

Nottingham College Course Specification

Basic Course Information		
1	Awarding Institution	Nottingham Trent University
2	Faculty/Campus	Visual Arts and Fashion / City
3	Final Award	Foundation Degree in Arts in Fashion
	Course Title	FdA Fashion
	Modes of Study	Full-time; Part-time
4	Normal Duration	Full-time 2 years, Part-time 3 years
5	UCAS code	Institution Code: N30 Campus Code: C UCAS Course Code: W230 – FdA Fashion

6 Overview and general educational aims of the course

The Foundation Degree in Fashion is designed to provide you with a portfolio of interchangeable academic and practical skills to enable you to meet the ever-changing needs of the Fashion Industry. The industry needs graduates with a strong knowledge of garment construction who can meet the short lead times required by off-shore production; are able to analyse and interpret market and forecasted trends quickly and communicate design and technical information digitally.

The course provides opportunities for you to develop skills in design, pattern cutting and realisation, technical understanding of manufacture, interpretation of forecasted trends and design trend prediction, CAD, and the communication of design information. It has also been designed to support your learning with the integration of professional and contextual studies, employer involvement through live projects and the development of your own creative identity. It is intended that you will have the opportunity to pursue areas of interest within projects as you progress through the course e.g. womenswear, menswear, outerwear, jerseywear and swim wear. Existing strengths will be built upon to ensure work is of a high quality providing you with excellent employment prospects and/or progression opportunities to an honours degree course.

The course provides you with the opportunity to undertake live project work, developed and delivered in partnership with local employers as well as participate in selected regional and national competitions. You will be expected to participate fully in these projects as they are essential to your studies and personal development. These projects are developed in conjunction with industry and may include guest speakers, presentations and discussions of work, industrial visits and photo shoots. They cover a diverse range of subjects within the fashion industry.

You will attend both regional and national fashion seminars and exhibitions e.g. global trend forecasting seminars by the Future Laboratory and presentations by a variety of industry professionals from a wide range of companies within the fashion industries via Nottingham College's Creative Cluster Annual Creative Careers Conference. Students have also visited the Balenciaga, Alexander McQueen exhibition at the V&A, Valentino exhibition at Somerset House and Graduate Fashion Week.

In summary, the course aims to:

- Introduce students to an overview of the fashion industry and the supporting underpinning pattern cutting and manufacturing skills, interpretation of forecasted trends and design trend prediction, CAD and the communication of design information necessary to operate effectively within the fashion industry
- Develop the acquisition of transferable skills necessary for employment or progression that will support your career aspirations and enhance your understanding of the fashion industry.
- Further develop your understanding of the global fashion industry in a broader political, ethical, environmental, economic, social and technological context.
- Provide opportunities to investigate areas of the industry which are of interest and where future aspirations lie, to enable students to work with a greater expertise and understanding.

7**Course Outcomes**

The course outcomes have been developed with reference to the QAA Art and Design subject benchmark statement (Feb 2017) and the QAA Foundation Degree Characteristics statements (Sept 2015). Learning outcomes focus on preparing students for the academic rigour of continuing study at degree level, and therefore references have been made to both. The revised FdA Fashion course outcomes remain relevant to the course aims.

Knowledge and understanding. By the end of the course you should be able to:

- A5. Evaluate personal skills and abilities; work and career progression opportunities and produce appropriate documentation for progression applications or employment
- A6. Identify a diverse range of research information sources and show evidence of critical/aesthetic analysis and application (A, B)
- A7. Demonstrate a working knowledge of pattern development methods and construction processes and problem solving methods in the exploration, refinement and realisation of design ideas (B)
- A8. Identify appropriate communication and time management strategies to meet set deadlines and brief requirements
- A9. Demonstrate a solid understanding of design communication methods, drawing materials, media and digital technology relevant to the fashion industry (A, B)
- A10. Demonstrate an informed understanding of current and emerging issues and influences in fashion forecasting and the global fashion industry (A, B)

Skills, qualities and attributes. By the end of the course you should be able to:

- B5. With increasing independence, generate and articulate innovative in-depth ideas, concepts, solutions independently or collaboratively in response to set briefs and/or as self-initiated activity (A, B)
- B6. Independently source a diverse range of information from varied sources, and critically evaluate and respond to findings
- B7. With increasing independence demonstrate critical reflective practice, creative exploration of pattern development, construction processes and problem solving methods to explore, refine and realise design ideas (B)
- B8. Competently demonstrate communication and time management strategies and critical reflection in preparation for reviews and deadline submissions (B)
- B9. Use a broad in-depth range of visual language to analyse, explore and professionally communicate design ideas, concepts and solutions in response to set briefs (A, B)
- B10. Analyse and investigate the impact of current and emerging issues and influences in fashion forecasting and the global fashion industry (A)

Notes: **(A)** indicates those outcomes having specific reference to the QAA Foundation Degree Characteristics Statement (Feb 2017). **(B)** Indicates those outcomes having specific reference to the QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for Art and Design (September 2015)

8 Teaching and Learning Methods

Learning will take place through project based research, exploration and problem solving developing a capacity for independent reflective practice and the ability to work with others. Topics will be presented through a variety of lectures, demonstrations, practical workshops, discussions and debates helping to develop practical and cognitive skills which support design interpretation and development. A range of teaching and learning styles are utilised to account for the varying learning styles of students. Learning activities are planned to enable students to achieve the aims of modules and the course. Students are encouraged to further develop and explore skills through self-directed study. The creative potential of digital technology and the communication of design and technical information is explored alongside traditional methods.

The learning outcomes at Level 4 facilitate the discovery and exploration of key theories and principles, in acquiring creative and practical skills and in developing a knowledge framework with some independence. At Level 5 the learning outcomes are geared towards industry requirements, in developing both professional and employability skills and in synthesising knowledge with increasing independence; there is an emphasis on critical self-reflection and problem solving. These are inherent within the module learning outcomes.

Project assignments are vocationally relevant and include extensive technical development, aesthetic and fashion awareness, team work and collaboration, live projects/work based scenarios, critical reflective practice, portfolio building and presentation together with career progression opportunities. Projects allow for personalisation of outcomes and individually targeted challenges to maximise personal and professional learning opportunities. Project content may be adapted for students with specific learning needs e.g. videoing demonstrations to allow information/instructions to be replayed as required; providing supporting visuals with written information; providing handouts and briefs in audio files.

Students receive regular formative feedback and guidance during modules enabling them to maximise their individual professional potential. Student's progress and achievement is monitored via 1 to1 tutorials and course team meetings with issues supported by the departments Learning Achievement coach.

The course team undertake continuing professional development and research to support their work e.g. Creative pattern cutting techniques; the development of construction and CAD process video files which enable students who struggle to retain information to replay instructions as needed during the project and to refer to them in the future. It is hoped that this will be further developed to live streaming. Visits to forecasting, pattern cutting and sustainability seminars, exhibitions, graduate fashion week and degree shows and open days etc. also inform the delivery of module content enabling it to remain relevant.

9 Assessment Methods

The assessment strategy facilitates the achievement of learning outcomes in the module specifications. There are no formal examinations within the course. The learning outcomes at level 4 facilitate the acquisition of practical and creative skills which underpin the course and in developing a knowledge framework with some independence. At level 5 the learning outcomes are geared towards industry requirements/standards, in developing professional skills, and in synthesising knowledge with independence. At level 5 there is also an emphasis on independent critical reflection and problem solving. These are inherent within the module learning outcomes.

A range of assessment methods are used to enable students to demonstrate the range of learning outcomes e.g. essays, reports, portfolio boards, garments, technical packs and specifications, presentations, research activities and project work. Formative assessment (e.g. industry professionals/tutor feedback; peer reviews/discussions, self-assessment) and summative assessment of coursework takes place at key points and is embedded within all modules.

The overall assessment strategy is explained and discussed in group tutorials and the specific assessment requirements and criteria are discussed at the start of modules and are revisited periodically.

