

Course Specification

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Produced By:	Laura Clode
Status:	Validated

Core Information

Awarding Body / Institution:	University of Wolverhampton		
School / Institute:	Wolverhampton School of Art		
Course Code(s):	AA031H01UV AA031H31UV	Full-time Part-time	3 Years 6 Years
Course Title:	BA (Hons) Fashion		
Hierarchy of Awards:	Bachelor of Arts with Honours Fashion Bachelor of Arts Fashion Diploma of Higher Education Fashion Certificate of Higher Education Fashion University Statement of Credit University Statement of Credit		
Language of Study:	English		
Date of DAG approval:	30/Nov/2017		
Last Review:	2017/8		
Course Specification valid from:	2017/8		
Course Specification valid to:	2023/4		

Academic Staff

Course Leader:	Miss Jo Bloodworth
Head of Department:	Ms Margaret Ayliffe

Course Information

Location of Delivery:	University of Wolverhampton
Category of Partnership:	Not delivered in partnership
Teaching Institution:	University of Wolverhampton
Open / Closed Course:	This course is open to all suitably qualified candidates.

Entry Requirements:

Entry requirements are subject to regular review. The entry requirements applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website (and externally as appropriate e.g. UCAS)

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2017 Entry

- CCC from 'A' levels
- BTEC QCF Extended Diploma grade MMM, BTEC QCF Diploma grade DD
- Successful completion of a Foundation Course in Art and Design
- Access to HE Diploma full award (Pass of 60 credits - of which a minimum of 45 credits must be at level 3 including 18 at Merit or Distinction)
- If you've got other qualifications or relevant experience, please contact The Gateway for further advice before applying.
- Successful completion of the International Foundation Year in Social Sciences or International Foundation Year in Arts guarantees entry on to this course
- International entry requirements and application guidance can be found [here](#)
- Successful completion of the International Foundation Year in Social Sciences or International Foundation Year in Arts

Distinctive Features of the Course:

This BA (Hons) Fashion course is assessed on 100% coursework.

The curriculum is delivered through a series of projects which will give you the opportunity to develop making and designing skills, conceptual ideas, contextual knowledge and understanding and experience of live industry briefs/external projects in the public domain.

Studio and workshop culture is core to our courses and you will be encouraged to become part of the art and design community through time spent working in the studios, workshops and labs available to students across the week.

All courses in the School of Art are now available with a professional placement (sandwich year) option. A professional placement provides an opportunity for professional development in the work place and as such, greatly enhances the student's prospects of finding rewarding and relevant employment at the end of their studies.

The BA (Hons) Fashion course is distinctive in its approach because:

- We nurture the next generation of contemporary fashion professionals through inspirational teaching, studio based projects, technical workshops, collaborations with industry, competitions, exhibitions, weekly tutorials and regular individual contact
- We empower every individual to develop the key skills, knowledge, confidence and personal attributes needed to work in the many facets of the fashion industry
- We instil a deep understanding of specialist research, design concept and strategy, global context, material content, product purpose, commercial benefit, societal value and future sustainability
- We challenge each student to deliver their best throughout their creative journeys, project experiments, product developments and towards their final design outcomes
- We encourage and support individual expression; original, distinctive and innovative ideas; and, intelligent, progressive and highly creative project answers through craftsmanship and new technology

Our Fashion studios and workshops are based on the 1st floor of the Wolverhampton School of Art, George Wallis Building, in the city centre. Our many specialist facilities include:

- Fashion studios with industry standard machinery, specialist machinery, pattern cutting tables and tailors stands.
- Fabric store
- Laser cutting and engraving, 3D printing, access to all other School facilities
- Digital printing facilities, heat bed and disperse printing, screen printing rooms
- Fabric dye lab
- Rug tufting workshop

IT/CAD suites

Educational Aims of the Course:

The BA (Hons) Fashion course fuses the highly creative and exciting commercial dynamics of global fashion with a focus on the design, development and realisation of innovative ideas and products for the contemporary fashion industry and consumer.

