

Nottingham Trent University
School of Art & Design
Course Specification

Basic Course Information

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| 1. Awarding Institution: | Nottingham Trent University |
| 2. School/Campus: | School of Art and Design |
| 3. Final Award and Course Title: | BA (Hons) Fashion Design |
| 4. Mode of study and normal duration: | FT 3 years
SW 4 years |
| 5. UCAS Code: | W230 |

6. Overview and general educational aims of the course

The BA (Hons) Fashion Design offers you a challenging and dynamic opportunity to advance the relevant skills and knowledge required to springboard you into the global fashion and related industries. Through project and studio work you will learn to integrate research, design ideas, technology and theory to develop directional and contemporary fashion design concepts. The curriculum reflects current practice and includes: broad-ranging visual research, material awareness, design development, creative pattern cutting, garment manufacture, prototyping/product development, fashion drawing/illustration, visual communication, sustainability and future thinking, as well as an integrated approach to fashion theory.

The course has a strong established reputation, with exceptional national and international links within the fashion industry. Our graduates are renowned for their creative, innovative and directional design skills, as well as a strong underlying awareness of sustainability, commerciality and relevant technologies. Partnerships with industry enable us to connect with the global fashion landscape, so we can collaborate and develop international live projects and build relationships with a number of fashion-focused organisations: International Federation of Fashion and Textile Institutes (IFFTI); Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) in New York; Hong Kong Design Institute (HKDI); and British Fashion Council (BFC). This international perspective is embedded within modules and reinforced by optional overseas visits to fashion and textiles industry, trade and/or other professional events.

The course provides extensive activity as an important setting for building professional networks and enhancing your transferable skills for future employability opportunities. Links with live industry projects, competitions and professional bodies continue to be a key feature that informs the curriculum, giving you the chance to work with a diverse range of clients on both commercially aware and socially informed research projects. You will have the opportunity to work alongside specialist visiting practitioners, sharing research and new approaches. Visiting lecturers play a crucial role in bringing in a wealth of external knowledge and skills from a different perspective.

Tutorials will introduce you to a broad range of research and design approaches, deepening your learning by encouraging self-reflection, personal development and autonomy. The curriculum also requires you to consider your design application and context in relation to design responsibility – process, materials and manufacture – and you will be asked to consider the role of the designer in making responsible design decisions that impact positively on society. In addition, you will be given the opportunity to gain a ‘Sustainability in Practice’ award from NTU’s Green Academy relating to your design work.

Progression and personalisation options are important as they enable you to map out your own unique journey at NTU and beyond. For example, ‘taster’ sessions in Fashion Accessory Design and Fashion Knitwear Design and Knitted Textiles at Level 4, will introduce you to different methods of garment/product construction and specialist manufacturing techniques, and at Level 5 you will be given the option of transferring onto the closely linked BA (Hons) Fashion Knitwear and Knitted Textiles course. There is also an option for those who become interested in exploring the wider textile and fashion industry to transfer to BA (Hons) International Fashion Business at level 6. In the final year of the Fashion Design course you will also be given the option to follow a specialist pathway in either Fashion Collection or Fashion Product, having tried and tested these approaches in the previous year. You can also negotiate the balance of theory and practice by developing an extended research project into a publishable or exhibitable outcome with career relevance.

The course aims to inspire and prepare you to develop an enterprising, creative mind-set and the ability to thrive in a rapidly changing world of work, embracing the diverse and emerging roles within the fashion industry. It will enable you to incorporate critical and analytical problem-solving skills, together with general transferable skills, and prepare you for a broad range of related employment opportunities and/or postgraduate study, including our own dynamic and experimental MA courses.

Through professional development tutorials, you will be supported to seek and complete work experience with an opportunity to gain an additional Diploma or Certificate in Professional Practice, dependent on the duration of placement. Students undertaking placements of shorter duration may also be eligible for a Placement Certificate in Professional Practice. These are optional awards that you can seek in addition to your Honours degree award.

In summary, the course aims to foster:

- The acquisition of knowledge, understanding, technical and design skills required to operate professionally and creatively in the global fashion design industry and related creative industries.
- A positive learning environment that nurtures creative thinking and directional approaches to contemporary design to enable you to

research/analyse/initiate projects and communicate ideas to a range of audiences.