Assessments will be set and marked within the framework of the Nottingham College's 'Assessment Guidelines for Higher Education Students'. All students will receive written/oral 1 to 1 summative feedback for all coursework submitted, along with a predicted grade, and staff will provide ongoing formative feedback on progress and development throughout the course. All module grades and a selection of all module work are Internally verified and reviewed by the courses External Examiner and University Verifier. All grades and decisions will be subject to formal approval at the end of year Examination Board.

The following marking scale applies to all module assessment

70% - 100%	Distinction
60% - 69%	Commendation
40% - 59%	Pass
35% - 39%	Marginal Fail
0% - 34%	Fail

To achieve the award of a Higher Certificate of achievement students are required to successfully complete all level 4 modules (120 credits).

To achieve the award of FdA all level 4 and 5 modules (240 credits) must be completed to a minimum of a pass. The overall course grade, on completion of the course, is based on 100% of Level 5 module assessments

Students can make an application for an extension to set deadlines in cases of mitigating circumstances as set out in the HE Student Handbook. Applications are subject to the provision of permissible evidence and approval by the Course Leader and Faculty Area manager.

Students can appeal assessment decisions following guidelines in the HE student Handbook.

10 Course structure and curriculum – Full-time

The course has been designed to enable the achievement of the course aims in full through varied practical and contextual module content relating to transferable professional and problem-solving skills. It achieves a balance between the study of fashion subjects and the acquisition of professional industry understanding and specialist skills required for employment in the fashion industry or progression onto a BA degree course. The curriculum supports individual development and creativity, providing progression at each level through the sequence of modules, delivered in a discrete but complementary way. The pattern of delivery for part-time students will be available by individual negotiation.

Practical studio-based modules emulate a work-based environment with no artificial barriers between taught theory and the development of skills. It is envisaged that part of the work will be self-directed and undertaken during independent study hours. Each semester is allocated a total of 60 credits and provides a seamless transition through semesters allowing you to organise your time accordingly.

The modules have been organised to enable you to gain, in the first instance, the essential underpinning skills required for the course. Some modules run as pre- or co-requisites, which are interdependent due to the development of integrated skills, creative ideas and theoretical understanding required. The level 5 modules build on the knowledge and skills acquired at level 4 and enable further development, exploration and refinement of learnt skills.

Year 1, Level 4 Modules

Module code	Module title	Credit points	Delivery
FAS401	Visual Communication Techniques for Fashion	40	Semester 1 & 2 year 1
FAS402	Fashion in Context	20	Semester 1 year 1
FAS403	Design Process & Realisation	30	Semester 1 year 1
FAS404	Fashion Product and Brand	30	Semester 2 year 1

Level 5 Modules

Module code	Module title	Credit points	Delivery
FAS501	Fashion Forecasting and Design	50	Semester 1 year 2
FAS503	Professional Development	20	Semester 1 year 2
FAS504 FAS505 FAS506 FAS507	Final Major project options: Catwalk Fashion Product Fashion Forecasting Fashion Buying	50	Semester 2 year 2

*FAS502 module content has been incorporated in the revised FAS501

Students successfully completing all required Level 4 and Level 5 modules will obtain a Foundation Degree (240 credit points). Students who only successfully complete Level 4 modules of the course (120 credit points) will be eligible for a Higher Certificate in Fashion.

Course structure and curriculum – Part-time

Part time students currently infill with full time students. The pattern of delivery for part-time students will be available by negotiation over one or one and a half days a week over 3 years (depending on experience). The part time course is designed to support students' specialist learning with the integration of professional and contextual fashion studies; employer involvement through live projects/work based scenarios and the development of their own creative identity. Modules provide the developmental progression and development of skills from level 4 to level 5 and provide students with excellent employment prospects and/or progression opportunities to an honours degree course.

