

Nottingham Trent University Course Specification

Basic Course Information		
1.	Awarding Institution:	Nottingham Trent University
2.	School/Campus:	School of Art & Design/City Campus
3.	Final Award, Course Title and Modes of Study:	MA Fashion Design
4.	Normal Duration:	Full-time 45 weeks (September-July)
5.	UCAS Code:	N/A

6.	Overview and general educational aims of the course
	<p>Fashion Design is one of the most dynamic and influential areas of creative practice offering directional thinkers and makers a challenging career in the global fashion industry. Whether you are planning to work in commercial, bespoke or conceptual contexts, this course aims to prepare you to enter the fashion industry as a professional practitioner. As a fashion designer your role is to research, develop and adapt innovative concepts, in response to the complex challenges of an ever-changing, international market. Working independently or as part of a team, you will be required to think and act creatively, by initiating and resolving wearable/interactive garment solutions that meet the evolving needs of contemporary consumers.</p> <p>The MA Fashion Design course has been devised to support you to complete an individual project through your own personally negotiated Project Proposal. Your project may be inspired by personal aspiration, links with industry or by investigating the intersections between fashion and art, science and technology. To support you in this, the course offers a cohesive range of learning experiences to develop research methods and methodologies for your inquiry. This includes working with the core academic team and research active staff, industry professionals and a personal supervisor, who is a fashion specialist. The course is based on developing your creative, academic and professional potential as directed by your career aspirations. Workshops in visual research methods, 2D/3D design and construction, silhouette generation, draping, creative pattern cutting, industry standard computer aided design, fashion communication, and portfolio development will help you to enhance your existing design, manufacturing, and presentation skills. By the end of the course, you will produce a directional portfolio, which reflects your future aspirations, containing a body of work that demonstrates your ability to undertake and resolve advanced creative projects.</p>

Your Project Proposal can be focused on the design of womenswear or menswear for commercial (high street), sportswear, designer label (ready-to-wear) or bespoke (couture and tailoring) fashion contexts, and may incorporate sustainable, smart or wearable technology design. You will be supported to contextualise, develop and resolve your personally negotiated project during the course, through a learning and teaching approach centred on creative experimental research and reflective practice, leading to originating innovative fashion concepts. The general aims of the course are to provide you with a personalised learning environment where your Project Proposal can be informed by your career aspirations, links with industry and/or the intersections between aesthetics, new materials, technologies and markets. To support your progress, opportunities for sponsorship and networking are facilitated through established relationships and opportunities to attend professional trade events. There are possibilities to engage with collaborative live projects and competitions throughout the course as well as to partake in short work placements as relevant to your personally negotiated project.

The course places a significance on research into advanced fashion and textile technologies, alongside an appreciation of traditional hand crafting techniques and artisanal skills. This holistic design philosophy, presents opportunities for you as a creative designer, to develop a hybrid fashion methodology, through synthesising digital and traditional approaches. Your project may address design responsibility when considering the fabrication and production of your designs, and you are encouraged to consider sustainable sourcing, design and manufacturing practices, such as upcycling and zero waste, in support of ethical fashion practice. Your project can be located in established, emerging or future markets, or may consider the needs of particular demographics in local or global cultural contexts. Irrespective of your specific project aims, it is crucial that you evidence responsible social and ethical awareness and an understanding of the impact that your fashion designs can have on the environment.

In addition to having access to the fashion resource, you are invited to gain from the many opportunities, provided by the MA Fashion, Textile and Knitwear (FTK) subject, to aid your personal and professional growth. As part of the master's community you will benefit from learning alongside a diverse and international cohort of textile and knitwear students, where a holistic, multidisciplinary learning environment facilitates critical and

creative thinking to help you to explore and understand the complex relationships between the theory and practice of fashion design, contemporary lifestyles and global trends and cultures, while establishing your unique skill base as a designer.

Fashion Design offers many excellent career opportunities in an expanding global industry, particularly for those with creative edge underpinned by a tacit understanding of craftsmanship and industry-standard practices. The MA in Fashion Design enables you to develop specialist knowledge and skills in your subject area through a self-initiated programme of learning that can be tailored to enhance your technical and professional expertise.

There are two module options to select from on the course;

Option A – ‘Fashion Design’. This is a year-long 180 credit module.

Option B – ‘Fashion Design (option B)’. This is a year-long 160 credit module plus the 20 credit ‘Advanced Art and Design Research’ module (Total 180 credit points).

