

Undergraduate Degree Study Guide BDes (Hons) FASHION + BDes (Hons) TEXTILES

There are two specialist pathways in either Fashion or Textile design. The difference between Fashion and Textiles can be described simply thus:

Fashion Design 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. Textile Design is concerned with the design of *cloth* for Interiors and Fashion.

There are two broad areas of Textile Design known as 'Structure' and 'Surface': Structural Textiles includes woven and knitted textiles where the structure and pattern of the cloth is formed from and by using yarn or thread. Surface Textiles include printed and embroidered textiles where pattern and interest is applied to the surface of an existing cloth using a variety of methods and processes. Textile Designers tend to think more two dimensionally when designing.

Fashion and Textile students work side by side in the Department. This provides a valuable perspective of the Fashion and Textile Design related fields where students come to recognise the interactive relationships between the two.

The programme aims to create highly specialised subject experts in an 'expert amongst experts' environment which values the interactive, synergetic and ever evolving nature of Fashion and Textile Design.

Our Ethos

In the Department of Fashion and Textiles students honour and learn from tradition but look to the future at the same time. Students learn to balance the freedom of drawing with disciplined and expert technical skills and they learn to balance originality of concept with design viability. Our students are encouraged to stretch and challenge new technologies as they emerge but are free also to reject technology in favour of labour intensive handwork and limited production.

Years 1 and 2 are discipline specialist (Fashion or Textiles) while Years 3 and 4 are subject specialist. (For Fashion this means womenswear or menswear, for Textiles this means Print, Knit, Weave or Embroidery). Selection for a subject specialism at the end of second year will be determined on evidence of aptitude and potential. This increasing singular subject specialist focus of study provides the means to examine the parameters of each subject specialism in depth.

Each Year of Study

The BDes (Hons) is a four-year, full-time degree programme. Learning and teaching in the Department encourages self-motivation and sustained independent learning. We employ a variety of learning and teaching methods including lectures, seminars, talks, presentations and group discussions, individual or group tutorials, projects, practical workshops and critical reviews.

In addition to applications for first year level entry, the School also welcomes applications for second, and exceptionally, third year level entry from suitably qualified applicants. All students undertake a programme of study in the Forum for Critical Enquiry. The programme aims to:

- Enable students to develop their intellectual and imaginative abilities
- Encourage critical and creative thinking
- Develop students as self-critical, socially aware individuals
- Develop to a high level students' abilities to communicate both visually and verbally
- Develop in students a high level of technical skill and an integrated understanding of process
- Encourage team work and collaboration
- Develop in students a keen understanding of the broad spectrum of career opportunities in design

Year 1

Fashion Design and Textile Design

First Year students are introduced to the culture, context and practice of fashion and textile design and develop a broad range of practical and intellectual skills through:

- Generic Design Projects (i.e. Drawing)
- Interdisciplinary Design Projects (shared with other design disciplines)
- Specialist Design Projects (Fashion or Textile Design specific)

Year 2

Textiles

Second Year students spend the majority of their learning time in technical workshops where they are introduced to the four textile specialisms of Print, Knit, Weave and Embroidery. Studio time is spent acquiring specialist drawing, colour and design skills for Textile Design.

Fashion

Second Year students spend the majority of studio learning time acquiring the two and three-dimensional technical skills required of a Fashion Designer.

Year 3

Textiles

A major live Interior Textiles project and a major live Fashion project builds on the technical and studio skills acquired in Year 2 but now requires the conceptual, investigate and exploratory skills required for specific textile contexts.

At the end of third year, students elect to specialise further in textiles for either: Fashion/Fashion Accessories or Interior/Interior Accessories e.g. Print for Interiors, Knit for Fashion, Weave for Interior Accessories or Embroidery for Fashion Accessories and so on. Work Placements are encouraged between 3rd and 4th Year.

Fashion

Live projects and competitions build on the technical and studio skills acquired in Year 2 but now require the conceptual, investigate and exploratory skills required for specific fashion contexts.

Year 4

Textiles

In the final year students are ready to develop their own programme of study which reflects each individual's skills and interests within Textiles. This will culminate in a substantial body of work for degree assessment and for the exhibiting in London.

Fashion

In the final year students will be ready to develop their own programme of study which reflects each individual's skills and interest within fashion design. This will culminate in a fashion collection and design portfolio for degree assessment and for exhibiting in London.

UCAS Information:

Institution Name: GSA

Institution Code: G43

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