

## Nottingham Trent University Course Specification

### Basic Course Information

|    |                                               |                                       |
|----|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. | Awarding Institution:                         | Nottingham Trent University           |
| 2. | School/Campus:                                | School of Art & Design                |
| 3. | Final Award, Course Title and Modes of Study: | BA (Hons) Textile Design<br>Full Time |
| 4. | Normal Duration:                              | 3 years                               |
| 5. | UCAS Code:                                    | W221                                  |

### 6. Overview and general educational aims of the course

The textile design industry represents a complex set of global businesses from the production of raw materials into yarn, fabric construction through knitted or woven means, or dyeing of plain fabrics and yarns, to textile finishing, creative design and manufacturing and production into saleable products, retail and sales. Textile design can be part of highly industrialised processes or can be localised and hand produced products. Textile designers generally work within the creative aspects of the industry in print, embroidery, weave and knit. The industry context includes fashion, accessories, interiors, contract furnishings or becoming an independent designer/maker. The Textile Design course has therefore evolved to ensure that we deliver the complete education and development of individual, creative designers and practitioners who are able to further contribute and develop careers as practitioners.

The course offers you the opportunity to explore the role of the textile designer, by questioning and reflecting upon approaches to design, relevant technologies and materials. Throughout the course, you are presented with opportunities to investigate fashion, interiors or textile art contexts through a combination of practical and theoretical learning experiences. The course encourages you to question your understanding of creativity and innovation in terms of an approach to:

- Visual language
- Surface and structural material approaches
- Traditional and new technologies
- Design responsibility

The four core specialist areas offered by the course are embroidery, print, weave and knit. In the first year, you will undertake a diverse and challenging range of practical investigations within these areas and will be introduced to a number of hand and digital technologies leading into selected pathways.

In Year 2, there are options to transfer onto the BA (Hons) Fashion Knitwear Design and Knitted Textiles or BA (Hons) Fashion Accessory Design courses. On the textile course, at the start of Year 2, you will develop in-depth textile design skills and knowledge through studio and technical workshops in your selected specialist area of embroidery, print, weave or knit. After this foundational period, it is possible to develop flexible, multi-disciplinary approaches through engagement with minor workshops, digital and multi-media approaches.

This depth of knowledge and understanding underpins your ability to explore and resolve creative design projects, enabling you to emerge from the course with a personal design identity. Design thinking should be viewed through the wider context, whether contemporary, historical or theoretical, informing and impacting upon design decision-making; sustainability; market forces; consumer information. Technical skills are vital to developing design solutions, as is understanding that technologies shape production within local and global contexts. The enhancement of transferable skills, which include effective communication, organisational and negotiating skills as well as strategic career planning, is core to your progression through the course.

The 'big ideas' of history and theory in 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century design, visual and material culture is explored and integrated with your practice at all levels through the Design, Culture and Context (DCC) modules. These modules will encourage you, through a series of tasks, which test your research, presentation and written skills, to be socially, culturally and environmentally aware when making decisions in theory and practice. This critical reflection of your own work and the work/ideas of others will enable you to cultivate your own design philosophy and help you to recognise your future potential as a creative practitioner within a local and/or global

context. These modules will develop your transferable and employability skills through research, analysis, idea development and the communication of ideas.

In Year 3 (final year) you will extend and enhance the acquisition of technical and creative thinking skills, necessary for the development of a focused portfolio to support entry to the textile industry and related areas of employment or post-graduate progression, through a series of negotiated projects.

During your time on the course, you are encouraged to undertake informal work experience placements during vacation periods, or with negotiation, up to two weeks within term time, with fashion, textile and related creative design companies or as volunteers within educational or community contexts. The use of reflective and projective tutorials to consider personal development planning throughout the course further supports this engagement with external bodies. The course presents regular opportunities to participate in external competitions, industry-linked/live projects and national/international trips. Students are also supported in overseas exchange programmes through ERASMUS.