In an exciting studio and workshop environment you will learn creative thinking, aesthetic awareness, the skills of research and contextual investigation, the importance of materials and surface pattern, the generation of initial concepts, practical design techniques and experimentation, technical product development methods and how to successfully refine design ideas through to finished 3D garment ranges. You will gain a comprehensive understanding of the modern fashion world, its varied sectors and many markets, and the role of the fashion professional, in particular the designer, within the context of industry.

The inspiring curriculum incorporates specialist lectures, seminars, studio and workshop activities in which tutor-student engagement and peer-to-peer learning supports a professional and independent approach to development from your first year onwards. In your first year of study the focus is on your fashion development, introducing you to essential skills, methods, media, practices, concepts and creative thinking. Your second year focuses on your fashion progression and translating ideas within creative professional contexts; during your third year of study the focus is on your specialist fashion expertise. You will produce an extensive, refined and professional body of work that reflects your individual creativity and aspirations and that fully prepares you for your future in fashion.

Employability lies at the heart of the course and you will study a range of bespoke projects, including live briefs set by industry, which will equip you with a thorough understanding of the entire design process and all the essential professional, communication, design, marketing and business management skills, knowledge and approach required for a rewarding future in fashion.

Intakes:

September

Major Source of Funding:

Tuition Fees:

Tuition fees are reviewed on an annual basis. The fees applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website.

Year	Status	Mode	Amount
2020/1	H	Full Time / Sandwich	£9250.00
2020/1	Overseas	Full Time / Sandwich	£12250.00
2020/1	H	Part Time	£3050.00
2020/1	Overseas	Part Time	£6125.00

PSRB:

None

Course Structure:

September (Full-time)

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 80 credits in each academic calendar year.

Year 1

Full time and Sandwich Undergraduate Honours students normally study 120 credits per academic year; 60 credits semester 1 and 60 credits semester 2.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
4VA009	Methods and Media	60	YEAR	Core
4VA012	Design Practice	60	YEAR	Core

September (Full-time)

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 80 credits in each academic calendar year.

Year 2

Full time and Sandwich Undergraduate Honours students normally study 120 credits per academic year; 60 credits semester 1 and 60 credits semester 2.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
5VA011	Advanced Process	60	YEAR	Core
5VA012	Fashion: Contemporary Practice	60	YEAR	Core

September (Full-time)

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 80 credits in each academic calendar year.

Year 3

Full time and Sandwich Undergraduate Honours students normally study 120 credits per academic year; 60 credits semester 1 and 60 credits semester 2.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
6VA018	Professional Practice	60	YEAR	Core
6VA011	Fashion: Final Collection	60	YEAR	Core

Please note: Optional modules might not run every year, the course team will decide on an annual basis which options will be running, based on student demand and academic factors, to create the best learning experience.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Academic Regulations Exemption:

AFRSC/17/6.2.3 FoA Undergraduate Arts Degree Portfolio.

Section 1.3.1 - Exemption to exceed normal module credits within the standard University Academic Framework allowing for use of all 60 credit taught modules (Level 3 to Level 6) delivered Year Long on the following programmes;

BA (Hons) Photography

BA (Hons) Fashion

BA (Hons) Fine Art

BA (Hons) Glass and Ceramics

BA (Hons) Graphic Design

BA (Hons) Illustration

BA (Hons) Painting and Printmaking

BA (Hons) Sculpture and Environmental Art

BA (Hons) Textiles and Surface Pattern

BDes (Hons) Furniture Design

BDes (Hons) Interior Design

BDes (Hons) Product Design

Effective date: September 2018.

