

## Nottingham Trent University Course Specification

### Basic Course Information

1.	Awarding Institution:	Nottingham Trent University
2.	School/Campus:	School of Art and Design
3.	Final Award, Course Title and Modes of Study:	BA (Hons) Fashion Accessory Design Full Time
4.	Normal Duration:	3 years
5.	UCAS Code:	W231

### 6. Overview and general educational aims of the course

BA (Hons) Fashion Accessory Design is a diverse course based on project and studio work incorporating design practice, technology and theory. Drawing upon exceptional national and international links with the leather goods and accessories industry.

The accessory design industry offers you a challenging career in tune with the complex nature of the fashion industry. The designer's role is one of creative direction, working within teams to develop functional and/or decorative products relevant to consumer lifestyle, for today's fast changing market.

Fashion Accessory Design includes the design of a diverse range of products, pattern making, and illustration combined with manufacture, 3D materials, processes and technologies. The structure of the course incorporates working with 3D materials and associated textiles allowing you to develop a broad vocabulary with a wide range of skills. These skills will enable you to develop challenging and innovative designs relevant to the contemporary fashion accessory industry. With these skills you will have the opportunity to experience the design and manufacture process for a diverse range of contemporary bags, luggage, cases, and associated leather goods such as belts and fashion artefacts together with footwear, jewellery and textile based products.

The curriculum, which reflects contemporary thought and practice within an internationalised art and design course, also requires you to consider your design application and context in relation to design responsibility, process, materials and manufacture. You will experience working closely with industry on live projects as an essential component of the practice based core modules. Team working activities will allow you to experience real work simulations and reflect contemporary industry practice.

Theory is explored and integrated with practice at all levels through Design, Culture and Context (DCC) modules, and these have been designed to encourage you to question our existing visual world and to increase your visual sensitivity and design awareness. This enables you to recognise your future potential as practitioners in local and global contexts and gives you the research and communication skills to develop and express your ideas.

During the second year you will have the opportunity to study collaborative projects to extend your awareness of the complex nature of the fashion and creative industries with topics such as journalism, global sourcing and visual merchandising.

All lecturers on the course are experienced professionals and/or research active and committed to the enhancement and development of your experience on the course. We aim to develop your creative potential as designers through contact with visiting professionals working in industry, student exchange and work experience opportunities. All staff aim to develop your future potential as practitioners, nurturing your research, design and communication skills to develop and express your ideas.

The course aims to provide you with the opportunity for in-depth study of the fashion accessory design process and the appropriate theoretical and practical knowledge and skills required to become a designer within the accessories industry. We encourage you to develop the communication skills to be able to engage confidently, professionally and successfully within the global fashion industry. During the course

you will also have the opportunity to engage in various industry and cultural activities to further develop your understanding of the international fashion accessories landscape. Examples include, flexible work experience placements, European and international student exchange, fashion shows and exhibitions.

The course is designed to enable you to incorporate critical and analytical problem solving skills together with general transferable skills (interpersonal skills, team working.) and prepare you for a broad range of related employment opportunities and/or postgraduate study. We also encourage the promotion of values and attitudes that demonstrate awareness of 'design responsibility' and an understanding of social and ethical issues surrounding the fashion business.

During your time on the course, you are encouraged to undertake informal work experience placements adhering to the School Work Experience policy. These can be arranged during vacation periods, or with negotiation, up to two weeks within term time, with fashion accessory, textile and related creative design companies or as volunteers within educational or community contexts. Tutorials will encourage you to reflect on personal development planning throughout the course and develop your awareness of work experience opportunities. The course presents regular opportunities to participate in external competitions, industry-linked/live projects and national/international trips. Students are also supported in overseas exchange programmes through SOCRATES and ERASMUS.

#### Preparing for the world of work

We aim to support you to develop your employability through introducing you to current practices in the industry to acquire the skills and creativity to compete for opportunities in a range of design and related industry roles. Our aims are achieved through a dynamic curriculum which encourages you to make the best of every opportunity on the course. These include the following;

#### Exchange / Study visit opportunities and collaborations

Participate in exchange study visits to the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York, European and international schemes.  
An international perspective embedded within the modules, reinforced by optional structured overseas visits to major fashion capitals.

#### Transfer Opportunities

Option to transfer to BA (Hons) International Fashion Business top-up degree at Level 3.

#### Module choice

Opportunity to select from a range of cross subject collaborative projects at level two covering a variety of related industry topics such as fashion journalism, trend forecasting and ethical fashion.

Opportunity for collaboration with other courses e.g. BA (Hons) Textile Design, BA (Hons) Fashion Knitwear Design & Knitted Textiles, BA (Hons) Photography.