All students are initially enrolled onto the 180 credit module during the first part of the year and you will then decide in November, with your tutors, if you are going to continue on this module (Option A), or elect to take the 160 credit module alongside a 20 credit module in ‘Advanced Art and Design Research.’ (Option B)

This 20 credit module has been devised for students who are interested in further postgraduate study, or research roles following master’s study, and taking this module would support applications for further research study, such as MPhil or PhD, which you may be interested in pursuing in the future. It is designed to support your understanding of how your advanced practice can be a valid component of a research process that makes a contribution to knowledge, giving you skills which enable you to design a research enquiry as well as to carry it out systematically while giving you an overview of the traditions of research on which your creative practice may draw. The teaching and learning methods for this module include lectures, written assignments, discussions and presentations.

If you choose this 20 credit module, then as part of this option you will be moved onto the 160 credit module as only 180 credits are required for a master’s degree (see section 8 for more details).

Special features:

In addition to the learning aims of your project proposal, the general objectives of the course will include a multi-disciplinary environment in which personal and professional ambitions can be achieved through the practice of fashion design. Support is available through flexible and responsive teaching and learning to enable you to:

- Explore and challenge the established parameters of fashion design
- Understand research methods and apply them to a project
- Investigate links between the theory, practice and context of fashion design
- Work with an allocated personal supervisor on your project
- Develop your own fashion design identity and philosophy linked to your career aspirations
- Work with core academic and research active staff and industry professionals
- Join industry-linked projects, competitions and exhibitions
- Learn alongside a diverse and international community of fashion, textile and knitwear students
- Work within a creative and multi-disciplinary environment to generate and disseminate new ideas and knowledge
- Establish life-long learning skills

There are opportunities for sponsorships through an number of established industry and charitable links.

You will also have the option to join research trips to industry trade events to enhance your understanding of the fashion and textile design industry and market contexts. All students can apply for their work to be exhibited at industry facing exhibitions such as New Designers (London) during the final part of the module.

MA Fashion Design is one of three full-time specialist awards in the MA Fashion, Textile and Knitwear (FTK) subject cluster. The other awards are: MA Fashion Knitwear Design and MA Textile Design Innovation. A part-time, 2 year course, MA Fashion and Textile Design is also offered. All our courses

are designed to deliver the standard requirements of the subject benchmarks and to promote autonomous and reflective learning.	
7.	<p>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.</p>
<p>Knowledge and understanding By the end of the course you should be able to:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contextualise your area of study through critical reflection within the discipline of fashion design to identify opportunities for career development, entrepreneurship, or further advanced study (B) • Research and develop a Project Proposal by identifying research aims and objectives that will further develop creative Fashion Design practice (B) • Demonstrate expertise in advanced research methods and methodologies to resolve the project • Identify the market sector within which your work is situated through referencing relevant commercial, global and environmental practices (B) • Build upon established theory and practice and demonstrate new knowledge in Fashion Design through the development of innovative concepts • Evidence advanced knowledge and understanding of relevant 2D and 3D fashion design and production techniques 	
<p>Skills, qualities and attributes By the end of the course you should be able to:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate effectively through discussion, debate and formal presentations using appropriate media to a range of audiences (B) • Evidence the ability to work independently through strategic planning, time management and professional negotiation and collaboration (B) • Evidence skills as a reflective practitioner to record and critically analyse progress in order to make decisions, conceptualise and initiate new ideas (B) • Complete a collection of innovative samples, prototypes and/or products that evidence advanced design and production skills • Create a professional portfolio that effectively communicates the project outcomes in relation to the market sector (B) 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence design responsibility through demonstrating social and ethical awareness and an understanding of the impact that your fashion design practice can have on the environment
<p>8. Teaching and Learning Methods</p>
<p>The course places emphasis on the development of professional practice, based on a platform of research, critical understanding and reflection. Through an independent and interdisciplinary approach to learning you will experience a wide range of teaching and learning practices which are embedded within the MA FTK courses to meet the needs of a diverse and international cohort with different learning styles and backgrounds.</p> <p>During the early part of the course you will be appointed a personal specialist supervisor who along with key course staff will provide teaching guidance and support through tutorials and seminars on the development and resolution of your Project Proposal. You will attend other relevant lectures in the Fashion, Textile and Knitwear (FTK) subject, the wider School of Art and Design and University, where relevant to your study. Your contribution to the development of a stimulating learning environment through the dedicated shared studio, in taught sessions and presentations are vital to inform the critical debate between you, the staff and your peers, which is important at Masters' level.</p> <p>Module: 'Fashion Design' - 180 credit points, or Fashion Design (option B) - 160 credit points</p> <p>This module will enable you to establish your project proposal and initiate your enquiry followed by completing research and the development of your ideas and ultimately the realisation of your project proposal.</p> <p>Your project should reflect your personal and professional aims as a design practitioner and should be aligned with your career aspirations. The first part of the curriculum is designed around an extended induction to enable you to understand the course and the mode of study at masters level including an introduction to the School resources and key staff. You will also attend specialist and multidisciplinary lectures, seminars and workshops for the MA Fashion, Textile and Knitwear (FTK) subject cluster, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject lectures and seminars • Supervisory and group design tutorials