APPROVED (by Chair's Action on 6/10/2017)

Reference Points:

Quality Code - [Part A: Setting and Maintaining Academic Standards](#). Including :

[Qualifications Frameworks](#)

[Characteristics Statements](#)

[Credit Frameworks](#)

[Subject Benchmark Statements](#) -

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/SBS-Art-and-Design-17.pdf>

Quality Code - [Part B: Assuring and Enhancing Academic Quality](#)

[University Policies and Regulations](#)

Equality Act (2010)

Learning Outcomes:

CertHE Course Learning Outcome 1 (CHECLO1)

Demonstrate experience of working with a range of materials, processes and technologies associated with fashion.

CertHE Course Learning Outcome 2 (CHECLO2)

Be experimental and show the ability to use speculative and reflective approaches to making and designing.

CertHE Course Learning Outcome 3 (CHECLO3)

Research and respond to contemporary historical and cultural contexts and show the curiosity to develop personally focused research.

CertHE Course Learning Outcome 4 (CHECLO4)

Evaluate and reflect on your performance and that of your peer group in relation to appropriate contextual references and audiences.

CertHE Course Learning Outcome 5 (CHECLO5)

Document and communicate with others about how your ideas have evolved and explain your decision making in support of project outcomes.

DipHE Course Learning Outcome 1 (DHECLO1)

Demonstrate specialist skills, techniques, processes, technologies and material knowledge relevant and pertinent to contemporary practice in fashion.

DipHE Course Learning Outcome 2 (DHECLO2)

Explore a range of creative, speculative and research methods in your work and use the knowledge to inform the development of your practice.

DipHE Course Learning Outcome 3 (DHECLO3)

Understand the external contexts of fashion and resolve projects through informed decision making in relation to these contexts.

DipHE Course Learning Outcome 4 (DHECLO4)

Research, identify and evaluate appropriate contextual knowledge relevant to fashion through written and verbal presentations.

DipHE Course Learning Outcome 5 (DHECLO5)

Develop an engagement with external communities and audiences and use appropriate forums to discuss and reflect on your practice.

DipHE Course Learning Outcome 6 (DHECLO6)

Demonstrate a sustained commitment to discussion and engagement with your art and design community.

Ordinary Course Learning Outcome 1 (ORDCLO1)

Demonstrate a sustained and independent approach to generating ideas and production of work in response to self-initiated or externally generated projects

Ordinary Course Learning Outcome 2 (ORDCLO2)

Select and employ appropriately the materials, media, techniques, methods, technologies and tools necessary to resolve your practice.

Ordinary Course Learning Outcome 3 (ORDCLO3)

Identify, understand and reflect on the connections between intention, process, outcome and context in your work.

Ordinary Course Learning Outcome 4 (ORDCLO4)

Demonstrate knowledge of the specific critical and contextual dimensions of your work and engage in the work of practitioners and theorists relevant to your final project.

Ordinary Course Learning Outcome 5 (ORDCLO5)

Critically reflect on and benefit from engagement with others and utilise personal development planning effectively to progress your practice.

Honours Course Learning Outcome 1 (DEGCLO1)

Think creatively to resolve your work to a professional standard within your discipline.

Honours Course Learning Outcome 2 (DEGCLO2)

Demonstrate knowledge of the specific critical and contextual dimensions of your practice and engage in the work of practitioners and theorists relevant to your final project.

Honours Course Learning Outcome 3 (DEGCLO3)

Employ models of professional presentation appropriate to the dissemination of your work.

Honours Course Learning Outcome 4 (DEGCLO4)

Demonstrate a sustained ability to reflect on your work and use the information to develop new work and an

informed understanding of your practice.

Honours Course Learning Outcome 5 (DEGCLO5)

Understand and locate your work appropriately within the broad and specialist contexts of your subject and research appropriate personal and career objectives.

