

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 and Creative Pattern Cutting Full-time
4.	Normal Duration:	45 weeks (September-July)
5.	UCAS Code:	N/A

6. Overview and general educational aims of the course

The Fashion industry is one of the most dynamic and influential areas of creative practice. Today, it faces challenges and opportunities as it is required to focus on design and manufacture practices that are more responsible and sustainable to reduce its impact upon global social, environmental and ethical issues. The highly technical and creative skills of pattern cutting are essential in the ability to address the challenging developments required by the industry to produce sustainable fashion.

The practice-led MA in Fashion and Creative Pattern Cutting will encourage creative thinking, experimentation and problem-solving to develop practical skills and innovative approaches to pattern cutting and garment design. While exploring and advancing knowledge of historical and traditional cutting techniques, students will become conversant with specialist digital technologies and incorporate within their practice.

This specialist course is designed to enable the advancement of creative and technical knowledge and skills that are essential in industry, whether for a chosen career within pattern cutting, design, designer/maker or a practice-led research path.

The MA Fashion and Creative Pattern Cutting course provides a series of research and practical based modules in which students will build upon existing skills that will support the development and realisation of an individual final project that demonstrates new knowledge, skills and abilities. The aims and objectives of the personally negotiated project will be clearly identified within a project proposal and projects may be inspired by personal aspiration or links with industry. The course offers a comprehensive range of learning experiences centred on creative

experimental research and reflective practice, working with the core academic team and research active staff, industry professionals and a personal supervisor which will support the development of personal negotiated projects.

The course is based on developing creative, technical, academic and professional potential as directed by career aspirations. Workshops in visual research methods, 2D/3D design and construction, traditional and innovative pattern cutting, draping, industry standard computer aided design, CAD/CAM, and 2D/portfolio development will help to enhance existing creative and technical design, manufacturing, and presentation skills.

As part of the master's community students will benefit from learning alongside a diverse and international cohort of fashion, textile and knitwear students, where a multidisciplinary learning environment facilitates critical and creative thinking to help explore and understand the complex relationships between the theory and practice of fashion and creative pattern cutting, contemporary lifestyles and global trends, and, cultures, while establishing a unique skill base as pattern cutters, designers, and designer-makers.

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:

- 1) Evaluate and challenge existing historical and contemporary work within the industry and current research and advanced scholarship within pattern cutting (B)
- 2) Reflect critically on the relationship between professional practice and global ethical and sustainable issues relating to design, materials, cost and production, and the impact on, social cultural, technological and economic change, evidencing how this is used to inform own practice (B)
- 3) Reflect upon your progress and make independent decisions to further advance subject knowledge and understanding and develop new skills.
- 4) Appraise and select established methods of research and enquiry to provide creative solutions to design problems (B)

(B) – these specific learning outcome statements have been benchmarked against the QAA benchmark statements for similar courses and level.

Skills, qualities and attributes

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

- 5) Manage complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements and clearly communicate conclusions (B)
- 6) Demonstrate self-direction and originality in problem solving and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional level (B)
- 7) Apply analysis of advanced design and pattern cutting technologies and sustainable approaches with creative thinking to provide sustainable design solutions (B)
- 8) Reflect critically on the relationship between designer, design process and creative cutter in the translation of innovative designs into fully resolved finished garments.
- 9) Critically evaluate a range of techniques in order to select and use the technologies and methods appropriate to the industry (B)

(B) – these specific learning outcome statements have been benchmarked against the QAA benchmark statements for similar courses and level.

8. Learning and teaching methods

The course places emphasis on the development of professional practice, based on a platform of research, experimentation, critical understanding and reflection. The course content will be taught through a variety of approaches where you will experience a wide range of teaching and learning methods embedded in the course to meet the needs of a diverse and international cohort with different learning styles and backgrounds.

