

NTU Global Summer School Course Description

Fashion Knitwear Summer School

Credit Points: 15 (7.5 ECTS)

Duration: 16 days

This course is suitable for anyone who has completed at least the first year of an undergraduate course in fashion or textiles, or has the relevant professional experience. You should also have the required [English language skills](#).

Overview and aims

This practical course combines the two interconnected disciplines of fashion and textiles through the medium of knitted fabric design. Participants should be interested in creating the knitted fabric and exploring its potential within a fashion garment. You will experience industry-level resources, explore design processes, extend your portfolio and create some amazing new work.

And all this takes place in the centre of Nottingham, a city made famous for its textile and fashion heritage.

Nottingham Trent University has one of the most famous fashion knitwear departments of all UK universities, with a team of expert tutors and specialist technicians that work with students and industry on innovative and creative projects. In summer you too can immerse yourself in our fashion knitwear world. During this course you will learn about and experiment with:

- knitted fabric design;
- fashion knitwear trend research;
- yarn and material awareness;
- knitted garment construction techniques; and
- digital knit workshops.

You will also see the future of smart knitted textile technology.

The projects will enhance your knowledge of garment specification and terminology, enabling you to understand the potential in taking a piece from concept to manufacture.

Supporting your studio work will be tours around the city and the region to better understand our textile history. You will see the unique Lace Archive, visit textile museums, take inspiration from galleries and visit manufacturers to help put your work in a historical and global context. There will be a visit to London on one Saturday, with a trip to the Victoria and Albert Museum and other key museums used by fashion knitwear students for generating ideas. These trips are included in the course fees.

By the end of the course you will have:

- the expertise to produce samples and swatches that you can develop in the future;
- innovative, contemporary work for your portfolio;
- new technical knowledge in knitted garment construction; and
- a new network of knit practitioners.

This course is ideal for anyone who has completed at least one year of an undergraduate course in textile design, fashion or knitwear, professionals looking for new inspiration for their next collection, and teachers and technicians looking for ways to engage in knit design and technology.

Indicative reading

These books can be useful before the course, and after the course for future projects:

Aldrich, W. 2004. Metric pattern cutting. Oxford: Blackwell

Spencer, D.J. 2001. Knitting Technology: a comprehensive handbook and practical guide. SL: Pergamon

Tatham, C & Seaman, S. 2003. Fashion design drawing course: principles, practice and techniques. London: Thames Hudson

The following weblinks can give you some useful insights into trends in knitwear today:

<http://www.paulsmith.co.uk/uk-en/shop/womens/knitwear>

<http://www.paulsmith.co.uk/uk-en/shop/mens/knitwear>

<http://www.tate.org.uk/whats-on/tate-modern/exhibition/georgia-okeeffe>

<http://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/sustainable-fashion-blog/2015/jan/14/10-things-learned-zero-waste-fashion-industry>

<https://hollymcquillan.com/>

Learning outcomes

After studying this course you should be able to:

- Locate and describe research sources that have informed your creative development;
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of fashion knitwear design technologies and manufacturing by applying them to your work;
- Gather information of the wider cultural influences within design and define within your work;
- Test and evaluate materials and technical processes within your work;
- Describe how you make decisions about progressing your creative work;
- Support creative idea generation in 2D and 3D within your work;
- Select and apply appropriate materials and processes to realise design outcomes;
- Describe sources of information that have influenced your design concepts; and
- Communicate ideas verbally and visually.

Teaching and learning

This course will be taught via:

- Lectures and project briefings
- Technical demonstrations
- Knitting and manufacturing workshops
- Studio and IT workshops
- Project work
- Individual and group presentations
- Study visits to London and to local knitwear manufacturers

Total contact hours: 75

In addition to the contact hours you should expect to spend no more than five hours before and during the course on preparation and reading.

Assessment methods

100% coursework. This will be illustrations, samples and a knitted garment(s) either finished or in development.

Final assessment

You will receive a pass/fail mark for the course. Written feedback from your tutor will identify strengths evident in the body of work and include some pointers on what to focus on to improve your future work.

www.ntu.ac.uk/globalsummer