Overview of Assessment:

Module	Title	Course Learning Outcomes
4VA009	Methods and Media	CHECLO1, CHECLO2, CHECLO3, CHECLO4, CHECLO5, CHECLO6
4VA012	Design Practice	CHECLO1, CHECLO2, CHECLO3, CHECLO4, CHECLO5, CHECLO6
5VA011	Advanced Process	DHECLO1, DHECLO2, DHECLO3, DHECLO4, DHECLO5, DHECLO6
5VA012	Fashion: Contemporary Practice	DHECLO1, DHECLO2, DHECLO3, DHECLO4, DHECLO5, DHECLO6
6VA011	Fashion: Final Collection	DEGCLO1, DEGCLO2, DEGCLO3, DEGCLO4, DEGCLO5, ORDCLO1, ORDCLO2, ORDCLO3, ORDCLO4, ORDCLO5
6VA017	Textiles and Surface Pattern:Major Project	DEGCLO1, DEGCLO2, DEGCLO3, DEGCLO4, DEGCLO5, ORDCLO1, ORDCLO2, ORDCLO3, ORDCLO4, ORDCLO5

Teaching, Learning and Assessment:

Teaching is focussed in (though not limited to) a studio environment in which tutor-student engagement and peer-to-peer learning supports a creative, experimental, professional and independent approach to development from Level 4 onwards. Teaching, supervised practice and independent exploration also takes place in well-equipped material workshops and computer labs. Throughout the course students are encouraged to explore, develop and build material and technical competencies towards developing their own rich, challenging and distinct visual language as artists and designers.

The School of Art houses a range of purpose built studio spaces and workshops with an extensive range of professional equipment not available in schools and colleges. Students at the School of Art are taught by practicing artists and designers working in academic and technical roles. These specialist practitioners teach both fundamental skills, support experimental and speculative practice and ensure practice is underpinned by knowledge and awareness of contemporary contexts.

The course is structured over three years and each year is divided into two year- long 60 credit modules. This framework is designed to provide opportunities for full and part-time study and to allow students the time and space to develop their own specialist approach to fashion over an extended time frame.

Students are assessed 100% on their coursework and are supported to progress and achieve their potential through careful tracking by staff in project feedback sessions, personal tutorials and formative assessment points. Each module has two points of formative assessment that provide key performance indicators for the student and staff teams to use in personal development planning. Assessment reviews and tutorials will be used to assess progress, galvanise the student to understand and map their own learning journey and to use this information to improve their indicative grades and project work. The assessment strategy has been designed to provide students with a number of opportunities throughout the year to test their work against the learning outcomes and to further develop aspects of their practice before receiving a final summative grade for the module. These formative reviews will also be used by staff to trigger university and subject support mechanisms for students who are not achieving at an appropriate level before summative results start to affect progression and achievement at each level.

Summative assessment takes place at the end of each module as an event in which students evaluate their own work and select work to present in a portfolio that best demonstrates their achievement over the year.

Employability is core to the ethos of the School of Art's learning and teaching, and the BA (Hons) Fashion

course provides opportunities from Level 4 to experience and engage with professional and industrial contacts. At Level 4 students are encouraged to encounter and experience all aspects of their specialist area and further embed themselves into the subject through visits and speakers. At Level 5 students will have the opportunity to experience professional practice and will work on subject-specific briefs led by external clients/organisations. At this level there will also be an emphasis on off-site/live projects/placements that offer opportunities for interdisciplinary collaborative practice. Level 5 is designed to give students the opportunity to risk take and experiment within their subjects but also to meet and network with other students across the School of Art. Level 6 emphasises self-negotiated projects and provides students with the time and support to develop their individual voices as artists and designers. There is also provision for interdisciplinary teams working together on ambitious final outcomes where appropriate, and student will be supported to maintain placement learning and external networks established at Level 5. In addition, the University offers a Career Development Week each year, which is intended to provide cross-curricula activities that enable students to extend or galvanise their skill and employability goals.

