

# Undergraduate Degree Study Guide

## BA (Hons) Fashion Design

The Fashion Design programme is concerned with the design of clothing. Fashion Designers consider the shape, cut, silhouette and construction of clothing and tend to think more three dimensionally when designing.

The focus of studio-based activity is on the development of specialised discipline expertise working in an 'expert amongst experts' environment which values the interactive, synergetic and every evolving nature of the creative industries. The emphasis is on practice-based learning, skill acquisition, individual and collaborative creative idea development. Non-studio based learning encompasses critical, historical and cultural studies covering specific disciplinary contexts and wider knowledge domains.

The programme aims to create assured and specialist textile design graduates with clear individual and creative identities, prepared for industry employment, self-employment and postgraduate study in local and global contexts.

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*Head of Department – Fashion and Textiles*

### Ethos

Scotland enjoys an evocative and distinguished history when it comes to *cloth* and *clothing* traditions. Fair Isle, Shetland and Sanquhar knits, Turkey red printed cloth, the Paisley, Harris Tweed, Ayrshire Whitework needlework, the Mackintosh raincoat and Inverness Cape are all instantly recognisable for their quality, integrity and supreme cottage industry skill or classic manufacturing and making techniques.

This notion of quality, integrity and supreme making skills is fundamental to the study of Textile Design and Fashion Design at GSA. In the Department of Fashion & Textiles at GSA you will find an international community of around 150 students at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. The vibrancy of the city of Glasgow and the dynamic environment afforded by the School set the ideal conditions for Textile Design and Fashion Design at GSA to further this rich historic continuum.

Students acquire, practice, integrate, extend and challenge the application of hand-produced work, craft skills, traditional processes and digital technology utilisation. Research and exploration are central to the design process. Individual creative development is fostered in parallel with opportunities for departmental and cross-disciplinary collaboration. The curriculum is underpinned by studio-based activity, industry-focused and live projects to support work-related learning. Students become self-aware and reflective practitioners possessing professional skills, entrepreneurial abilities and understanding of ethical matters relevant to the discipline. Critical, historical and cultural studies run alongside studio-based projects.

The Department of Fashion & Textiles provides an environment where textile design and fashion design students work side by side. This provides them with a valuable perspective of the textile and fashion related fields where they come to recognise the interactive relationships between the two.

Full-time and part-time staff engage in practice, research and scholarly activity relevant to textile design. Learning and teaching is supported by the input of visiting staff, professional practice seminars, the Centre for Advanced Textiles (CAT) and utilisation of Archives & Library Special Collections. Students are supported and encouraged to undertake appropriate work placements, external opportunities and student exchanges.

## **Each Year of Study**

### Year 1 – Underpinning

Through a range of projects Year 1 provides students with opportunities to learn and develop fundamental fashion design skills, which investigate a variety of approaches to research, drawing, colour, exploration of ideas and outcomes. Collaborative projects and group work provide opportunities to gain cross-disciplinary insights, develop team working, communication and presentation skills.

### Year 2 – Grounding

This year focuses on the acquisition of a broad set of technical skills, processes and safe working practices associated with fashion design, cutting and construction. Alongside this workshop based learning, students continue to develop essential core design skills through studio-based projects.

### Year 3 – Contextualisation

Industry-based projects, participation in national competitions and 'live' events allow students to explore working in a range of Fashion design and related contexts. Year 3 students develop professional skills and entrepreneurial aptitudes through individual and group work. The focus is on the development of subject specialist and individual approaches to concept development, research, drawing, silhouette, shape design exploration and the resolution of work in response to set project briefs.

### Year 4 – Expertise

The final year of the BA (Hons) Fashion Design studio course is self-directed, students form and follow their own project proposal which permits the pursuit, exploration and realisation of individual design aspirations. This is an opportunity for students to develop a personal design signature and become a specialist Fashion practitioner. Time and resource management, critical judgement and communication skills are essential throughout. The final year culminates in the realisation of a graduate collection and portfolio for degree examination, to prepare students for entering industry, self-employed professional practice or undertaking further study. Work is exhibited at events in both Glasgow and/or London.

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