket to use it to its full potential. For convenience we would recommend the Sigma flash to all but the most experienced users.

Like with the Canon MR24 EX, this level of sophistication is not necessary for case submission purposes.

Not recommended:

Nikon SB29a ring flash

The SB29a does not support TTL flash metering, so we strongly recommend the R1C1 unit for overall ease of use.

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