At level three, an opportunity to add greater weighting to your negotiated research project which connects with the Design, Culture and Context modules from previous levels. You will have choices as to how to present this research and develop a professional understanding of the wider context of this work.

#### Industry and Professional Opportunities

Experience live projects with industry through Level Two and Three modules with a focus on professional practice.

Unique opportunities to work collaboratively on team-working projects for promotional and live events e.g. catwalk shows and exhibitions with a national or international audience

Opportunities to engage with the flexible Work Experience Programme and internship opportunities

<p>Work in collaboration with local cultural centres e.g. museums, galleries and other cultural venues and media agencies</p> <p><u>Competitions</u></p> <p>You will be encouraged to participate in national and international competitions through opportunities from The British Fashion Council, professional bodies, external agencies and through professional links with industry live projects.</p>
<p>7. <b>Course outcomes</b> Course outcomes describe what you should know and be able to do by the end of your course if you take advantage of the opportunities for learning that we provide.</p>
<p><b>Knowledge and understanding</b> By the end of the course you should be able to:</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Critically analyse the specialist fashion accessory design landscape (social, political, economic and industrial) and its impact on contemporary consumer culture and apply findings to your work. (B)</li> <li>• Evaluate the industry structure and apply relevant skills and principles to your work. (B)</li> <li>• Utilise research skills and methods of analysis in order to produce fashion accessory products relevant to design briefs (B)</li> <li>• Explore fashion products, markets and issues that surround the creation of fashion brands and apply findings to your own product development (B)</li> <li>• Critically analyse the application of contemporary design and imagery in relation to your own practice (B)</li> <li>• Evaluate the global fashion market and assess how this has influenced your designs.(B)</li> <li>• Incorporate design responsibility attitudes and values in your practice, including social and ethical ideals.(B)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Skills, qualities and attributes</b> By the end of the course you should be able to:</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confidently formulate concepts appropriate to design briefs and develop them in the form of 2D and 3D fashion accessory products using the appropriate technologies (B)</li> <li>• Develop an individual, innovative and creative response to problem solving in relation to the design brief, market level and technologies (B)</li> <li>• Employ creative and questioning approaches to trends and influences and articulate your design methods confidently (B)</li> <li>• Initiate and manage your own learning, evaluate your own and others progress, work autonomously and in teams (B)</li> <li>• Communicate effectively through development of professional and interpersonal skills (B)</li> <li>• Utilise appropriate technology, components and 3D skills to resolve structural elements of design work (B)</li> </ul>
<p>8. <b>Teaching and Learning Methods</b></p>
<p>Teaching on the course involves a range of teaching and learning experiences which build through from first to final year with the aim of ensuring that you become an independent practitioner.</p> <p>Fashion accessory design requires a broad approach to teaching and learning, as reflected by the following directed and independent learning activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lectures and briefings</li> <li>• Studio workshops</li> <li>• Textile workshops</li> <li>• Seminars</li> <li>• Tutorials</li> <li>• Peer and self-evaluations</li> <li>• Verbal and visual presentations</li> </ul>

- Teamworking
- Live projects
- Personal Development Planning
- External Visits
- Virtual Learning Environment (NOW)

The course encourages you to recognise the need for designers to use their initiative and to be well organised. Problem solving, team working and critical awareness are developed through a mainly project-based approach to practical and theoretical work.

Teaching and learning is conducted in an atmosphere which is informed by professional practice, creative awareness and respect for personal viewpoints. Visiting speakers complement a comprehensive lecture programme which offers insights into contemporary practice from differing perspectives. External visits include international trade fairs, companies, exhibitions, and sites of cultural interest.

Learning is a reciprocal process, based on shared discussion between students and staff. Consequently, working in small and multi-disciplinary groups is an important aspect of the teaching and learning approach for tutorials and interim assessments.

The University also provides a framework of support for independent learning and the achievement of goals through the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE NOW) and Personal and Academic tutorials (PATs). This helps you to take responsibility for your learning and development through a number of staff supported and self-directed activities.

## 9. **Assessment Methods**

The assessment methods comply with the School Assessment Policy and the University Assessment Regulations, with all assessment criteria being linked to the module learning outcomes. The final degree classification is based only on modules taken at Level Three.

Within the design modules assessment is 100% coursework, recognising the theoretical, technical and practical resolution in relation to research, development and evaluation, presentation skills and written and verbal communication are also assessed.

During the module you will receive feedback on your work in groups and individual tutorials, verbally and through student feedback forms. Summative written feedback is provided in response to the learning outcomes at the end of each module.