The following teaching and learning methods are used:

- Lectures
- Seminars
- Workshops
- Group tutorials
- Supervisory tutorials
- Presentations
- NTU's online workspace (NOW)

- Directed and self-directed learning
- Off-site activity e.g. study trips, museum and archive visits

You will be taught by experienced and specialist lecturers and industry professionals. Guest speakers will discuss current fashion and pattern cutting practice, industry trends, innovations and developments.

On the MA Fashion and Creative Pattern Cutting, there is an emphasis placed on self-directed learning with an expectation of the course, that you will engage with extensive self-directed study. The development of specialist skills and knowledge demands a high level of commitment from you and is essential in support of the attainment of your educational and employment goals.

There will be opportunities for research/study trips to travel both internationally and within the UK. In addition, you are encouraged to make visits to relevant exhibitions, trade fairs, conferences and companies for research as part of your self-directed study.

All course documents, handbooks, seminar readings, guidance for specific tasks and some teaching and learning materials will be available on NTU's online workspace (NOW). NOW is also a source of access to other information and support for learning provided by the University including software tutorials and the library information services (LIS) etc.

9. **Assessment methods**

The course is designed so that you will receive continuous feedback on your progress. You will be encouraged to reflect on your work and undertake self and peer assessment, developing a clear understanding of the assessment criteria. The purpose of assessment is to enable you to demonstrate that you have met the learning outcomes of the course and reached a specified standard to attain the award.

You will be assessed at formative assessment points in each module throughout the course. Continual assessment is one of the most important learning and teaching strategies within the course, enabling you to develop

as an independent learner. You will receive feedback on your work in progress and on assessed tasks from tutors and your peers.

A range of assessment methods will be used across the modules e.g. lecture theatre presentations, studio presentations, workshop tasks, observed team-working, submitted coursework.

At scheduled formative assessment points, you will receive feedback on the strengths and areas for improvement to enable you to understand how well you are progressing in relation to meeting the course learning outcomes.

At the end of each module your work will be summatively assessed by your tutor and a second-marker. These marks and the written feedback are discussed by both markers and the combined comments are written on one feedback sheet. The feedback comments will reflect the academic opinions of both markers. The marks on the feedback sheet are the agreed marks. This is then confirmed by the External Examiner and the Board of Examiners at the end of the course. An example of work from each grade band is moderated by staff teaching on the module to ensure parity. If for any reason a full Masters award is not achieved your work will be assessed against the learning outcomes for fall-back awards; PG Certificate in Fashion and Creative Pattern Cutting and PG Diploma in Fashion and Creative Pattern Cutting.

The course conforms to the common assessment regulations for taught postgraduate courses (section 15 of the University's Quality Handbook, September 2016). The course does not seek any special interpretations or dispensations in relation to these regulations.

10. **Course structure and curriculum**

MA Fashion and Creative Pattern Cutting is a full-time course delivered over one academic year running from September to July (45-weeks). The course requires you to complete a total of 5 modules with varying credit points awarded, providing an accumulative total of 180-credits.

In term one you will complete two modules. The 20-credit 'Practice-Led Research Methods' module will focus on advancing your knowledge and understanding of varied research methods and methodologies, reflective practice, and ethics where you will engage with the postgraduate Fashion, Textiles and Knitwear community with shared teaching and learning opportunities.

The 40-credit 'Innovative Pattern Cutting Methods' will explore traditional and contemporary techniques, building upon your existing pattern cutting knowledge through a series of demonstrations and tasks. The module encourages an advanced and experimental methodology to support the development of a more innovative and experimental approach to pattern cutting. The module will also investigate modern research-led practice and explore how advances in technology can transform pattern cutting techniques and outcomes.

In term 2, you are provided with the option of either participating in the 'Practice-led Research Applied' (Option A) or 'Advanced Art and Design Research' (Option B) 20-credit modules. The 'Practice-led Research Applied' module enables you to demonstrate a personal body of research into contemporary pattern cutting researchers and practitioners who promote sustainability and design responsibility. Through the development of experimental samples, you will analyse their methods and techniques and develop your own outcomes that demonstrate sustainable and responsible approaches and considerations. Option B 'Advanced Art and Design Research' is aimed at students who are interested in 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. If you select this module, you will study with students from across the School's postgraduate courses, attending a series of lectures, seminars and presentations and complete a written assignment.