- The ability to contextualise fashion design within international, sustainable, social, economic and contextual (contemporary / historical / theoretical) frameworks to inform independent judgements and actions.
- 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.

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.

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

1. Negotiate self-initiated activity in response to set briefs and personalised study choices. (B)
2. Evidence analysis of research methodologies from a variety of sources to formulate concepts, for practical and written outcomes (B)
3. Critically analyse and evaluate historical, contemporary, cultural and theoretical influences in relation to your own practice (B)
4. Evaluate design responsibility attitudes and apply personal values in your practice, including social and ethical ideals. (B)
5. Reflect upon global, cultural and economic perspectives, relevant to the end consumer, to inform your work. (B)
6. Employ innovative 2D and 3D practical responses to a range of materials, construction methods, techniques and technologies. (B)
7. Explore and apply current and emerging technologies to define a personal design identity. (B)
8. Evidence your ability to work collaboratively or as a team, encouraging new ways of generating ideas and creative problem-solving. (B)
9. Demonstrate a professional and flexible approach to learning and self-management by identifying strengths and needs and reflecting on personal development when managing workloads and/or meeting deadlines. (B)

B = Benchmarked against the QAA subject statements – Art & Design 2017

8. **Learning and teaching methods**

Teaching on the course is flexible and responsive to your learning and meets the needs of a diverse cohort. These learning experiences will build skills from first to final year with the aim of ensuring that you evolve to become an independent practitioner.

Practice based teaching and learning will occur mainly in the studios/fashion design workshops enabling you to develop pattern cutting, garment manufacturing and CAD skills. In addition, seminars, lectures and tutorials

will actively engage you in discussion with peers, tutors and industry professionals as you start to make connections between fashion design and the wider cultural context.

As you progress through the course, you will be offered more personalised learning opportunities in the form of master classes and optional workshops/modules, accessing university facilities independently and collaboratively to develop your concepts. You will develop the autonomy to follow self-determined research interests, guided by tutorial support, that align with your career progression aspirations. Industry led live projects will also aid the development of your employability skills and access to external fashion and trade organisations such as: BFC, Graduate Fashion Week (GFW), IFFTI who all offer national/international competition opportunities, scholarships and workshops on industry practices.

As part of our commitment to develop personalisation in our curricula, you will be offered a choice of modules at Level 5, from which you can select one. The module options presented have been selected by the course team in order to compliment your study, to give you the opportunity to follow and deepen your interests, and study with students from other courses. The course also encourages you to recognise the need for designers to use their initiative and to be well organised. Problem solving, team working and critical awareness is developed through a mainly project-based and integrated practice and theory approach.

Teaching and learning is conducted in an atmosphere that is informed by industry practice, creative awareness and respect for personal viewpoints. Visiting speakers complement a comprehensive lecture programme that offers insights into contemporary practice from differing perspectives. Optional external visits include international fashion events, companies, exhibitions and sites of cultural interest. Learning is a reciprocal process, based on shared discussion between students and staff. Consequently, working in small groups is an important aspect of the teaching and learning approach for tutorials and interim assessments. You will build essential employability skills and learn to communicate your ideas in appropriate formats adapted for diverse audiences.

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 and also provides you with an online resource for self-directed learning opportunities such as videos of pattern cutting demonstrations and technical processes for garment construction.

Internationalisation is embedded in to the curriculum to support understanding of the global industry and teaching strategies have been developed that enhance the learning experience of all of our students

including our international cohort. For example, glossaries of specialist vocabulary; online videos to support technical demonstrations; handouts for pattern cutting and CAD workshops; lecture capture; and integrated language support which has benefitted students with regard to clarity of understanding.

9. **Assessment methods**

The course includes a variety of assessment activities. You will engage with peer, tutor and self-evaluation activities to develop your understanding of module learning outcomes and their relationship with your work. At identified stages throughout the year you will submit or present work and receive timely verbal, written or audio feedback. You will also have opportunities in individual tutorials to discuss this feedback further and in more depth.