If you are unable to pass modules to the required standard, you will be counselled and provided with options directly relating to University Progression policy. The Exam board makes the decision guided by the University regulations on the options open to you.

Assessment is conducted according to the School policy 'Assessment and Feedback Principles and Guidelines' which ensures the academic standards, and their appropriateness, are made clear to the students on the course. At course committees evaluation assessment and feedback strategies will be reviewed on a regular basis. The assessment strategy articulates with the learning outcomes and enables them to be demonstrated.

Assessment criteria are directly linked to module learning outcomes and assessment is 100% coursework marked holistically as a body of work. You will receive an overall mark for each module based on the learning outcomes. The course also provides formative feedback through group tutorials, tutorial record sheets, personal development planning and feedback forms.

At certain points during and at the end of the module you will be asked to present your work which might consist of 2D visual research, sketchbooks, and design development work, 3D development work, toiles and final product, portfolio work, reports and evaluations, essays, dissertation or alternative projects, visual and verbal presentations

You will be introduced and trained in ethics in relation to the Research and Ethical Governance Framework.

**10. Course structure and curriculum**

The course is offered in full-time study mode only and all students must complete 120 credits at each level to achieve 360 credits for the BA (Hons) Fashion Accessory Design award.

Levels and modules are designed thematically to focus learning outcomes against the School guidelines.

**BA (Hons) Fashion Accessory Design Module Titles**

<b>Year 1</b>	Design Principles: Form, Function and Application: 100 credit
	Design, Culture & Context 1 – 20 credit
<b>Year 2</b>	Design Context: Product, Technology and Innovation: 100 credit
	Design, Culture & Context 2 – 20 credit
<b>Year 3</b>	Negotiated Fashion Accessory Design; Portfolio & Research Project: 120 credit

**Level One: Cert HE 120 credits**

Design Principles: Form, Function and Application: 100 credit  
Design, Culture & Context 1 – 20 credit

**Level One: Principles and Skills**

During the first year, you will be introduced to fundamental aspects of the fashion accessory design process with the prime aim of developing skills and confidence in the principles of the design process. This includes concept initiation, research, 2D/3D translation, structural/form experimentation, design development, colour analysis, drawing, illustration, pattern making, experimental material sampling, product construction and associated technologies including Computer Aided Design.

You will also be introduced to the structure of the fashion and accessory industry in order to develop an appreciation and awareness of the roles and responsibilities within your chosen profession. It is key to your future career prospects that you are exposed to current practices together with design responsibility at an early stage of your studies. This understanding will help you to develop new skills and attributes that reflect the employability skills essential for a successful transition into the world of work.

To facilitate this approach, a series of careers lectures and workshops are integrated into the curriculum. These are delivered by visiting practitioners and course staff. The topics embrace the diverse range of career options open to you and reinforce the commitment of the course to provide up-to-date knowledge of the fashion accessory industry. The workshops will demonstrate how the curriculum is designed to relate and respond to industry needs by encouraging you to recognise your transferrable skills and their application to many career choices.

You will begin to develop personal design perspectives and start to relate them to the wider cultural context. The Design, Culture and Context module will develop research skills for both images and ideas, encouraging you to think and express ideas in different ways. You will be introduced to tools for analysing images and ways of understanding the 'big picture' of 20th century design cultures such as modernism and postmodernism.

### **Level Two: Dip HE 240 credits**

Design Context: Product, Technology and Innovation: 100 credit  
Design, Culture & Context 2 – 20 credit

### **Level Two: Application of Principles and Skills**

During the second year you will focus on professional design practice. The projects you will work on integrate design with technology and concentrate on the development of ideas through an understanding of the fashion accessory industry. Projects are constructed with industry and address commerce, manufacture and "live" situations. Influences of production in the market and the business world underpin the design work, whilst innovation and creativity are encouraged. Collaborative projects are offered to give you a choice in related areas of design management, fashion prediction and fashion media etc.

During Level Two live projects continue to develop the awareness of professional careers and approaches. This is also developed through team working activities reflecting contemporary practice in the industry. This is also a feature of the collaborative projects whereby you can experience additional supportive elements relevant to a wider variety of careers in the fashion accessory design industry. This will enable you to make informed decisions if you wish to pursue a career focusing on the management or business of fashion and accessories where you can transfer to BA (Hons) International Fashion Business one year course at Level Three.

The Design, Culture and Context module looks critically at the global industry and production and consumption focusing on the role design and designers can play within culture and society, encouraging questioning, and innovative and responsible approaches to your practice. It also offers insight into current cultural trends and emerging research in the field as well as more professional research methods to help stimulate ideas for the final year research project.

