BA (Hons) Fashion Knitwear Design and Knitted Textiles course content

Year One
In Year One you will be encouraged to develop the skills that are required of the modern, professional fashion knitwear designer.

Fashion Knitwear Design: An Introduction (100 credits)
This year-long module will introduce you to the basic principles of the creative design and manufacture of fashion knitwear design and knitted textiles. Through an on-going series of technical inductions, you will be introduced to a wide range of specialist machinery and develop your practical skills and understanding of specialist knitwear manufacturing processes.

Studio activities will encourage you to think creatively about design briefs, combining theory with practice. These sessions will be supported by technical workshops in knitted fabric making and garment construction.

This module aims for you to develop an independent, creative and experimental approach to learning. This will be enhanced by a series of studio workshops and tutorials addressing the core skills of:

- colour analysis and development;
- visual research;
- idea generation;
- fabric creation;
- considered choice of materials;
- manipulation of form;
- fashion styling; and
- appropriate design communication.

During these projects you will learn about colour theory and practical dyeing, applying this knowledge to develop a themed colour palette which you will use creatively within your own collection of knitted fabrics.

You will learn about the origins and properties of fibres and the importance of yarn choice to achieve the desired visual quality of fabric ‘handle’ and appearance. You will be introduced to aspects of design responsibility in relation to ethical and sustainable design practice, and there will be opportunity for you to consider these in relation to your own design work.

Lectures and knitting workshops will cover the basic principles of knitting, introduce you to fundamental knitted structures and develop your practical confidence with using specialist manufacturing equipment and procedures.

As the module progresses the emphasis will shift from 2D to the 3D and fashion styling aspects of knitwear design. Pattern cutting and garment construction workshops will give you the skills needed to produce a knitted outfit.

Throughout the module there is an on-going emphasis on contextual research and reflective practice. You will be asked to record your thoughts and ideas in your sketchbooks as well as reflect on tutorial feedback.
The visual communication of ideas is really important to designers. In the first instance you will be drawing through observation and expressive mark-making to communicate the fashion direction and mood of your knitted fabrics and fashion garment shapes. As the module progresses the focus will be on technical drawing skills to show garment construction and garment details. You will also use digital media to present your ideas via mood boards, concept pages, and fashion illustrations of final garment ideas.

**Delivery and assessment**
This module is delivered through:

- lectures;
- briefings;
- studio workshops;
- technical demonstration and workshops;
- tutorials; and
- study visits.

Verbal and visual presentations will provide you with an opportunity to evaluate and gain feedback on your work.

Assessment for this module is 100% coursework. This takes the form of a portfolio of work which will include:

- visual research;
- sketchbooks;
- design development;
- fabric swatches;
- toiles; and
- resolved garments.

Supporting research files include technical, contextual and reflective learning journals.

**Design, Culture and Context (20 credits)**
In this module you will be introduced to the power of images, objects and materials in visual and material culture. You will see how these elements are central to the way fashion, textile and knit designers represent, make meaning and communicate.

This module will encourage you, through a series of tasks, to test your research, presentation and written skills and to be socially and culturally aware when considering your own environment and design decisions.

**Delivery and assessment**
This module is delivered through:

- Design, Culture and Context lectures;
- ideas days – conference style events where you can choose sessions according to your interests;
- seminars;
- tutorials; and
- formative presentation events.

Assessment for this module is through coursework. This will take the form of an individual essay, and include team and individual presentations of research proposals.
**Year Two**
In Year Two you will develop the skills you learnt in Year One, and focus on the industrial context of fashion knitwear design and knitted textiles.

**Fashion Knitwear Design: The Context** (100 credits)
This year-long module aims to further develop an awareness of the practice of design within the global fashion knitwear industry.

You will challenge and develop your perception of creative, innovative and responsible design practice through visual research, design development, technical/process investigation, contextual and market research.

You will be encouraged to investigate the skills and processes within knitted fabric design and 3D knitted outcomes. You will gain experience of Computer Aided Design (CAD) and Computer Aided Manufacture (CAM) within the context of knitwear. You will also develop a range of industry standard skills which will enable you to communicate your design ideas professionally.

Throughout the module there will be opportunities to take part in a variety of live projects and competitions which will allow you to work directly with industry partners and enhance your design skills and professionalism.

In addition you will also have the opportunity to take part in an overseas study trip and visit an international trade fair.

This module will prepare you for a variety of placement opportunities, which are supported through a dedicated employability advisor and members of the academic team.

You will undertake a number of pre-placement workshop sessions where you will build your skills in:

- CV writing;
- letters of application;
- interview techniques; and
- CAD and portfolio development.

**Delivery and assessment**
This module is delivered through:

- briefings;
- lectures;
- seminars;
- studio workshops;
- demonstrations and workshops;
- tutorials; and
- study visits.

Peer evaluation and verbal and visual presentations occur at key stages through the module, and provide an opportunity to reflect and receive feedback on your work.

