Tips for taking great photos

Whether you’re taking a selfie or have camera help from a friend, please follow these guidelines to boost the success of your photo and keep the focus on your visual storytelling:

1. Make sure your camera or your phone setting is for the highest-quality image (high resolution/high pixels). Low-quality files will result in pixelated photos that we probably won’t be able to use. Turn off the date/time stamp so it doesn’t appear in the photo frame.

2. Choose items around you to help to tell the story of where you are and what you’re doing, such as iconic features, historic architecture, distinctive landscapes or interesting lab equipment. Be sure nothing “grows” out of anyone’s head in the background.

3. Do wear Rowan gear or apparel appropriate for your work or study and avoid logos from other schools or brands. Avoid things that distract from the main visual message and can date the photo or tie it to another topic in the story.

4. Shoot horizontally, with plenty of room to capture a good view of you if you’re alone, or to identify you easily if you’re in a group. Include props, equipment, etc., that help tell the story and frame the photo’s subject.

5. When taking group photos, shoot multiple frames to provide more options. The more people in the shot, the harder it will be to get everyone properly posed. Avoid distracting background elements and/or individuals who are separate from the group. Remove sunglasses so everyone’s face and eyes are visible.

6. Send the original high-resolution photos directly to your Rowan contact. Don’t downsize or optimize for e-mail or add any photo filters. While some cell phones shoot images in the HEIC format, high-res JPEG images are best.