At Level 4, module learning experiences are designed to create a strong connection between theory and practice through a series of design toolkits. Assessment tasks bring together teaching from both modules so that this research and exploration informs your fashion design project work. During Levels 5 and 6, live projects will provide the opportunity to have work reviewed at interim stages by industry professionals. You will also present final team design outcomes, receive industry, and tutor feedback. At level 6 there will be a summative opportunity to demonstrate your understanding of connections between different aspects of your learning in a final synoptic assessment task.

Assessment of the course is 100% coursework. Throughout the course this will be required in a variety of formats depending on the module. Examples include presented design projects with supporting research in the form of sketchbooks, design development, 3D prototypes, garment/product construction methods, creative cutting techniques, brand creation, portfolios, technical and contextual research; digital formats/reports/reflective practice including professional development; essays/visual essays, contextual synopsis and a dissertation/visual product at Level 6.

10. **Course structure and curriculum**

The course is studied on a full-time (3 years) basis, with the option of a sandwich placement between years two and three.

Level 4 (Year 1)	Core / Optional	Credits
Curiosity: Creative Exploration and Research	Core	40
Curiosity: Creative Development and Application for Fashion Design	Core	80

During Level 4, you will be introduced to the fundamental principles of fashion design, through a series of studio and workshop practices.

Your intellectual curiosity will develop through design research and creative practice. You will develop design toolkits in concept / drawing / materials / colour and future thinking. These will inform your contextual and visual research, ideas generation, creative media exploration and experimentation with technical processes. You will begin to develop personal design perspectives and start to relate them to the wider cultural context. During the year, you will have opportunities to engage with collaborative projects with your peers across the School of Art and Design.

Level 5 (Year 2)	Core / Optional	Credits
Directions: Industry and Context for Fashion Design	Core	40
*Material Stories	Optional	20
*Publishing: Experimental Formats	Optional	20
*Trend Forecasting	Optional	20
*Buying, Merchandising and Product Fundamentals	Optional	20
Directions: Innovation and Transition for Fashion Design	Core	40
Co Lab: Research, Exploration and Risk-Taking	Core	20

* students must select 1 module (20 credits) from the suite of optional modules

During Level 5, you will develop in-depth fashion design skills by working as part of a design team on a live project set by industry. This will extend your understanding of fashion markets and how this informs design outcomes, trends and brands. In addition, this module will also include emerging cultural issues, responsible design practice and international perspectives. Your awareness of professional careers and approaches will broaden and you will start to define a self-selected creative pathway through a series of core and optional modules. This will allow you to consider more speculative design outcomes, engage with creative risk taking, and work collaboratively beyond discipline boundaries to extend and challenge your perspectives. A transitions project at the end of the year will encourage you to reflect on your learning experiences and prepare concepts for further exploration, that align strategically with your future professional development aspirations, in preparation for Level 6.

Level 6 (Year 3 / 4)	Core / Optional	Credits
Resolutions: Culture and Context	Core	20/40
Resolutions: Practice and Context for Fashion Design	Core	100/80

During Level 6 you will identify and formulate a strategic plan of personalised learning which builds on your previous years' work. The initiation, development and resolution of your final year projects should be guided by your career aspirations. You will have the option, having decided at L5 with tutorial support, to select a pathway of either fashion design: collection or fashion design: product. You will also have the option as to the weighting of

your modules, depending on the emphasis you want to place on your work. With guidance from your tutors, you will negotiate project outcomes for each module that reflect the module weighting you have selected. The focus of the options you make ensure that through your research, to completion of practical work, you will have the opportunity to respond innovatively to your area of interest, demonstrating experimental, independent learning through critical inquiry and individual expression. You will be encouraged and supported to develop your skills and attributes to demonstrate extensive understanding of your discipline in preparation for employment.

You will be exposed to a number of national and international competitions; industry led projects and collaborations where you are encouraged to be strategic when selecting options. This is to ensure your work represents your current strengths and demonstrates a directional personal design identity in terms of creative inquiry, use of technologies and an appreciation for the design context and sustainable issues. This will ensure that you are in a competitive position to maximise on employment opportunities upon graduation.

Placement awards

There are options for all students in the School of Art and Design to gain additional professional practice awards in addition to their Honours degree. At Level 5, a Placement Certificate in Professional Practice may be awarded to those students who are able to complete a placement totalling a minimum of 6 weeks. The Placement Diploma in Professional Practice requires a minimum of 36 weeks taken during the sandwich placement year between Level 5 and Level 6 (years 2 and 3).