### **Level Three: BA (Hons) Degree 360 credits**

Negotiated Fashion Accessory Design Portfolio and Research Projects (120 credits) with an optional element at 20% or 35% for the negotiated research project.

### **Level Three: Self Negotiation**

For your final year you will negotiate and determine a design brief. This includes completing a design portfolio for chosen projects; a collection of fashion accessory products and a research project, a portfolio with supporting research / design development that represents a year's work. Building upon your skills and knowledge achieved at Level One/Two you will develop research and produce a Statement of Intent leading towards development from 2D to 3D. Your problem solving and design development skills developed in previous modules will be utilised through the development of a range of fashion accessory products and designs.

Your individual research project develops research questions which have emerged from your previous Design, Culture and Context investigations and explores them in depth to support your individual development as a designer. These projects also extend your communication, professional and presentation skills by considering a range of potential audiences.

There is a greater focus on individual development and autonomy during Level Three through independent learning. To facilitate this approach a series of lectures are integrated into the curriculum and delivered by specialist careers advisors on job hunting strategies, preparation for employment and recruitment agencies relevant to fashion accessory design. You are encouraged and supported to develop your skills and attributes to demonstrate extensive understanding of your discipline in preparation for employment.

You are exposed to a number of national and international competitions, live projects and collaborations where you are encouraged to be very strategic when selecting design options. This is to ensure your work represents your current strengths and also demonstrates a directional personal identity in terms of creative inquiry, use of technologies and an appreciation for social and sustainable issues. This ensures that you are in a competitive position to maximise on employment opportunities upon graduation.

You will also actively engage with industry professional bodies e.g. Graduate Fashion Week, British Fashion Council, Trend Boutique, EMTEX Designer Forum, Ethical Fashion Forum and in networking with fashion and accessory related companies to investigate potential links and sponsorship. You also have the opportunity to work alongside visiting practitioners developing your individual projects to ensure your portfolios are contemporary and current for industry needs.

#### **11. Admission to the course**

For current information regarding all entry requirements for this course, please see the 'Applying' tab on the course information web page.

#### **12. Support for Learning**

The School is committed to assisting you to achieve the best results possible during your studies with us, providing a wide range of academic help and advice. A comprehensive learner support system is adopted by the School, which also can include input from the university and student union, and can be tailored to meet your needs. A named personal tutor will also be assigned to you at the start of your year who can act as a guide in more personal matters.

Your Course Handbook will contain details of the support available to you. Should there be an interruption in your studies, due to circumstances outside of your control, or through other factors affecting your academic performance. The School provides three options for requesting consideration and these are found in the section on extenuating circumstances.

The school has a structured induction course as part of the university induction schedule allowing the orientation of the campus. This also allows inductions into your courses, resources with opportunities to meet your tutors and peers on the course. This is also supported by the 'welcome week' social calendar organised by the Students Union.

The course has an induction session at the beginning of Level One where you will undertake a range of group and individual activities which foster a sense of community to develop an understanding of Nottingham Trent University graduate attributes and outlines the following in your student handbook.

NTU's Online Workspace (NOW) is used across all modules on your course and allows key information to be accessed and shared within modules. You can also access their results through NOW.

The School is keen that all students, irrespective of background and characteristics such as age and nationality, have equal opportunities of success with your studies, we therefore have a Learner Development Coordinator who works with staff and students to improve your study skills. Sessions are available to you to improve a number of

skills, for example, planning and structuring written work and preparing more effectively for verbal presentations. The School also run a Buddy Scheme, whereby 2nd and 3rd year students assist first year students with 'settling in to' university life and their studies. There is a section in the Virtual Learning Environment (NOW) for students within the school to access materials to help them with their studies.

During the induction period each academic year new students shall be made aware of the university's student safety handbook and the school safety code of practice. Those parts relevant to the course will be discussed as part of the Health & Safety Induction.

The course will support and develop you as an employable, entrepreneurial and skilled graduate and is delivered through a number of extra curriculum activities integrated in to the curriculum such as fund raising events at all levels to fund degree shows, and the interaction with external agencies to produce and stage them.

Course teams and staff have a great deal of experience in pastoral support and the monitoring of progress is enhanced through regular face to face contact with tutors in group or individual tutorials. Progress tutorials at key stages of modules are also a regular feature throughout the proposed course.

You will be supported and guided through your studies and learning experience by course leaders, module leaders, and year tutors. You will also receive regular formative feedback on your progression through tutorials and also written feedback at the end of the module.

You will be offered a regular pastoral tutorials to discuss your individual progress and pastoral welfare.

