

Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
1	Course Title	MA Fashion and Textile Design
2	Course Code	PT1858 MA Fashion and Textile Design PT1858-01 MA Fashion and Textile Design (Fashion Design) PT1858-02 MA Fashion and Textile Design (Textile and Surface Design)
3	Awarding Institution	Birmingham City University
4	Teaching Institution(s) (if different from point 3)	N/A
5	Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation (if applicable)	N/A

6	Course Description
	<p>Our MA in Fashion and Textile Design brings together craftspeople, artists, and designers who are passionate about exploring the intersections between fashion, textiles, and material innovation.</p> <p>The course provides an immersive and dynamic environment for creative experimentation, critical reflection, and professional development. You will join a diverse community of recent graduates and experienced practitioners, all motivated to refine their skills and define their professional identity within an ever-evolving, global creative landscape.</p> <p>You will select one of two specialisms: MA Fashion and Textile Design (Fashion Design) or MA Fashion and Textile Design (Textile and Surface Design).</p> <p>Each route includes specialist seminars and workshops within shared modules, enabling you to focus your research and creative output while collaborating with peers across the wider MA Fashion and Textile Design community.</p> <p>The first term introduces core design thinking, creative ideation, and research methodologies that are relevant to both specialisms. You will have the opportunity to explore the breadth of the subject area before confirming your chosen focus at the end of term one.</p> <p>In term two, you will apply your technical, conceptual, and collaborative skills through project-based briefs and focus on professionalism and networking through live challenges.</p> <p>Term three culminates in the launch of your collection, either on the runway or through exhibition, preparing you for professional creative practice or further research.</p> <p>Contributing to critical debates is central to the course. You will explore and respond to pivotal issues such as sustainability, diversity, craftsmanship, and digital innovation to propose forward-thinking and responsible design solutions.</p>

Guided by three key pillars: *Sustainability and Craftsmanship*, *Innovation and Research*, and *Enterprise and Entrepreneurialism*, this course supports you to become an independent designer equipped with the creative agility, critical awareness, and entrepreneurial confidence required to thrive in the global fashion and textile industries.

This course is designed to suit both recent graduates and experienced practitioners who wish to advance their creative practice, explore interdisciplinary approaches, or develop the expertise to launch new ventures or pursue advanced research. Although a background or degree in fashion or textiles is beneficial, it is not essential to join the course as we will assess a creative digital portfolio in support of your application.

MA Fashion and Textile Design (Fashion Design)

- **Design Innovation and Craft:** Explore experimental and sustainable approaches to fashion design, developing original collections that balance creativity, technical skill, and craftsmanship.
- **Collaborative Practice:** Engage in interdisciplinary projects that encourage collaboration with peers, industry partners, and creative professionals to mirror real-world fashion environments.
- **Professional Readiness:** Build an advanced portfolio that demonstrates conceptual depth, aesthetic awareness, and a strong understanding of contemporary global fashion systems.

You will probably have a background in fashion design, pattern cutting, or garment construction, or you may come from a related creative discipline and wish to expand your design expertise to work in this dynamic and competitive area of the fashion industry.

MA Fashion and Textile Design (Textile and Surface Design)

- **Material and Process Exploration:** Experiment with digital and hand-crafted textile and surface design techniques, exploring the tactile, structural, and visual potential of materials.
- **Cultural and Sustainable Contexts:** Investigate how cultural narratives, material innovation, and sustainability inform textile and surface design.
- **Industry Application:** Translate creative research into professional outcomes through live projects, prototyping, and cross-disciplinary collaborations.

Students join this specialism from a wide range of backgrounds; you might have studied textiles, fashion, fine art, graphic design, illustration or product design, or be a maker, artist, or creative practitioner seeking to evolve your material practice or develop your own studio or brand.

What's Covered in the Course:

- **Comprehensive Industry Insight:** Develop a deep understanding of the interconnected nature of the fashion and textile industries, and the socio-political and cultural factors that influence them.
- **Collaborative Project Experience:** Work with peers and industry professionals on creative challenges, gaining practical experience and networking opportunities.
- **Professional Portfolio Development:** Create and present a professional portfolio that demonstrates your ability to devise, produce, and launch collections using relevant technical and conceptual skills, meeting industry standards.