Assessment for this module is 100% coursework. This will include a portfolio of work containing visual research, sketchbooks, design development, fabric swatches, toiles and resolved garments.

Supporting research files will include market and exhibition reports, technical, contextual and reflective learning journals.
Design, Culture and Context 2 (20 credits)
This module builds on the knowledge and skills you will have gained in Year One.

In the first half of the year you’ll focus on how the commercial context affects design and culture. You’ll consider the crucial role played by design in the creation of desire in a trend-driven consumer culture, in an era of mass production and consumption. This will include consideration of key cultural issues motivating producers and consumers, such as the search for identity, authenticity and the need for responsibility and sustainability to make design a force for positive change.

In the second half of the year you will focus on creating negotiated individual briefs in preparation for your final year project, with the choice of lectures, seminars and an in-house symposium design to stimulate thinking about current cultural issues and developments in design, visual and material culture.

Delivery and assessment
This module is delivered through:

- Design, Culture and Context lectures;
- ideas days – conference style events where you can choose sessions according to your interests;
- seminars;
- tutorials; and
- formative presentation events.

Assessment for this module is through coursework. This will take the form of an individual research project and poster presentation.

Placement Year (optional)
The aim of a placement year is to combine and apply what you have learnt in Years One and Two. Your placement will give you the opportunity to experience the realities of the commercial world, and to see how fashion knitwear design and knitted textiles sits within an industrial context.

You will have the opportunity to gain an understanding of different industry practices and develop a range of core transferable skills. Your placement also aims to introduce you to current and emerging industry topics for future academic study in your Final Year and in preparation for your professional career.

Your placement will provide you with an opportunity to observe and be involved in industrial practice in order to relate to theoretical concepts to practice in industry. It will develop your interpersonal, creative, CAD and communication skills to assist you in making informed career choices. Through undertaking a placement you will develop your knowledge of a range of roles and responsibilities within the fashion knitwear industry.

Your placement will also give you the opportunity to use your initiative, analytical and innovation skills and make a positive contribution to a company.

You will undertake a 36 week placement. This can be completed with one or more companies.

You will be allocated a placement tutor who will be the main point of contact for you, and during the year they will visit you and meet with your work supervisor.
Assessment
The Placement Diploma in Professional Practice will be assessed on the completion of:

- a 36 week placement;
- logbook/portfolio of experience;
- a verbal presentation; and
- 2,500 word report.

Final year
In your final year you will develop specialist skills and pursue negotiated projects that are tailored to your own career aspirations.

Negotiated Fashion Knitwear Design and Research Projects (120 credits)
This year-long module provides you with the opportunity to undertake a range of self-negotiated projects, guided by your own career aspirations. You will be supported in identifying and developing your own personal strengths and interests.

You will build your portfolio by undertaking several short projects which you will choose for a broad range of ‘live projects’ and competitions that vary each year. You will be advised to choose those that best suit your personal goals.

You undertake one of the following:

- The Fashion Collection pathway which requires an outcome of 4-6 outfits for the catwalk show and a static exhibition of a single garment and display portfolio after the show.
- The Fashion Textile pathway which requires an outcome of 2-3 outfits for the catwalk show and static exhibition, and a portfolio of supporting work.

Throughout the module there is a strong emphasis on contextual research and you will consider the impact of wider cultural and ethical issues faced by designers.

You will be encouraged to engage with a range of specialist knitwear technology and textile processes to find innovative solutions to creative design problems. You will be expected to be experimental and forward-looking when resolving fashion knitwear design and knitted textiles concepts.

The module aims to support independent learning and enable you to benefit from peer feedback through small group and paired teaching.

You will also undertake a substantial individual research project which connects the Design, Culture and Context (DCC) modules from Years One and Two. This allows you to explore a relevant aspect of design and/or the wider cultural and historical context in depth. You will develop research questions and carry out appropriate research to explore answers to those questions.

You will have choices as to how to present your research and how it is weighted against other projects. This work will develop enhanced levels of skills in analysis, communication, presentation and independent thinking. It will also allow you to develop a professional level of understanding of the wider context of your design work.

Delivery and assessment
This module is delivered through:
briefings;
lectures;
seminars;
studio workshops;
tutorials; and
study visits.

Peer evaluation and verbal and visual presentations occur at key stages through the module or at the end of projects, and provide an opportunity for you to reflect and receive feedback on your work.

**Negotiated Fashion Knitwear Design Portfolio, either 80% or 65%**
Regardless of the weighting you choose, you will be assessed through coursework.

The following outcomes will be assessed:

- briefs, visual research, design development, resolved 2D and 3D design projects, contextual research, collection proposal, technical file, learning journal, CV, digital record of work, collection evaluation.

**Research Projects, either 20% or 35%**

- 20% - You will complete a dissertation of 6,000 words.
- 35% - You will complete a project of 10,500 words in total, including a 6,000 word dissertation and 4,500 words for other outcomes.