You will be directed to use the NOW system which encourages you to take responsibility for your own learning through directed module activities. All related module information can be accessed through NOW in support of your learning. A shared space through the NOW portal is also available to support team working and blended learning opportunities.

Lecturing and technical staff involved in the course are aware of the high numbers of students with dyslexia within the subject areas of art and design and support is in place to identify any learning issues and refer you to the appropriate staff.

Dyslexia support is offered through the School policy of an automatic two week extension for all written work and where appropriate note takers can be arranged through student support for both dyslexia and other disabilities. Module leaders also make use of the University specialist support services wherever appropriate e.g. financial, student health and disability.

Specialist international student support provided by the University as an appointment and drop-in service for issues on visa and immigration, employment law and academic and financial concerns etc. Language and academic support is also provided by the school for both international and recommended home students who require additional study support.

Support for your cultural and creative development includes course teams organising and accompanying students on optional overseas visits to a major fashion capital relevant to the course, such as destinations in Italy for the leather industry and Paris for fashion week together with optional trips to New York. These arrangements are particularly appreciated by international students as a valuable experience and addition. Such visits are an optional enhancement to the course and not essential to progress. Support is given to students not attending these trips in the form of alternative suggestions of excursions within the UK.

### **13. Graduate destinations / employability**

Employability is a key element of all modules and are designed to enable you to compete for job opportunities in the fashion accessory design sector. These include designers, product development and technologists for footwear & accessory design together with associated textile products, jewellery and 3D design. You will also



develop transferable skills for alternative careers in computer aided design, fashion forecasting, teaching, retailing, media and freelance design. There is also the opportunity for further specialised postgraduate study in fashion accessory/footwear design or other related subjects such as jewellery.

You are also encouraged to engage in a variety of additional competitions and live briefs with industry requiring a professional approach and allowing exposure to industry professionals. Access to additional events and workshops held by outside organisations such as Designer Forum and Trend Boutique continue to develop your awareness with regards to potential careers. Flexible work experience opportunities are also a feature that you may wish to take advantage of during the course of their study.

Career Planning and Development

NTU has a dedicated Careers Development Service that has a strong record of guiding students and graduates through the marketplace into successful careers and further study. Working with a diverse body of students, employers and vacancies the careers service has a tailored approach to individual student.

**14. Course standards and quality**

Dialogue with you about your experiences of the course is valued and we engage with receiving feedback both formally and informally. You will have an opportunity to put yourself forward to be considered as a course representative at the beginning of each of your years of study. As part of this role you will be invited to attend the course committee meetings that occur three times a year and contribute to the conversations and debate to support the continuing health of the course. Any issues brought up at the course committee meetings are reported to the school academic standards and quality committee and actions identified from thereon in with responses reported back to you either via the next course committee meeting or via NOW.

The experience that you have whilst studying on the course is important to us and you will be required to give feedback on individual modules and will also be invited to attend staff-student liaison committees and/or end of year meetings. At the end of each year the course team write an evaluative document on course standards and quality (CSQR) which is received at School level and contains an action plan to ensure that the course continues to reflect and develop

External examiners are appointed to each course and report on the appropriateness of the curriculum, the quality of student work and the assessment process

**15. Assessment regulations**

This course is subject to the University's Common Assessment Regulations (located in its Academic Standards and Quality Handbook). Any course specific assessment features are described below:

This course is subject to the University's Common Assessment Regulations located in its Academic Standards and Quality Handbook.

**16. Additional Information**

Collaborative partner(s):

Course referenced to national QAA Benchmark Statements:

Courses are referenced to the Quality Assurance Agency's Benchmark Statements for Art & Design

Course recognised by:

Date implemented:

September 2012

Any additional information:

This is one of few distinct courses that offers highly specialist range of skills for contemporary design with the fast changing field of accessory design. You will be

introduced to a wide range of specialist skills using traditional techniques together with leading edge technology to produce forward thinking, challenging products. You will embrace new technologies to enhance your learning and approaches to design i.e. laser cutting, digital printing and casting. You will have the opportunity to experience the design process for an diverse range of accessory products giving you a competitive opportunity in the current job market.

We will nurture and challenge you in a supportive atmosphere. We have sound commercial awareness and a responsibility to design. Our employability rates are one of the highest in the UK with employers actively seeking our graduates. Through our 'live' projects and selection of visiting lecturers you will experience working with practitioners and companies that will offer you a valuable and direct insight into the fashion accessory industry.

You will leave with a range of transferable, creative skills and a strong combination of subject specific and generic skills i.e. research skills, concept development, range planning, pattern making, specialist manufacture skills, market awareness, organisational, networking and entrepreneurial skills.