Interim awards

Students who do not progress to the final stage may be eligible for an interim award of Certificate of Higher Education, Diploma of Higher Education or Ordinary Degree.

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 to achieve the best results possible during your studies, providing a wide range of academic and pastoral help and advice. In addition to the course leader, module leaders and course administrator, a member of staff will also be assigned to you at the start of the course as your personal tutor.

As part of your Induction, you will be introduced to the Student Handbook which includes information on how to access Employability Services, Disability Services, Language Support, Fees and Student Finance Services, the Student Union, Health and Wellbeing Services, International Students Support, Study Support and Individual Support.

Language and academic support is provided for international students who require additional study support. The University's Library, Employability Team and Student Support Services are all ready to support you during your time at University.

Personal tutors will be identified during induction. As a matter of course, you will meet your personal tutor at the start of term 1, to set academic and personal goals for the year ahead. This will allow you to discuss any extra support for learning requirements you may have. You will have follow on meetings each term to discuss progress. Extra sessions are integrated at key points in the modules to support module learning and enhance development. Your personal tutor also supports you in professional development planning sessions as you explore and develop career directions and aspirations throughout the course. Your personal tutor is your first point of contact if anything happens to affect your ability to study and engage with the course. You can e-mail them at any time to make an appointment beyond scheduled contact times.

The School trains second and third year students to become Student Mentors enabling them to support first year students. The Fashion 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.

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 fashion industry. Live projects, reinforced by optional course trips to professional events, are an important part of the curriculum and this together with support from subject specialist staff develops your confidence and experiences. Through professional development tutorials, the course supports students to find placement opportunities to enable you to experience working in professional contexts and identify how your course / practice sits within the creative and cultural industries. The Employability Team are accessible to all students and offer support and advice on a range of employability issues.

The course professional development programme is supported by a series of tutorials, seminars, workshops and lectures. Alumni share their career experiences and industry practitioners visit to review portfolios and share insights about their job roles in the fashion and textile sector and related creative industries. Throughout the course, you are encouraged to consider and plan to support your approach to employability and/or progression. This begins at level 4 with an introduction to professional development planning where you are encouraged to reflect upon the breadth of the industry and begin to test your personal interests and prepare design CVs. At level 5 you are encouraged to become more directional and identify companies to approach for work experience and develop self-promotional tools – websites, blogs, and covering letters and CV's. During your final year, you are encouraged to negotiate project choices that align with your personal direction or chosen specialist subject discipline(s). This ensures that you build 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 for future success.

The breadth of the Fashion Design 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 can also undertake Postgraduate study plus Teaching and Research Scholarships.

14. Course standards and quality

There are well established systems for managing the quality of the curriculum within the School.

Module feedback questionnaires and annual surveys are used to gather feedback from students on their learning experiences.

Termly course committee meetings, attended by student representatives and academic staff, provide opportunities to raise and discuss matters contributing to the quality, standards and continuing development of the course. This dialogue helps form an annual report highlighting positive features and areas to address which are further included in a course development plan. The plan is monitored through course committees and students have the opportunity to talk through the impact of any changes made.

Individual and group tutorials additionally provide an informal means of gathering student feedback and enable staff to address matters as they arise. Externally, the School consults with industry representatives as part of the course review and development process to ensure continued relevance of the curriculum to the creative and cultural industries. An external examiner is appointed to provide advice and monitor the academic standards of the course and student achievement in relation to those standards.

15. Assessment regulations This course is subject to the University's Common Assessment Regulations (located in Section 16A of the Quality Handbook).	
16. Additional information	
Collaborative partner(s):	Hong Kong Design Institute (HKDI) BA (Hons) Fashion Design taught as 1-year top-up and delivered collaboratively by NTU and HKDI fashion staff at their institution.
Course referenced to national (QAA) Benchmark Statements:	Management Development Institute of Singapore (MDIS) Art and Design (2017)
Course recognised by:	
NTIC progression route(s):	Foundation Certificate in Art, Design & Media
Date this course specification approved:	DAG 13/11/19
Any additional information:	