- **Enhanced Research and Analytical Skills:** Advance your ability to analyse, evaluate, and apply theoretical concepts to practical scenarios within the fashion and textile industries.
- **Global and Cross-Cultural Perspective:** Cultivate a global outlook, engaging with diverse perspectives and contemporary debates in the fashion and textile sectors.
- **Career Readiness:** Graduate with the skills, confidence, and professional insight to transition into the industry, research, or entrepreneurial ventures.

How you'll learn:

You will learn through seminars, workshops, tutorials, and independent study that encourage reflection on your creative practice and design direction. Collaboration across the School of Arts will expand your network and enrich your learning experience.

- **Lectures and Tutorials:**
Formal lectures and informal talks will introduce complex knowledge and promote critical discussion. Tutorials, both one-to-one and group-based, offer the opportunity to articulate ideas, share challenges, and receive constructive feedback.
- **Workshops and Learning Resources:**
You will have access to industry-standard workshops for digital and traditional print, embroidery, constructed textiles, 3D printing, and laser cutting, as well as photography and fashion studios. The University's online learning platform and library provide extensive academic and technical resources to support your development.
- **Industry Engagement and Employability:**
You will learn from guest speakers, undertake live projects, and visit trade fairs, exhibitions, and cultural institutions. Opportunities for negotiated placements and enterprise projects — including through STEAMhouse, our innovation and business development hub — will enhance your industry experience and entrepreneurial potential.
- **Assessment and Feedback:**
Assessment mirrors professional practice, including portfolio presentations, reports, prototypes, and visual communication outputs. Extensive feedback ensures you build confidence, independence, and professional standards throughout your learning journey.

7 Course Awards			
7a	Name of Final Award	Level	Credits Awarded
	Master of Arts Fashion and Textile Design (Fashion Design)	7	180
	Master of Arts Fashion and Textile Design (Fashion Design) with Professional Placement	7	240
	Master of Arts Fashion and Textile Design (Textile and Surface Design)	7	180
	Master of Arts Fashion and Textile Design (Textile and Surface Design) with Professional Placement	7	240
7b Exit Awards and Credits Awarded			
	Postgraduate Certificate Fashion and Textile Design	7	60
	Postgraduate Diploma Fashion and Textile Design (Fashion Design)	7	120
	Postgraduate Diploma Fashion and Textile Design (Textile and Surface Design)	7	120

8 Variation from the University Regulations	
	Not Applicable

9 Delivery Patterns			
Mode(s) of Study	Location(s) of Study	Duration of Study	Code(s)
Full Time	City Centre	1 Year	PT1858
Full Time with Professional Placement	City Centre (and placement provider)	18 months	PT1859

10 Entry Requirements	
	The admission requirements for this course are stated on the course page of the BCU website at https://www.bcu.ac.uk , or may be found by searching for the course entry profile located on the UCAS website.

11	Course Aims
	<p>Comprehensive Industry Insight: You will have a profound understanding of the interconnected nature of the fashion and textile industries, and the socio-political and cultural factors that influence them.</p> <p>Collaborative Project Experience: You will have successfully collaborated on projects with peers and/or industry professionals, gaining practical experience and networking opportunities.</p> <p>Professional Portfolio Development: You will have created and presented a professional portfolio that demonstrate your ability to devise, create and launch collections using relevant technical skills, meeting industry standards.</p> <p>Enhanced Research and Analytical Skills: You will have advanced your research capabilities and analytical thinking, enabling you to develop, evaluate, and apply theoretical concepts to practical scenarios within the fashion and textile industries.</p> <p>Global and Cross-Cultural Perspective: You will have cultivated a global and cross-cultural perspective, in preparation for the international aspects of the fashion and textile industries.</p> <p>Engagement in Critical Debates: You will have actively engaged in critical debates on pivotal issues such as sustainability, diversity, craftsmanship and digital literacy in the industry.</p> <p>Advanced Communication Skills: You will have developed advanced oral, written, visual and practical skills, essential for professional success in the fashion and textile sectors.</p> <p>Career Readiness: You will be well-prepared for the transition from education to employment, equipped with the expertise, knowledge, and experiences necessary to thrive in your chosen career.</p>