- Visual research workshops
- Market/trend/colour research workshops and seminars
- CAD workshops
- 2D/3D design generation workshops
- Reflective writing workshops
- Student presentations
- Personal tutorials to support your career planning
- Pattern cutting workshops
- CAD workshops – 'InDesign' and Web
- Pattern cutting and draping workshops
- 3D development surgeries
- Professional practice lectures
- Exhibition briefings and seminars
- Prototype/ sample presentation surgeries
- Portfolio tutorials

At the start of the course, you will develop your Project Proposal to enable you to map your project and outline the personal aims and objectives that you intend to resolve. You will commence the course by spending a few weeks producing a body of research and initial design development ideas. You will develop 2D and 3D experimentation to progress your project and begin to address the aims stated in your Project Proposal.

In November, at the first interim evaluation point, you will receive formal formative feedback on how your project has progressed to date to enable you to evaluate your project to identify the key areas for further research and development. At this point, you will also start to discuss with your tutors the 2 module options available to you-and confirm your final decision by the beginning of December. If you opt to take the 20 credit module option 'Advanced Art and Design Research' (and therefore change to the 160 credit module) you will evaluate your proposal and project outcomes with your supervisor and the Course Leader to meet the expectations of the 160 credit module.

During the year-long module (180 or 160 credit point), you will spend time developing, experimenting and testing your ideas while continuing to acquire specialist fashion design skills. Professional practice is a key focus of this module, supported through opportunities to join multidisciplinary group projects, complete live projects, national and international competitions and lectures and seminars delivered by core staff, industry specialists and the school's Employability team, as well as through organising your own short work based learning as appropriate to your project.

Following formal formative feedback in April on how your project has developed during the middle part of the project you will begin to realise the aims of your Project Proposal and the presentation of your project outcomes. You will focus on completing your fashion collection/product and portfolio using the skills you have learnt so far in the module, and planning how to promote your work and present yourself to the industry. The curriculum is designed around working towards key industry facing exhibitions such as: New Designers, London (June) and the MA Exhibition at NTU (July).

9. **Assessment Methods**

Formal formative feedback opportunities will take place at three stipulated interim assessment points during the module to enable you to reflect on what you have achieved so far and to establish how you are meeting the learning outcomes and your project aims.

This will include all of your coursework to date: the Project Proposal, theoretical and practical research: visual research/sketchbook; 2D and 3D experimentation; initial fashion designs and toiles; technical file (containing patterns, notes, and fabric samples); contextual and market research and evidence of reflective practice to evidence understanding of research methods and design responsibility. You will give a formal presentation about your work to your supervisor, course leader and peers that contextualises your project and summarise your progress.

All module learning outcomes have assessment and grading criteria that describe the level of learning being achieved against each learning outcome. At the formal formative feedback stages you will receive written

feedback. This will indicate the strengths of the work being assessed and the areas that are considered to require improvement, together with an indication of the level that you currently achieving at against each of the learning outcomes. You will therefore receive an overall indicative grade. You will have a feedback tutorial with your supervisor at which you can discuss the detail of your feedback.

At each tutorial you and your supervisor will complete a tutorial record form which will help you evaluate how your work is progressing. It is also important to note that you will receive feedback from staff and students during group tutorials, presentations, workshops and seminars.

Summative assessment takes place at the end of the module and will focus on your level of achievement against each of the module's learning outcomes. The grade at Summative assessment is your final grade and determines the level to which you have met following study on either the 180 credit module or combined 160 and 20 credit modules.

Formal Formative Feedback 180/160 credit module – please see module guide for dates

Summative Assessment 20 credit point module

This is assessed through coursework. You will prepare and give short presentations that respond to guided reading, to underpin the research enquiry that your practice points towards. For the end of the module you will write up these responses to the research methods you have explored by producing a report.