### **Summary of Course Aims**

You are encouraged to see the journey through the course in terms of:

Enabling you to acquire the knowledge, understanding and technical skills to engage professionally and successfully within the textile and fashion industries. In support of this aim, the course promotes the research and analysis of visual/contextual/technical information to enable the formation of independent opinions/judgements and actions.

#### Other key aims include:

The nurturing of creative thinking and visioning to enable you to initiate and negotiate projects and present ideas through a range of visual media. The ability to develop and articulate reasoned arguments through critical analysis, reflection and evaluation. The development of knowledge of the textile and fashion industries and the ability to contextualise design within international, visual, social, economic and contextual (contemporary,

historical or theoretical) frameworks. The development of necessary transferable skills to undertake problem solving, independent learning and decision-making to continue lifelong learning and professional development, including progression to post-graduate study.

**Special features of the course include:**

- To study four textile specialisms - print, embroidery, weave and knit, selecting an area for deeper study at the end of Year 1.
- Opportunities to explore experimental approaches in digital or multi-media textiles across the course.
- Opportunities to engage with emerging multi-disciplinary approaches, selecting from a series of minor workshops.
- Gain an additional 'Sustainability in Practice' award relating to your design module work.
- Experience of live projects with industry in Years 2 and 3 with a focus upon professional practice.
- Participation in competitions through collaboration with visiting professionals, brands, organisations and professional bodies from textile and fashion industries.
- There is an opportunity to negotiate the balance of theory and practice in the final year and develop your research project into a publishable or exhibit-able outcome with career relevance.
- An option for those who become clearly focused upon specific design contexts or applications to transfer to BA (Hons) Fashion Knitwear Design and Knitted Textiles or BA (Hons) Fashion Accessory Design in Year 2.
- An option for those who become interested in exploring the wider textile and fashion industry structure to transfer to BA (Hons) International Fashion Business in Year 3.
- Opportunity for collaboration with other courses e.g. BA (Hons) Fashion Design BA (Hons) Fashion Knitwear Design and Knitted Textiles, BA (Hons) Fashion Accessory Design.
- Collaboration with industry for recruitment opportunities in Year 3.
- An international perspective embedded within the modules, reinforced by optional structured overseas visits to fashion and textiles led trade/industry events.
- Opportunities to engage with the flexible Work Experience Placement and internship opportunities.

7. **Course outcomes**

Course outcomes describe what you should know and be able to do by the end of your course if you take advantage of the opportunities for learning that we provide.

**Knowledge and understanding**

By the end of the course you should be able to:

- Initiate self-negotiated briefs which support your chosen professional career aspirations. (B)
- Make strategic connections between personal perspectives, external organisations, international market awareness and the wider visual culture and demonstrate this within projects. (B)
- Analyse and integrate diverse, yet relevant, ideas and concepts within your own work. (B)
- Critically evaluate and select appropriate technologies, markets and design contexts to inform your design collections. (B)
- Demonstrate (in your work) understanding of the role and responsibilities of the designer and the wider social context, including ethics and sustainability. (B)
- Critically review, consolidate and extend your knowledge of design fundamentals, selecting appropriately, apply this to your written and practical work. (B)

**Skills, qualities and attributes**

By the end of the course you should be able to:

- Demonstrate relevant skills of research and analysis for written and practical outcomes. (B)
- Demonstrate relevant skills of organisation, selection and editing to enable you to resolve practical and written outcomes. (B)
- Apply appropriate technical skills to practical outcomes. (B)
- Demonstrate personal responsibility for your learning through negotiation and collaboration in teams and independently. (B)
- Articulate and visualise designed products and concepts utilising effective communication skills and appropriate technologies. (B)

- Define a directional strategy that focuses upon your identified employability/progression goals. (B)

B = Learning Outcomes have been benchmarked against the QAA subject statements for Art and Design 2008.