The second module within term 2, 'Creative Solutions' is a 40-credit module which incorporates both group working and working individually. Innovative problem-solving, creative thinking and advanced technical skills are required to explore and resolve a real-life design issue for a specific market. Extensive experimentation, sampling and testing will be required to prove the appropriateness of design and technical decisions, fabric choices,

manufacture and finish. The project brief will be generated from industry case studies.

You will produce your own Project Proposal in term 3, that sets out the aims and objectives of an individual creative cutting and design project in which you will demonstrate the new knowledge, skills and abilities gained from the earlier modules. The 60-credit, final major project, 'Design Realisation', will be an in-depth body of work that will evidence creative and theoretical research, extensive experimentation with cutting, design, fit, fabric, manufacture and finish as you demonstrate innovative and highly creative outcomes that consider design responsibility. It is expected that the project will support your future career/further educational study plans.

In addition to the lectures, tutorials, workshops, and specific to design and creative cutting, a series of workshops in term 1 and term 2 will focus on the teaching of industry standard 3D fashion and CAD/CAM technologies. The final major project in term 3 will require you to integrate the use of current specialist digital technologies as a creative and technical design tool in the development and realisation of original and innovative pattern cutting techniques.

To support the development of the broad range of skills required across the industry you will also engage with your peers across the wider postgraduate fashion, textiles and knitwear (FTK) community in CAD (Adobe), drawing and 2D/portfolio development workshops. The FTK Lecture Series provides opportunities to listen to talks from a number of academic staff and visiting lecturers and industry professionals on an extensive range of fashion and textile related subjects.

MA Fashion and Creative Pattern Cutting	
Option A	Option B
Practice-led Research Methods 20 credits (FTK shared module / teaching)	Practice-led Research Methods 20 credits (FTK shared module / teaching)
Innovative Pattern Cutting Methods 40 credits	Innovative Pattern Cutting Methods 40 credits
Advanced Practice-led Research	Advanced Art & Design Research

20 credits	20 credits (School-wide optional module)
Creative Design Solutions 40 credits	Creative Design Solutions 40 credits
Design Realisation 60 credits	Design Realisation 60 credits
45 weeks	45 weeks

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 student support system is adopted by the School, which can also include input from the University and Student Union, tailored to meet your needs.

There is a section in NTU's Online Workspace (NOW) for students within the school to access materials to help you with your studies.

Through the NOW online portal, you will be able to access the electronic copy of the Student Handbook, which 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

A wide range of career opportunities are available within fashion and creative pattern cutting and its related industries. Potential career opportunities include creative pattern cutter, pattern technologist, garment technologist, CAD/CAM specialist, grader, designer, designer/maker and production manager. Graduates could also pursue a teaching career in FE or Higher Education or progress to MPhil/PhD study, with the goal of teaching and/or research.

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.

An emphasis is placed upon your understanding of the marketplace and identifying future career opportunities, and therefore, the course promotes

industry research, and networking to establish relationships with relevant design/manufacture/ production/retail companies.

As you re-examine your career aspirations, you may also wish to consider opportunities as a freelance cutter or designer, a consultant or set-up your own business. Through a combination of engagement with events organised by the Employability team, 'The Hive', the University's centre for start-up business and entrepreneurial enterprise, and taught module sessions, you will gain specialist advice to support your professional progression into self-employment.

14. **Course standards and quality**

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.

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 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.

At the end of each year the course team write an evaluative Interim Course Report (ICR), informed by 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.

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:	Master's Degree Characterisitcs Statements (2015)
Course recognised by:	Art and Design
NTIC progression route(s):	
Date this course specification approved:	TBC

Any additional information: