Budding photographer and looking for somewhere to showcase your work and get feedback? 500px is the social network for you.

500px is a photographic community that ranks photographs with community voting and editor's picks.

Although the website has all the usual bits and pieces one has come to expect from social networking sites, everything about it is geared solidly towards the aspiring photographer. The simple grey layout enhances the crispness of the pictures which are given ample room to shine. Your work is not displayed to everyone – people have to be registered members of the site to view anything, except for the most popular or editor's choice pictures and even then, feedback is only open to registered members.

Once you sign up, you are given a profile page like on any other social network. You can follow photographers you like, and see their latest updates on your profile and on the "friends" page. Other users can add your work to a list of favourites or like it. You collect both "favourites" and "affection" on your profile, so that viewers can easily see how popular you are on the site as soon as they visit your page.

The functions of the site are intuitive and familiar: you have a wall, a blog, a portfolio of pictures you've uploaded and are able to comment on others postings. Again, some of the functions are tailored specifically for the budding photographer. Under your profile you can list the cameras, lenses and other equipment you use.

Users familiar with other creative social networks like DeviantArt will find the upload process familiar and simple: upload the picture, add a title, description and tags to it and then place it in a category. Photos you upload can have a maximum file size of 30MB - larger than most other social networking sites. The trade-off is that you may only upload 20 photos a week and up to 10 photos at a time - the site tries to ensure you only upload your very

best work. If you're serious about the site, you can, however, sign up for an "Awesome" account that takes away those limitations. It also unlocks photo portfolio designs, buys you custom domain support, and lets you see viewer stats.

The best thing about 500px is its simplicity – finding what to do, how to do it and why couldn't be easier. The design is elegant but streamlined. It very clearly aims to be a facilitator of communication and relationship-building rather than a point of interest in and of itself, which is possibly why it's so popular.

While we could not find any user stats on the site – the 120 876 likes on the Facebook page has to stand for something.

Website:
www.500px.com