

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 & Design |
| 3. Final Award and Course Title: | BA (Hons) Textile Design |
| 4. Mode of study and normal duration: | FT 3 years
SW 4 years |
| 5. UCAS Code: | W221 |

6. Overview and general educational aims of the course

Background

The BA (Hons)Textile Design course is a multi-disciplinary design degree that covers the textile disciplines of print, embroidery, weave, knit and multi-media. Teaching on the course is practice-based and experiential with creative design practice and cultural theory fully integrated. Throughout the course, there are opportunities to engage with emerging multi/cross-disciplinary and collaborative approaches, selecting from a series of optional workshops and modules. You will be able to work with professional practitioners, research active tutors, and students from your own and other courses, in the school of Art and Design and beyond, to extend your perspectives, essential team working ability, and willingness to step beyond your comfort zone to take creative risks.

Sustainable design practice is embedded throughout the course curriculum. You will be challenged to consider the role of the designer in making responsible design decisions that impact positively on society and the world. You will be encouraged to gain an additional 'Sustainability in Practice' award from the University's Green Academy, relating to your design module work.

The course offers a number of progression options. After an introduction to a range of textile disciplines at level 4, students can either choose to specialise in print, embroidery or weave at level 5 of the Textile Design course (with multi-media approaches applicable in combination with all of those disciplines) or transfer onto the closely linked BA (Hons) Fashion Knitwear Design 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 Textile Design course, there is an opportunity to negotiate the balance of theory and practice and develop an extended research project into a publishable or exhibitable outcome with career relevance.

Through professional development tutorials, you will be supported to seek and undertake work experiences with the opportunity to gain an additional

Diploma or Certificate in Professional Practice, dependent on the duration of placement.

The course has strong links with industry leading to a wealth of opportunities to engage with market-driven, live industry projects, national / international competitions as well as the chance to work with diverse clients on socially informed research projects. These activities provide a setting for networking whilst still on the course and building professional networks for future employability opportunities.

An international perspective is embedded within modules, reinforced by an optional overseas visit to fashion and textiles industry trade events.

The BA (Hons) Textile Design course is accredited by the Chartered Society of Designers (CSD). As a student on this course you will benefit from free CSD student membership giving you access to CSD online careers advice and the opportunity to attend talks given by members of the Society introducing you to the world of professional design practice.

Course aims

Overall, the course aims to facilitate:

- The acquisition of knowledge, understanding, technical and design skills required to operate professionally and creatively in the global textile design industry and related creative industries.
- A positive learning environment that nurtures creative thinking and visioning, to enable you to research / analyse /initiate projects and communicate ideas to a range of audiences.
- The ability to contextualise 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. Initiate self-negotiated briefs which support your chosen professional career aspirations. (B)

2. Employ creative and enquiring approaches to trends, theories and contexts to develop your (design) concepts. (B)
3. Analyse your research and integrate diverse, yet relevant, practical and theoretical concepts within your work. (B)
4. Take creative risks to extend and consolidate your skills and knowledge of design fundamentals, applying appropriately to your practical outcomes. (B)
5. Define, test and critically appraise appropriate materials and technical processes in relation to design briefs (B)
6. Develop personal design values and locate your work within the global context of textile design, its associated practices and technologies. (B)
7. Develop opinion on the agency of the designer to influence a positive approach to design responsibility, ethics and future thinking and apply it to your work. (B)
8. Demonstrate relevant skills of organisation, selection and editing to enable you to resolve practical and written outcomes. (B)
9. Demonstrate management of your learning through negotiation and collaboration in teams and/or independently. (B)
10. Communicate resolved written and practical outcomes effectively and professionally, using appropriate academic conventions, adapting to audience and media (B)
11. Define a directional strategy that focuses upon your identified employability/progression goals. (B)

QAA Art & Design (2017) benchmark informed outcomes are indicated '(B)'

8. **Learning and teaching methods**

Teaching on the course involves a broad range of learning experiences that build through from first to final year with the aim of ensuring that you become an independent practitioner. In the first half of your degree, you can expect teaching to occur mostly between the studio and textile workshops. Structured practice-based activities and workshop demonstrations will support you to develop fundamental textile design surface and construction skills. Seminars, lectures and tutorials will actively engage you in discussion with peers, tutors and industry professionals as you start to make connections between your textile practice and a wider design and 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 carry out your design practice. You will develop the autonomy to follow self-determined research interests, guided by tutorial support, that align with your career progression aspirations.

