Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
1	**Course Title**	HND Jewellery and Silversmithing
2	**Course Code**	UH0103
3	**Awarding Institution**	Birmingham City University
4	**Teaching Institution(s)** (if different from point 3)	
5	**Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation** (if applicable)	

6	**Course Description**
	Our HND course in Jewellery and Silversmithing specialises in training you in traditional skills while also introducing you to new technologies through live and collaborative projects, preparing you to become the next generation of jewellers and silversmiths. We are driven by high levels of craftsmanship, industry standard practice and employment. While studying with us you can expect to master a range of fine jewellery and silverware techniques, including hand engraving, and are the only university course in the UK to teach optical diamond setting. There is a shortage of heritage skills within all areas of the UK's craft industries, this is especially true in Jewellery and Silversmithing industries. Our course shares university-level knowledge and understanding while supporting you to develop the practical making skills you need to step into these roles which can range from fine jewellery mount makers, finishers, and chasers, to seal and gun engravers and fine gemstone setters. In this way we bridge the gap between apprenticeships and academic studies. During your course you will be immersed in the world of jewellery and silversmithing, and will benefit from the professional experience, advice, support and industry connections of our dedicated, passionate staff. You'll also be surrounded by a strong, vibrant community of student makers who are equally committed and motivated, thriving together through mutual support. We'll encourage you to enter national and international competitions, and you'll also have unrivalled opportunities to work on live projects with industry. We are responsive to the needs of the industry and work sustainably which has resulted in retaining 20 years of course sponsorship from one of Europe's leading jewellery manufacturers, Weston Beamore, and demonstrates how valued this course is in continuing the heritage skills that have made the Jewellery Quarter the renowned centre it is and supported Birmingham in securing World Craft City Status.

	Our graduates have gone on to significant positions in the industry, pursuing a range of roles that are right for their individual aspirations, including self-employed makers to positions in companies such as Asprey's, Thomas Lite and Westley Richards. On successful completion of the course, you can choose to move into industry with a recognised qualification equivalent to the first two years of an undergraduate degree. You may, however, choose to stay on or return to complete a one-year top-up course, our BA (Hons) Design for Industry course, which could give you a full undergraduate degree.

7	**Course Awards**		
7a	**Name of Final Award**	**Level**	**Credits Awarded**
	Higher National Diploma Jewellery and Silversmithing	*Level 5*	*240*
7b	**Exit Awards and Credits Awarded**		
	Higher National Diploma Jewellery and Silversmithing	*Level 4*	*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	School of Jewellery Vittoria Street Campus	2 years	UH0103

10	**Entry Requirements**	
	Home:	The admissions requirements for this course are stated on the course page of the BCU website at http://bcu.ac.uk/. Or may be found by searching the course entry profile located on the UCAS website. **All applicants also need to submit a Portfolio**
	EU:	
	International:	
	Access:	

11	Course Aims
	The HND Jewellery and Silversmithing prepares the next generation of skilled jewellers and silversmiths, combining traditional craftsmanship with modern technologies through hands-on projects, industry collaboration, and specialist training such as optical diamond setting. Our course nurtures professional expertise, creativity, and connects students with industry, ensuring graduates are equipped to fill industry roles across the UK and international craft sectors.

12	Course Learning Outcomes
	Knowledge and Understanding:
1	Identify traditional and contemporary techniques for the manufacture of jewellery and/or silverware.
2	Gain an understanding of the wider jewellery industry and develop a network of contacts.
3	Apply analytical and critical thinking skills in selecting appropriate materials and production methods in response to briefs
	Skills and Other Attributes:
4	Demonstrate safe use of tools, equipment and materials
5	Develop design solutions appropriate to briefs, resolving manufacturing issues and adhering to budget constraints.
6	Design jewellery and/or silversmithing products using hand and digital design methods.
7	Develop a sketchbook of design work and creative responses to studio/live briefs
8	Apply traditional skills to produce jewellery and silverwares
9	Develop relevant employability skills

13	Level Learning Outcomes
LO	**Upon completion of Level 4 / the Certificate of Higher Education, students will be able to*:***
1	Apply fabrication and manufacturing techniques to create a finished collection of jewellery and/or silversmithing pieces
2	Articulate and evaluate a range of design, manufacturing and finishing methods
3	Design, develop and professionally present ideas in response to studio & live briefs
4	Understand the jewellery industry context and develop a network of contacts
	Upon completion of Level 5 / the Diploma of Higher Education, students will be able to:
1	Create studio work through both traditional hand making skills and digital technologies
2	Develop as a professional through industry standard presentation and communication
3	Design creative responses to studio and live briefs
4	Explore, justify & apply context-appropriate production methods to realise design ideas

14	Course Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy
	Level 4: Levelling Up and Fundamental Skills Development At Level 4, students develop traditional hand skills that form the foundations of their future practice. Emphasis is placed on: • Building core technical competence • Developing awareness of industry standards • Viewing mistakes as valuable learning experiences • Gradually developing individual voice and interests

- Embedding transferable communication skills into modules and assessments

We encourage a wider sense of community and shared learning.

Level 5: Introduction to Industry and Advanced Skills Development

Level 5 builds directly upon Level 4 learning by:

- Transferring core skills into more advanced techniques and refined outcomes
- Introducing sophisticated concepts and processes
- Developing proficiency in Computer Aided Design
- Introducing Optical Diamond Setting
- Embedding employability skills aligned with current industry standards

Industry-led live projects are embedded across modules at both levels. These provide focal points for learning and enhance students' exposure to professional expectations within the jewellery and allied trades sector.

Learning Activities and Experiences

Across Levels 4 and 5, students experience a diverse range of teaching and learning activities designed to support varied learning styles:

- **Lectures** delivered by tutors, guest lecturers and visiting specialists to build core knowledge
- **Directed learning** activities before and after sessions to deepen understanding
- **Seminars** to discuss and critically explore subject knowledge
- **Supervised group work** to apply knowledge collaboratively and develop communication skills
- **Skills-based workshops** to develop essential technical and digital competencies
- **Field trips** to broaden contextual and professional awareness
- **Individual and group presentations** to articulate understanding and develop professional communication
- **Tutorials** for personalised academic guidance and feedback
- **Private study** to consolidate learning and produce assessed work

Workshop time is considered critical to developing an industry-standard skillset. The balance between scheduled learning and self-directed study has been refined through over 25 years of experience delivering skills-intensive programmes.

Students are expected to:

- Engage actively in workshops and taught sessions
- Take responsibility for note-taking and independent research
- Regularly access Moodle for course materials and updates
- Use MS Teams for live sessions and communication
- Make effective use of library resources

Assessment, Feedback and Continuous Development

Assessment across Levels 4 and 5 includes practical outcomes, presentations, written components and industry-related projects.

	Feedback is provided through: • Continuous verbal one-to-one feedback in workshops • Formative assessment points • Summative formal assessments • Group feedback sessions This structured feedback and feed forward supports continuous improvement, technical refinement, and growing professional confidence. Increasing independence is expected as students' progress through Level 5.

15	**Course Requirements**

15a Level 4:

In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 120 credits):

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
JEW4036	Introduction to trade practices	20 credits
JEW4037	Fundamental Jewellery and Silversmithing Skills	40 credits
JEW4038	Fundamental Jewellery Production Skills	20 credits
JEW4039	STEAM Skills for Jewellers and Silversmiths	40 credits

Level 5:

In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 120 credits):

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
JEW5040	Advanced Production Processes for Jewellery	40 credits
JEW5041	Advanced Processes for Silversmiths	20 credits
JEW5043	Industry preparation and STEM	20 credits
JEW5042	Specialist practice – preparing for industry	40 credits

15b	**Structure Diagram**

Level 4

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Core JEW4036: Introduction to trade practices (20 credits)	Core JEW038: Fundamental Jewellery Production Skills (40 credits)

JEW4037: Fundamental Jewellery and Silversmithing Skills (40 credits)	JEW4039x: STEAM Skills for Jewellers and Silversmiths (20 credits)

Level 5

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Core JEW5040: Advanced Production Processes for Jewellery (40 credits) JEW5041: Advanced Processes for Silversmiths (20 credits)	Core JEW5043: Industry Preparation and STEM (20 credits) JEW5042: Specialist practice – preparing for industry (40 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 4

Workload

% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	216 (18%)
Directed Learning	744 (62%)
Private Study	240 (20%)
Total Hours	1200 (100%)

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	100%
Exam	
In-Person	

Level 5

Workload

% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	216 (18%)
Directed Learning	744 (62%)
Private Study	240 (20%)
Total Hours	1200 (100%)

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	100%
Exam	
In-Person	