Part-time example FdA Fashion (based on attendance 1.5 days a week)

Year 1

Module code	Module title	Credit points	Delivery
FAS401	Visual Communication Techniques for Fashion	40	Semester 1 & 2
FAS402	Fashion in Context	20	Semester 1 year
FAS403	Design Process & Realisation	30	Semester 1 year

Year 2

Module code	Module title	Credit points	Delivery
FAS404*	Fashion Product and Brand	30	Semester 1 year
FAS501*	Fashion Forecasting and Design	50	Semester 2 year

* FAS404 is delivered to full time student in semester 2 year 1. It is delivered to part time students alongside full-time students studying FAS403 supported by videoed demonstrations, lectures and 1 to 1 support

* FAS501 is delivered to full time students in semester 1 year 2. Lectures and demonstrations are recorded and delivered with 1 to 1 support. Where practical part time students may attend guest lectures/seminars prior to studying the module

Year 3

Module code	Module title	Credit points	Delivery
FAS503	Professional Development	20	Semester 1 year 2
FAS504 FAS505 FAS506 FAS507	Final Major project options: Catwalk Fashion Product Fashion Forecasting Fashion Buying	50	Semester 2 year 2

LEVEL 4 MODULES

FAS401 VISUAL COMMUNICATION TECHNIQUES FOR FASHION (L4, 40cp)

The module will initially encourage the exploration of approaches to manual drawing and illustration techniques to broaden your experience and understanding of visual language specific to fashion. It will facilitate a range of skills to enable you to communicate your ideas effectively and develop an understanding of both wet and dry media and layout skills. Selected tasks will be delivered in conjunction with FAS403 Design Process and Realisation.

The module will then explore the acquisition and use of CAD/digital software (Photoshop, Illustrator and InDesign) skills to communicate fashion designs. You will learn to illustrate and communicate your ideas effectively and develop an understanding of figurative Illustration, technical working drawings, specifications and board layout. Selected tasks will be delivered in conjunction with FAS404 Fashion Product and Brand.

FAS402 FASHION IN CONTEXT (L4, 20cp)

Since 1900 fashion has been constantly changing and the fashion industry has moved from celebrating craftsmanship and couture to revelling in fast fashion. The impact of political, economic, social and technological developments and cultural change will be explored. Discussions will help to develop a range of research and analytical skills related to the aesthetic, moral and social contexts of attitudes and issues towards fashion at the time. This part of the module will conclude with the assessment of a 1500 word illustrated essay and an annotated research file.

The module will then explore the global fashion industry, the fashion cycle, market levels and customer profiles etc. Business types, job roles and fashion retailers' role in shaping fashion and taste will be investigated in conjunction with the characteristics of fashion branding, communication and marketing. The analysis and discussion of current issues, influences and challenges will enable the development of fashion awareness and understanding. Aspects of this will help to inform brand development in FAS404 Fashion Product and Brand. This part of the module will conclude with a written assignment and oral presentation.

Additional academic support is available via the Academic Coaching and Employability Skills team (ACES).

FAS403 DESIGN PROCESS AND REALISATION (L4, 30cp)

This module explores the full breadth of the design process from research, design concept and design development to the refinement and realisation of design ideas in 3D. The exploration of visual research, drawing and media will be utilised to inform the initial exploration and development of design ideas. The development of figurative drawing skills acquired in FAS401 Visual Communication Techniques for Fashion will be further developed within the design development process.

The exploration of innovative contemporary shapes, silhouettes and technical detailing will be actively encouraged throughout the design process. Ideas may be explored and developed on the stand. Basic pattern cutting theory, block adaptation and the inter relationship between flat pattern and 3D shape will be explored to achieve desired shapes and silhouettes. Technical sampling and the acquisition of construction skills will enable the realisation of toiles and the refinement of design ideas in final outcomes.

The illustration of final designs will be explored within FAS401.

FAS404 FASHION PRODUCT AND BRAND DEVELOPMENT (L4, 30cp)

The module will enable the further development of the research and design process through the utilisation of forecasted trends and market analysis. It will investigate technical construction processes for woven and/or stretch fabrics. Exploration of innovative garment shapes and detailing will be actively encouraged, allowing you to establish a broader practical approach to shape, form and function. You will work both independently and collaboratively in small groups to research, design and realise a capsule collection for a specific market/target customer.