12 Course Learning Outcomes	
Knowledge and Understanding	
1	Evaluate the relative merits of a range of practical and theoretical modes of enquiry in the development of creative practice.
2	Interact with industry in your chosen specialist area to seek professional feedback on your portfolio.
3	Present an entrepreneurial vision of your practice to an external panel using balanced arguments and reasoned judgments.
4	Conduct independent research that relates to your own practice.
5	Apply practical skills appropriate to the creative industries and digital futures.
6	Integrate industry standard technologies to create 2D and 3D digital prototypes.
7	Demonstrate excellence in design craftsmanship through contemporary, traditional and digital processes.
Skills and other attributes	
8	Produce a design manifesto that initiates creative projects independently and/or collaboratively.
9	Undertake a strategic plan to pursue a set of interrelated activities to produce fashion and/or textile designs in a global marketplace.
10	Demonstrate managerial, technical and aesthetic excellence in the execution of practical work.
11	Generate innovative and self-directed approaches to solve complex problems and develop solutions.
12	Integrate equality, diversity and inclusion in the approach to your theory and practice.
13	Synthesise sustainable design principles by integrating critical thinking and practical experimentation to create responsible design journeys.

13	Level Learning Outcomes
	<i>Upon completion of 60 credits at Level 7 / PG Cert, students will be able to:</i>
	Independently investigate issues relevant to your creative practice by applying a range of methodological approaches and principles.
	Apply research methodologies pertinent to academic and professional contexts.
	Research and critically analyse primary and secondary sources and evaluate their significance in project planning.
	Initiate communication with industry professionals to build networks within your chosen speciality area.
	Gather industry insights to measure the commercial relevance and impact of your technical skills, digital literacy and craftsmanship.
	Devise a personal design signature that incorporates diverse cultural and social perspectives and practices.
	<i>Upon completion of 120 credits at Level 7 / PG Dip, students will be able to:</i>
	Synthesize research to make informed decisions about design challenges in the creative industries.
	Demonstrate design craftsmanship through contemporary, traditional, and digital processes.
	Curate a portfolio that addresses contemporary issues and demonstrates significant industry or entrepreneurial potential.
	Manage academic and/ or practical projects both independently and collaboratively.
	Incorporate sustainable design principles into your practice to create a responsible design journey.
	Evaluate the ethical implications of your creative practice on diversity and representation within global fashion communities.

14	Course Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy
	<p>Learning and Teaching Strategy The learning approach involves engaging in seminars, workshops, tutorials, and independent study that fosters discussions and reflections on your creative practice and design. You will be encouraged to collaborate with peers across the Art, Design and Media Faculty to help you broaden your network and gain mutual feedback.</p> <p>Lectures and Tutorials Formal lectures and informal talks will convey complex knowledge and promote critical discussions. Group presentations will provide you with a platform for peer review and constructive criticism, enhancing your learning outcomes. Tutorials are both personalized and collaborative, offering you opportunities to articulate ideas, share challenges, and receive multi-faceted feedback from tutors and peers.</p> <p>Learning Resources You will have access to the university's virtual learning platform (VLE); Moodle, where you will find your course information and student community forums, plus print and online resources at the university library. We provide workshops to enhance both your academic and technical skills, and academic support is available through regular group sessions. Specialised workshops focus on industry-</p>

standard software such as Clo3D, Photoshop, and InDesign with technicians available to assist in developing your expertise.

Workshops

BCU has a vast array of creative tools to support your design learning journey. Hand-crafting approaches in fashion and textile practice sit alongside state-of-the-art facilities in all of our workshops. You will have access to digital and traditional print, embroidery, and constructed textiles workshops. We have a fully equipped fashion workshop, laser cutting and 3D printing labs, and access to photography studios as you develop into an independent learner.

Industry Engagement and Employability

A key feature of our course is the integration with industry professionals. We regularly host distinguished guest speakers from various sectors of the fashion and textile industry who offer broad cultural and industrial insights with global perspectives that will deepen your subject knowledge. In addition, you can negotiate placements providing real-world experience to enhance employability.

You can work on live projects with industry, as well as visit trade events, museums, and places of cultural interest, gaining real-world insights beyond the classroom.