Summative Assessment 180/160 credit point module

At the end of the module you will submit all of your coursework as described in your project proposal and give a formal presentation that summarises your project.

At the end of the course you are assessed against the learning outcomes of the 180 credit module, or the 160 and 20 credit modules (option B) to determine whether you have passed the Master's course. All course learning outcomes have assessment and grading criteria that describe the level of learning you have achieved, against each learning outcome. Your work is assessed against the learning outcomes to determine your award;

for example Distinction, Commendation, Pass or Fail, according to your level of achievement.

If you have not met the MA learning outcomes you may be offered a further attempt, in accordance with the University's Common Assessment Regulations. If after this point you have still not met the learning outcomes for the MA award, your work will then be assessed against the learning outcomes for the interim awards of; Postgraduate Certificate in Fashion Design (equivalent to 60 credit points at Masters level), or Postgraduate Diploma in Fashion Design (equivalent to 120 credit points at Masters level).

This decision will be made by the Board of Examiners at the end of the course, and will be confirmed by an External Examiner.

10. **Course structure and curriculum**

MA Fashion Design is a full-time course, delivered over one academic year and is worth 180 credits. The course runs from September to July. There is also an option to study a 20 credit 'Advanced Art and Design Research' module that will be offered in the second term (January – April). The decision to opt for this route will need to be made during an interim evaluation in November. If you are interested in having a deeper and more thorough understanding of research methodologies and philosophy in relation to your subject area, with the possibility of undertaking a research degree in the future, then you might be interested in considering this option.

MA Fashion Design	
Option A	Option B
'Fashion Design' 180 credits	'Fashion Design' 160 credits
	'Advanced Art & Design Research' 20 credits
45 weeks	45 weeks

In September you will begin work on your Fashion Design project through developing your initial idea into a Project Proposal. Early on, you will also be provided with an induction to the University, health and safety regulations, the Master's Fashion, Textiles and Knitwear (FTK) community and to Master's level learning and teaching methods. These include an introduction to subject specific research methods to support you to: develop a research-based practice, set personal research aims, map out the territory of your Fashion Design project and use time planning skills to help you successfully meet deadlines. You will be asked to reflect upon your progress through discussion with your supervisor and establish if your aims for the year include taking the option to study on the 'Advanced Art and Design Research' 20 credit point module.

If you wish to undertake a short work placement, this can be negotiated as part of your learning through your own research into fashion companies or organisations outside NTU. For students interested in building on their entrepreneurship skills there will be opportunities to apply for a place on a business incubation course (e.g. with NTU's HIVE) to seek professional mentoring, or to join live industry, multi-disciplinary or cross-School projects to experience working to briefs, and to enhance team working and work-based learning skills.

In April, you will revise your Project Proposal and determine the final set of targets for the MA award. You will use the knowledge and skills gained from your research into the contemporary theory and practice of fashion design, and apply subject specialist techniques and technologies to complete your fashion project.

Briefing lectures, seminars and tutorials will continue to provide you with opportunities to present and critique your work and that of others, to support you in the successful and professional resolution of your project. You will be invited to join industry facing exhibitions such as, New Designers and an MA Exhibition to present your innovative fashion designs and products to the Industry and general public.

11. Admission to the course

Entry requirements

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 to assisting you in achieving the best results possible during your studies, providing you with a wide range of academic support and advice. A comprehensive learner support system is adopted by the School, which can also include input from the University and student union, tailored to meet your needs.

The School is keen that all students, irrespective of background and characteristics such as age and nationality, have equal opportunities to succeed with their studies. There is a section in NTU's Online Workspace (NOW) for students within the school to access materials to help you with your studies.

On arrival, you will be issued with a hard copy of the Student Handbook (an electronic version can be accessed through the NOW portal). The handbook contains academic information and student support information in line with University guidelines. This includes: Course and Module specifications, staff contact details, course assessment and feedback plan, curriculum map, consent forms and ethics forms.

Your Student Handbook will 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 Extenuating Circumstances.

The course has an induction session at the start of the academic year where new students will undertake a range of group and individual activities, which foster a sense of community and develop an understanding of Nottingham Trent University postgraduate attributes.

During the induction period new students are made aware of the university's student safety handbook and the School safety code of practice. Those parts relevant to the course will be discussed as part of the Health & Safety Induction. The University central Student Support Services also offers a range of general, specialist and professional support services for students.