The module aims to develop an awareness of the product development cycle and fashion branding through a work based scenario/live brief. Utilising newly gained information, from FAS402 Fashion in Context, and working in small groups you will design your own brand, research, formulate and present a business plan and capsule collection range plan for the brands launch. You will explore the constraints of cost and production, price points, range planning and marketing for the business. The compilation of design tech packs and specifications will be integral to the development of the capsule collection.

Additional academic support is available via the Academic Coaching and Employability Skills team (ACES).

LEVEL 5 MODULES

The level 5 modules undertaken are designed to allow you to take increasing responsibility for your own learning, planning and organisation. The modules have been developed to ensure that you have the knowledge and skills necessary to undertake further study at level 6 if desired or seek employment and to be able to approach written work, research and analysis in a critical self-aware manner. It is felt that the level 5 modules emulate, as near as possible, the timescales and responsibilities that you may encounter in employment and allows you to verify the validity of your decision-making process.

FAS501 FASHION FORECASTING AND DESIGN (L5, 50cp)

This module aims to introduce fashion forecasting and trend prediction to the design process. This will include the in depth research and analysis of forecasted trends together with the exploration of political, economic, socio-cultural, technological (P.E.S.T) influences and analysis. Current issues impacting on Fashion will be researched and debated to develop a wider understanding of the global fashion industry. The module will enable you to further develop and refine your design practice through the research analysis and exploration of design influences, specific market levels and target customers. Personal trend research, P.E.S.T analysis and cultural influences will inform the writing of a personally negotiated extended illustrated essay/written assignment (2,500 words).

Whilst demonstrating your ability to work to deadlines, specific brief requirements and budgets an experimental approach to the design process will be actively encouraged. The exploration of creative pattern cutting techniques, silhouette development and construction processes will be further explored in flat pattern and/or on the stand.

The accuracy of illustrations, technical drawings and patterns together with the completion of all required specifications for production purposes will be essential. Portfolio boards will include trend interpretation, tribe/consumer, design development, illustrations and technical drawings. The module will conclude with a forecasting concept and design presentation.

Additional academic support is available from the ACES team (Academic, Coaching, employability skills)

Note: There is no FAS502 as the content is now included in FAS501

FAS503 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (L5, 20cp)

This module is designed to consolidate and refine your work to date. It will encourage you to carry out a broad range of in-depth technical and visual research and to develop this work into 3D outcomes. Historical, contextual and contemporary references will be used to support and help develop ideas and concepts, along with relevant theories that articulate your knowledge and understanding.

The module will initially involve the development of a written Statement of Intent together with a detailed action plan for the research and design development to be undertaken and consideration of your budget. The research of forecasted trends, a selected market level and customer profile will underpin the exploration and development of ideas. Exploration and sampling of pattern cutting techniques, detailing and manufacturing processes will be essential throughout the design process together with critical reflection at key points. The adaptation of blocks to fit individual models and realise design ideas from 2D to 3D will be explored. Current issues in Fashion, sustainability and fashion ethics etc. may be considered.

The module will conclude with the professional realisation and presentation of a capsule collection for your chosen market and customer with the presentation of detailed garment specifications and technical drawings to industry standard. This will involve the consideration of styling and presentation of the collection in a catwalk/fashion show.

Due to the intense nature of the module a meticulous approach to time planning and a professional working ethos is required throughout to ensure that multiple deadlines are met and should be documented within the Statement of Intent. Additional academic support is available from the ACES team (Academic Coaching and Employability)

FINAL MAJOR PROJECT OPTIONS (L5, 50 cp)

You will have the opportunity to select one of the 4 specialist options outlined below for your Final Major Project.

- **Option 1 Catwalk**
- **Option 2 Fashion Product**
- **Option 3 Fashion Forecasting**
- **Option 4 Fashion Buying**

You will make your selection based on your intended progression option on completion of the course. This will provide you with greater flexibility in your studies and enable you to develop and/or extend specialist skills in preparation for your intended progression or employment.