## 8. **Teaching and Learning Methods**

Teaching on the course involves a range of teaching and learning experiences that build through from first to final year with the aim of ensuring that you become an independent practitioner.

Textile design requires a broad approach to teaching and learning, as reflected by the following directed and independent learning activities:

- Lectures and briefings
- Studio workshops
- Textile workshops
- Seminars
- Tutorials
- Peer and self-evaluations
- Verbal and visual presentations
- Teamwork
- Live projects
- Professional Development Planning
- External visits
- NOW (NTU's Online Workspace)

The course encourages you to recognise the need for designers to use their initiative and to be well organised. Problem solving, team working and critical awareness are developed through a mainly project-based approach to practical and theoretical work.

Teaching and learning is conducted in an atmosphere that is informed by professional practice, creative awareness and respect for personal viewpoints. Visiting speakers complement a comprehensive lecture programme that offers insights into contemporary practice from differing

perspectives. External visits include international trade fairs, companies, exhibitions, and sites of cultural interest.

Learning is a reciprocal process, based on shared discussion between students and staff. Consequently, working in small and multi-disciplinary groups is an important aspect of the teaching and learning approach for tutorials and interim assessments.

The University also provides a framework of support for independent learning and the achievement of goals through the NOW (NTU's Online Workspace) and Professional Development (PD) tutorials. This helps you to take responsibility for your learning and development through a number of staff supported and self-directed activities.

## 9. **Assessment Methods**

Assessment is conducted according to the School policy 'Assessment and Feedback Principles and Guidelines' which ensures the academic standards, and their appropriateness, are made clear to you.

In term one you will receive formal written and verbal feedback to give you a sense of your progression. There will also be other formal feedback opportunities at relevant points in the module.

You will be provided with written Summative Feedback for all module assessments at the end of year 1 and 2 and on request for year 3.

### **Summary of Assessment Methods**

- Assessment criteria are linked to module learning outcomes.
- Assessment is 100% coursework, which may involve, in various design modules, the presentation of research, design development, resolution and application.
- Assessment methods for Design, Culture and Context include essays (written and visual), presentations and a final individual research project.
- The degree assessment is 100% level three Year 3 work.

- Progression through the course requires the completion of 120 credits in each year.

## 10. **Course structure and curriculum**

The course is full time over three years. The year comprises three terms, in Years 1 and 2 modules covering aspects of practice and theory operate concurrently, while in Year 3, practice and theory are integrated. Modules are fully integrated to provide a holistic experience and a "curriculum map" is available to show how the course outcomes and modules inter-relate.

Knowledge and skills are developed within practice-based modules through projects in Year 1 that enable the breadth of the subject to be experienced. Year 2 aims to develop designers and practitioners with deeper skills through working on directed industry-linked projects and within specified contexts as well as selecting from collaborative projects. In Year 3 the module offers the opportunity to develop a personal journey through a range of negotiated projects, external live briefs and national competitions as well as explore a substantial individual research project which connects with the Design, Culture and Context modules from previous levels. This should enable you to use this module to support your future aspirations.

Students who do not progress to the final stage of the degree may receive one of the following awards:

- Certificate of Higher Education - completion of 120 credit points at level 4 (Year 1)
- Diploma of Higher Education - completion of 240 credit points at level 5 (Year 2)
- Ordinary Degree - completion of 300 credit points, with a minimum of 60 credits being awarded at level 6 (final year).

### **Course structure**

*(All modules are compulsory)*

#### **Year 1**

- Fundamentals: Materials and Concepts      100 credit points
- Design, Culture and Context                      20 credits points

An introduction to fundamental design principles through a series of studio and workshop practices. Ideas will develop through visual research, fabric investigation, creative media exploration and experimentation with technical process. You will begin to develop personal design perspectives and start to relate them to the wider cultural context.