The modules embed theoretical and contextual practice within studio-based teaching. We have an extensive and specialist library collection, supported by a subject librarian with whom staff and students work closely. Level 4 provides opportunities for exploring these resources and is structured around a range of contextual learning opportunities from traditional lectures to creative thinking workshops, mirroring the breadth offered in studio practice. Levels 5 and 6 provide opportunities for students to develop their own trajectories in a way that reflects their practice in the studio through a choice of theoretical and theory-practice combined projects. External visiting speakers and staff research projects and practice contribute to a thriving contextual diet; Students can experience staff working, and gain additional insight into the importance of ideas, research and conceptual experimentation to creative production.

In addition the School of Art provides many opportunities throughout the year for students to join study visits to UK and European destinations. These visits underpin student learning by providing an opportunity for students to see professional practice in their field, engage with new ideas, materials, sites and scale, consider display and presentation strategies and explore other roles associated with art and design such as curation, marketing, education. The visits also provide opportunities for students to spend time in an expanded community of their own peers to support interdisciplinary and cross year support and collaboration.

Assessment Methods:

At the University of Wolverhampton, a variety of modes of assessment will be used to support and test your learning and progress and to help you develop capabilities that are valued beyond your University studies and into your working life. Your course may include a variety of assessment activities:

Written examinations (including online examinations, open and closed book examinations and quizzes)
Coursework (for example, essays, reports, portfolios, project proposals and briefs, CVs, poster presentation)
Practical (for example, oral and video presentations, laboratory work, performances, practical skills assessment)

In the final year of your undergraduate degree, and at the end of your postgraduate degree, you are likely to be expected to write an extended piece of work or research, such as a dissertation or a practice-based piece of research.

Student Support:

General University support:

The university has an extensive range of support options for students. For Art and Design students this begins with Arts Support Central, an online resource through which academic study support, careers and enterprise, counselling, enabling services, Chaplaincy services, nursery and carer support, financial services and distance learning can all be accessed. Students can access student advisors and mentors and there is support and representation also offered by the Students' Union and can also find support based on whether they are International students, TNE students, research students, mature students or students with families.

Course Specific Support

The course has a personal tutor system in which students see a tutor assigned to them regularly throughout the year and this provides them with pastoral support outside of their immediate academic studies on specific modules.

There is a specialist Art and Design librarian who works closely with the staff team to support the subject-specific research and writing skills of students at all levels. This support is situated within the library, which has an extensive and long-standing collection of printed materials and monographs that can be accessed 24 hours a day in term time. Students can also access a range of texts and journals electronically both on campus and at home.

Employability in the Curriculum:

The aim of the BA (Hons) Fashion course is to inspire, develop and prepare graduates who are professional, skilled, knowledgeable and dynamic; the next generation of fashion talent who fully appreciate all possible opportunities and their future role within the context of the fashion industry.

Employment and enterprise opportunities after the course, include:

- Fashion design
- Fashion product development
- Fashion business and marketing
- Textile design
- Trend prediction and styling
- Retail buying and/or merchandising
- Product and supply management
- Visual merchandising

You may also find employment in other sectors, including education, arts and crafts, costume design and community projects.

We encourage entrepreneurial development and provide access to business start-up schemes, enabling you to establish yourselves as a designer, running your own business and selling through retail or within other design, arts and crafts outlets.

During your time on the course you will have the opportunity to develop your business ideas, create your own brand and contemporary personal marketing materials. There is also potential to continue your studies to postgraduate level on our MA programme.

All of our students have the opportunity to engage with an additional 'Employability Award' associated with their degree, and a high percentage of our students achieve the gold standard as a result of our employment-focused curriculum.

All courses in the School of Art are now available with a professional placement option (Sandwich Year). A professional placement provides an opportunity for professional development in the work place and as such, greatly enhances the student's prospects of finding rewarding and relevant employment at the end of their studies. The school assists students in securing work placements, undertaking live briefs, engaging directly with employers and developing key employability skills. The School is committed to raising student awareness of the opportunities that exist post-graduation.

International students will need to apply for the BA (Hons) Fashion course with professional placement before joining the course to ensure visa requirements are met.