Each course has a dedicated Course Leader; you will also be allocated a personal supervisor, both of whom will provide academic and pastoral support as appropriate. School and University Resources, including dyslexia

support, counselling services and language support, are available if required. Subject specialists from careers service, and library and learning resources are also available to support you during your studies.

NOW is used by all courses in the School of Art and Design and allows key information about your studies and a variety of learning material to be accessed and shared. You can also access your results through NOW.

13.	Graduate destinations / employability
	<p>A wide range of career opportunities are available within Fashion Design and its related industries. Recent graduates have set up their own successful fashion brands and businesses, progressed to further study, worked in related careers in the fashion and textile design or education sector and also returned to their previous occupations, in a new role, often at a higher level, with a new focus and vigour.</p> <p>Future careers for those studying MA Fashion Design can include: fashion designer, pattern designer/cutter, garment technologist, buyer, merchandiser, production manager, trend forecaster and stylist within national, and international fashion companies and brands. Some graduates use master's study to support careers in teaching, lecturing, fashion journalism and academic research or MPhil/PhD study.</p> <p>Crucially, the MA gives you the ability to re-examine your future ambitions; some students have entirely refocused their careers. The independent learning and autonomy you achieve encourages you to develop your full potential to effectively present yourself to potential employers. All project work undertaken on the course, including multi-disciplinary and industry-linked projects expand your knowledge, skills and professional awareness. The ability to work in a team and communicate effectively are valued by employers in the fashion industry.</p>
14.	Course standards and quality
	<p>All courses conform to University requirements. There are well-established systems for managing the quality of the curriculum within the School. External examiners are appointed to each course and report on the appropriateness of the curriculum, the quality of student work and the assessment process.</p> <p>The School reviews, defines and updates its courses and modules; dialogue between staff and students plays an important part in this process. Whilst there are good informal relationships between staff and students, the School and University, we also have formal channels for student feedback. A student/staff liaison committee is held three times a year and formal module evaluation is gathered by a questionnaire. Student representatives, elected by the student group, attend and contribute to discussion at course committee meetings, three times a year. An External Examiner with specialist knowledge is appointed to monitor the quality and standards of</p>

<p>the provision and to support the course team in further developing the course. 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 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 written by the Course Team and the Course Committee.</p> <p>At the end of each year the course team write an evaluative Course Interim Report (ICR), informed by external examiner, staff and student feedback. This is then discussed by the School Academic Standards and Quality Committee and actions are identified. A School report is then passed to the University and key points then inform new policy which is fed back to the School and the External Examiner.</p>	<p>15. Assessment regulations This course is subject to the University's Common Assessment Regulations (located in its <u>Academic Standards and Quality Handbook</u>).</p>														
<p>16. Additional Information</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Collaborative partner(s):</td><td>None</td></tr> <tr> <td>Course referenced to national QAA Benchmark Statements:</td><td>Master of Art</td></tr> <tr> <td>Course recognised by:</td><td>Art and Design</td></tr> <tr> <td>Date implemented:</td><td>1 September 2016</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>SASQC Approval: 21 February 2018.</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>Approval for PCR/Curriculum Refresh</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>Modification Course Change and updates</td></tr> </table>	Collaborative partner(s):	None	Course referenced to national QAA Benchmark Statements:	Master of Art	Course recognised by:	Art and Design	Date implemented:	1 September 2016		SASQC Approval: 21 February 2018.		Approval for PCR/Curriculum Refresh		Modification Course Change and updates	<p>Any additional information:</p> <p>MA Fashion Design encourages you to develop an individual design philosophy and identity, evidenced through advanced knowledge and skills in your subject area and a directional portfolio of work and collection of garments or products that demonstrate the ability to undertake creative, experimental research for conceptual and/or commercial contexts.</p> <p>The course supports the development of existing 2D design and 3D construction skills through a self-defined fashion project targeted at a specific market context and inspired by personal aspiration, links with industry and/or the intersections between art, fashion and new technologies.</p>
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Commercial or conceptual fashion concepts may be focused on high street, designer, haute couture or bespoke contexts. Innovative fashion garments can be designed by developing creative pattern cutting methods; using advanced, traditional tailoring and/or sustainable approaches, such as zero waste pattern cutting or upcycling, and materials. Alternatively, your project may focus on future, or smart fashion solutions through the strategic integration of wearable technologies, new materials, fabrication techniques and surface treatments.