The Design, Culture and Context module will introduce you to the 'big ideas' of history and theory in 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century design, visual and material culture, as well as debates, which cover international perspectives. Further to this you'll be undertaking image, object and material analysis and learning to use specialist vocabulary for discussing design in context, which includes your own design work. Your research methods, idea development and presentation skills, as well as your personal reflections, writing skills and Harvard referencing, will all be tested on this module.

## **Year 2**

- Directions: Market and Process 100 credit points
- Design, Culture and Context 2 20 credits points

Year 2 requires you to develop a creative self-directed pathway through a series of core and optional workshops, which will contribute to the production of established and emerging market applications. You will develop in-depth technical skills combined with heightened awareness of the industry through project work, team working, liaising with external bodies and a greater awareness of design responsibility. Selecting from a range of live projects will extend your understanding of the textile and fashion industry and develop your awareness of professional careers and approaches.

The Design, Culture and Context module will build on the knowledge and skills you have gained in Year 1 and explore the relationship between commerce, culture and design since the Industrial Revolution. You will be focusing on the developments in commerce and culture through the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries and the 'big ideas' and/or theories which have tried to evaluate and explain them. Further to this, you will be looking at contemporary trends and emerging cultural issues, which cover international perspectives, and selecting a topic for your final year research

project. These projects also extend your communication, professional and presentation skills by considering a range of potential audiences.

### **Year 3**

- Resolutions: Practice and Context 120 credits

The initiation, development and resolution of this module should be guided by your future aspirations. The focus of your design projects is to develop work that demonstrates personal design directions, challenges the development of design concepts and articulates the wider contextual and cultural framework where your ideas are situated. You are encouraged to extend and be inventive with design principles and technologies. Your final year research project aims to build on the knowledge and skills gained in Years 1 and 2 and will enable you to explore and analyse contextual issues and debates relating to 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century design, visual and material culture in depth. You will develop viable research questions and carry out appropriate and rigorous research to explore answers to those questions and cultivate your own design philosophy.

The Design Culture and Context (DCC) final year research project is an integrated element of this module that aims to consolidate the links between theory and practice. You will have a choice as to how to present this research and how it is weighted against your other practical design projects by choosing one of the following options:

Option 1 : 80% practical design work  
20% written dissertation or visual product

Option 2: 65% practical design work  
35% written and visual outcomes

## **11. Admission to the course**

For current information regarding all entry requirements for this course, please see the 'Applying' tab on the NTU course information web page.

## 12. **Support for Learning**

The school is committed in assisting you to achieve the best results possible during your studies and offers a range of academic and pastoral help and advice. This includes a comprehensive learner support system that is in operation within the school and can be tailored to meet your specific needs.

At the start of your course you will be invited to participate in an 'induction week' where you will undertake a range of activities that will introduce many of the key facilities available within the University and will also provide you with an essential introduction to the course. You will meet the staff and your fellow students and will be able to find out more about how you will be taught and assessed on your course.

NTU's Online Workspace is referred to as 'NOW'. All course and module information is posted on this site for you to access remotely or on campus at any time.

To ensure that you have a clear understanding of the way in which you are progressing within the modules, you will receive feedback on the progress that you are making at key points. Some of the feedback that you will receive is formal and will occur both during (formative) and at the end of the module (summative) and may be written. Group tutorials are also an important opportunity to receive feedback from your tutors and fellow students as well as for you to reflect upon your own progress.

Personal tutors, who will be identified in induction, will offer regular points to meet and offer you support with both academic and pastoral matters. You will also use these sessions throughout the course to discuss other issues related to your studentship to reflect, consider your transferable skills and talk about personal development planning and progression.

The school has a framework to train second and third year students to become Student Mentors enabling them to support first year students. The Textile Student Mentors will be identified during induction and opportunities to meet with them promoted and integrated within key sessions. They offer support and advice from academic and practical perspectives.

Your course handbook will also contain details of the support available to you should there be an interruption in your studies, due to circumstances outside of your control, or through other factors affecting your academic performance. The School provides three options for requesting consideration and these are found in the section on the Academic Appeals Process.