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 where practice and theory are integrated.

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 will select one. The module options presented have been selected by the course team in order to compliment your study, and to give you the opportunity to follow and deepen your interests, and study with students from other courses.

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. Optional external visits include international trade fairs, companies, exhibitions, and sites of cultural interest. The course will present you with multiple opportunities at levels 5 and 6 to engage with live industry projects, national and international competitions.

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. 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 through a number of staff-supported and self-directed activities.

9. Assessment methods

The course includes a variety of assessment activities. You will engage with tutor supported peer / self-evaluation activities to develop your understanding of module learning outcomes and their relationship to your work and module tasks. At key developmental stages throughout the year, you will present / hand in your work. You will receive timely feedback in a variety of verbal, written, audio formats and have opportunities three times a year to discuss feedback in a 1-1 tutorial with your personal tutor.

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 creative research and exploration informs textile development and application. During level 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 and 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.

To ensure 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. Feedback 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.

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, technical documentation and contextual research; digital formats of workbooks / 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 Textile Design	Core	80

During level 4, you will be introduced to fundamental principles of textile 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 visual research, textile 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. During the year, you will have opportunities to engage with collaborative projects with your peers across the School of Art and Design. A final project will consolidate your learning and help you to decide which textile discipline to specialise in at level 5.

Level 5 (Year 2)	Core / Optional	Credits
Directions: Industry and Context for Textile Design	Core	40
*Material Stories	Optional	20
*3D Materials and Exploration	Optional	20
*Trend Forecasting	Optional	20
*Buying, Merchandising and Product Fundamentals	Optional	20
Directions: Innovation and Transition for Textile 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 textile skills in an area of your choice. You will work as part of a design team and select from a range of live projects set by industry. This will extend your understanding of textile and fashion / interior markets, trends and brands, including emerging cultural issues, responsible design practice and international perspectives. Your awareness of professional careers and approaches will extend as you 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 credits
Resolutions: Practice and Context for Textile Design	Core	100/80 credits

During level 6, you will cultivate your own design identity and formulate a strategic plan for personalised learning that builds on the knowledge and skills gained in previous years. The initiation, development and resolution of final year projects should be guided by your future professional career aspirations and you will have a choice as to the weighting of your modules, depending on the emphasis you want to place on your work. You will be encouraged to link theoretical themes that you define in the Resolutions:

Culture and Context module to inform concept development for practice-based Textile Design collections in the Resolutions: Practice and Context module. With guidance from your tutors, you will negotiate project outcomes for each module that reflect the module weighting you have selected. 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. There will be further opportunities to advance your employability skills and engage with industry / external agencies through collaboration, live projects and international competitions. You are encouraged to extend and be inventive with design principles and technologies to create a final body of work that advances your employability options.

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.

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, course administrator and student support advisor, 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.

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.

Personal tutors will be identified during induction. 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 when circumstances 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 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.

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 textiles industry. Live projects, reinforced by optional course trips to international trade fairs, 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, industry practitioners visit to review portfolios, share insights about their job roles in the fashion / textile 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 textile and fashion industries 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 CVs and covering letters. 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 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

There are well established systems for overseeing 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.

The outcomes of the above inform 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.

Informally, course and individual tutorials additionally provide a means of gathering student feedback and enable staff to address matters as soon as they arise.

Externally, the School consult 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):

Course referenced to national (QAA)
Benchmark Statements:

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:

The course offers opportunities to transfer onto BA (Hons) Fashion Knitwear
and Knitted Textiles at L5

The course offers opportunities to transfer to BA (Hons) International Fashion
Business at L6