Entrepreneurial Focus

Entrepreneurial skills are integrated throughout the course. You will participate in a collaborative project supported by STEAMhouse, our centre for technology, innovation, creative thinking, prototyping and business development. This leads to the opportunity to compete for a place on a mini start-up incubator program there.

Assessment and Feedback

Feedback is extensive and diverse, encompassing written feedback and feedforward on summative assessments, as well as formative assessments at the end of each module. You are expected to utilize tutors' constructive criticism and actionable feedforward to enhance your learning experience.

This strategic approach ensures you cultivate skills for ongoing learning and development as a designer in a supportive learning environment, encouraging both professional and personal growth in the field of fashion and textile design.

15	Course Requirements																												
15a	<p>Level 7:</p> <p><i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 180 credits):</i></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Module Code</th> <th style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Module Name</th> <th style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>FAS7055</td> <td>Advanced Research Skills</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FAS7049</td> <td>Material, Process and Ideation</td> <td>40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FAS7050</td> <td>Professional Futures: Collaborative Challenge</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FAS7XXX</td> <td>Innovation and Enterprise TBC</td> <td>40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FAS7051</td> <td>Project Resolution and Collection Launch</td> <td>40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FAS7052</td> <td>Reflection</td> <td>20</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>In order to qualify for the awards with Professional Placement, a student must successfully complete all of the Level 7 modules listed above as well as the following Level 7 module:</i></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Module Code</th> <th style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Module Name</th> <th style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>PLAXXX</td> <td>Professional Placement</td> <td>60</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	FAS7055	Advanced Research Skills	20	FAS7049	Material, Process and Ideation	40	FAS7050	Professional Futures: Collaborative Challenge	20	FAS7XXX	Innovation and Enterprise TBC	40	FAS7051	Project Resolution and Collection Launch	40	FAS7052	Reflection	20	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	PLAXXX	Professional Placement	60
Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value																											
FAS7055	Advanced Research Skills	20																											
FAS7049	Material, Process and Ideation	40																											
FAS7050	Professional Futures: Collaborative Challenge	20																											
FAS7XXX	Innovation and Enterprise TBC	40																											
FAS7051	Project Resolution and Collection Launch	40																											
FAS7052	Reflection	20																											
Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value																											
PLAXXX	Professional Placement	60																											

15b	Structure Diagram
------------	--------------------------

MA FASHION & TEXTILE DESIGN COURSE

Induction		
Semester 1	FAS7049: Material, Process and Ideation (40 credits)	
	FAS7055: Advanced Research Skills (20 credits)	
PG Certificate (60 credits)		
Semester 2	FAS7XXX: Innovation and Enterprise TBC (40 credits)	
	FAS7050: Professional Futures: Collaborative Challenge (20 credits)	
PG Diploma (120 credits)		
Semester 3	FAS7051: Project Resolution and Collection Launch (40 credits)	FAS7052: Reflection (20 credits)
	MA (180 credits)	
Semester 4	PLA6003: Professional Placement (60 credits)	
MA with Professional Placement (240 credits)		

Level 7 FASHION AND TEXTILE DESIGN MASTERS PROGRAMME

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3
Core FAS7055 Advanced Research Skills (20 credits) FAS7049 Material, Process and Ideation (40 credits)	Core FAS7050 Professional Futures: Collaborative Challenge (20 credits) FAS7XXX Innovation and Enterprise TBC (40 credits)	Core FAS7051 Project Resolution and Collection Launch (40 credits) FAS7052 Reflection (20 credits)

16	Overall Student Workload and Balance of Assessment
-----------	-----------------------------------------------------------

Overall student *workload* consists of class contact hours, independent learning and assessment activity, with each credit taken equating to a total study time of around 10 hours. While actual contact hours may depend on the optional modules selected, the following information gives an indication of how much time students will need to allocate to different activities at each level of the course.

- *Scheduled Learning* includes lectures, practical classes and workshops, contact time specified in timetable
- *Directed Learning* includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning
- *Private Study* includes preparation for exams

The *balance of assessment* by mode of assessment (e.g. coursework, exam and in-person) depends to some extent on the optional modules chosen by students. The approximate percentage of the course assessed by coursework, exam and in-person is shown below.

Level 7

Workload

XX% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	168
Directed Learning	1242
Private Study	390
Total Hours	1800

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	100%
Exam	
In-Person	