### 13. **Graduate destinations / employability**

This course has a strong focus on producing employable graduates and is committed to offering experiences throughout the three years of study that will enhance your understanding of the types of roles available within the industry. Live projects and opportunities to visit trade fairs are an important part of the curriculum and this together with support from subject specialist staff develops your confidence and experiences. It is also possible to arrange short work experiences by prior agreement with the Module Leader and you are encouraged to take up these opportunities. The Employability Team are accessible to all students and can offer support and advice on a range of employability issues.

Throughout the course, you are encouraged to consider and plan to support your approach to employability and/or progression. This begins in Year 1 with an introduction to professional development planning where you are encouraged to reflect upon the breadth of the textile and fashion industries and begin to test your personal interests and prepare CVs. In Year 2 you are encouraged to become more directional and identify companies to approach for work experience and develop CVs and covering letters. During Year 3, you are encouraged to negotiate project choices that align with your personal direction or chosen specialist subject discipline(s). This ensures that you build up a portfolio of work that reflects your interest in the subject and your intentions beyond graduation. The preparation of self-promotional material such as blogs, websites, and digital portfolios is vital to future success.

The breadth of the textiles course provides graduates with a broad range of transferable skills that enables them to undertake a wide range of

employment opportunities within the design and related creative industries. Graduates also undertake Postgraduate study, Teaching and Research Scholarships.

**14. Course Standards and Quality**

Dialogue with you about your experiences of the course is valued and we engage with receiving feedback both formally and informally. You will have an opportunity to put yourself forward to be considered as a course representative at the beginning of each of your years of study. As part of this role you will be invited to attend the course committee meetings that occur three times a year and contribute to the conversations and debate to support the continuing health of the course. Any issues brought up at the course committee meetings are reported to the school academic standards and quality committee and actions identified from thereon in with responses reported back to you either via the next course committee meeting or via NOW. Quality management of the course is in accordance with the University's Quality Handbook and is monitored by the School's Academic Standards and Quality Committee.

The experience that you have whilst studying on the course is important to us and you will be requested to give feedback on individual modules and will also be invited to attend staff-student liaison committees and/or end of year meetings. At the end of each year, the course team write an evaluative document on course standards and quality (Interim Course Report - ICR), it is received at School level and contains an action plan to ensure that the course continues to reflect and develop.

An External Examiner is appointed whose job it is to make judgements about the course and report on the standards achieved in relation to other comparable courses in the UK. Part of their role is to review samples of assessed work and confirm at the Board of Examiners that the internal assessment and moderation practices are fair and in line with the School's and NTU's policies. The external examiner also writes a report at the end of each academic year and this will be available to you via NOW, together with a response to this written by the course team and the Course Committee.

15. **Assessment regulations**

This course is subject to the University's Common Assessment Regulations (located in Section 16 of the Quality Handbook)

16. **Additional Information**

|                                                         |                                                                                                                           |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Collaborative partner(s):                               | none                                                                                                                      |
| Course referenced to national QAA Benchmark Statements: | Course Outcomes are referenced to the Quality Assurance Agency's benchmark statements for subjects in Art and Design 2008 |
| Course recognised by:                                   | Chartered Society of Designers                                                                                            |
| Date implemented:                                       | SASQC confirmed PCR/CR modification changes 21.07.17                                                                      |

**Any additional information:**

The course offers the opportunity to study the four areas of textile design in Year 1 – print, embroidery, weave and knit.

The course offers opportunities to transfer onto BA (Hons) Fashion Knitwear and Knitted Textiles or BA (Hons) Fashion Accessory Design in Year 2 for those who become clearly focused upon these specific design contexts.

The course offers opportunities to transfer to BA (Hons) International Fashion Business in the final year if you wish to pursue a career focusing on the management or business of fashion and textiles.