OPTION 1 - FAS504 FINAL MAJOR PROJECT - CATWALK (L5, 50 cp)

This module is designed to consolidate and refine your work to date. It will encourage you to carry out a broad range of in-depth technical and visual research and to develop this work into 3D outcomes. Historical, contextual and contemporary references will be used to support and help develop ideas and concepts, along with relevant theories that articulate your knowledge and understanding.

The module will initially involve the development of a written Statement of Intent together with a detailed action plan for the research and design development to be undertaken and consideration of your budget. The research of forecasted trends, a selected market level and customer profile will underpin the exploration and

development of ideas. Exploration and sampling of pattern cutting techniques, detailing and manufacturing processes will be essential throughout the design process together with critical reflection at key points. The adaptation of blocks to fit individual models and realise design ideas from 2D to 3D will be explored. Current issues in Fashion, sustainability and fashion ethics etc. may be considered.

The module will conclude with the professional realisation and presentation of a capsule collection for your chosen market and customer with the presentation of detailed garment specifications and technical drawings to industry standard. This will involve the consideration of styling and presentation of the collection in a catwalk/fashion show.

Due to the intense nature of the module a meticulous approach to time planning and a professional working ethos is required throughout to ensure that multiple deadlines are met and should be documented within the Statement of Intent. Additional academic support is available from the ACES team (Academic Coaching and Employability)

OPTION 2 - FAS505 FINAL MAJOR PROJECT – FASHION PRODUCT (L5, 50 cp)

This module is designed to consolidate and refine your work to date. It will encourage you to carry out a broad range of in depth research and to develop this work into 2D and 3D outcomes. Historical, contextual and contemporary references will be used to support and help develop ideas and concepts, along with relevant theories that articulate their knowledge and understanding.

The module will initially involve the development of Statement of Intent together with a detailed action plan for the research and design development to be undertaken and consideration of your budget. The exploration and development of fashion product/brand and marketing, S.W.O.T. analysis and consideration of market levels and target customers will be essential to contextualise the design process. Critical reflection of all work at key points is essential to the development and refinement of work.

The module will conclude with the professional realisation and presentation of a range of products (2 outfits or equivalent) together with branding and promotional material e.g. look book, promotional video, Point of Sale visuals. The work produced in this module will be presented in an end of year static show.

Due to the intense nature of the module a meticulous approach to time planning and a professional working ethos is required throughout to ensure that multiple deadlines are met and should be documented within the Statement of Intent. Additional academic support is available from the ACES team (Academic Coaching and Employability)

OPTION 3 - FAS506 FINAL MAJOR PROJECT - FASHION FORECASTING (L5, 50 cp)

This module is designed to consolidate and refine your work to date. It will encourage you to carry out a diverse range of in depth research relevant to fashion forecasting and to develop this work into 2D and 3D outcomes. This will include the in-depth research and analysis of forecasted trends together with analysis of political, economic, socio cultural, technological (P.E.S.T) influences and current issues impacting Fashion influences. Historical, contextual and contemporary references will also be used to support and inform the develop ideas and concepts, knowledge and understanding.

The module will initially involve the development of Statement of Intent together with a detailed action plan for the research and design development to be undertaken and consideration of your budget. Critical reflection and consideration of ethnographic

studies, micro and macro trends, P.E.S.T analysis, market levels and target customers will be essential to contextualise the design process.

The module will conclude with realisation and presentation of 1 outfit and the professional realisation of a 2D fashion forecasting publication and/or digital presentation suitable for a forecasting seminar. The work produced in this module will be professionally presented in an end of year static show.

Due to the intense nature of the module a meticulous approach to time planning and a professional working ethos is required throughout to ensure that multiple deadlines are met and should be documented within the Statement of Intent.

Additional academic support is available from the ACES team (Academic Coaching and Employability)

OPTION - FAS507 FINAL MAJOR PROJECT - FASHION BUYING (L5,50 cp)

This module is designed to consolidate and refine your work to date. It will encourage you to carry out a diverse range of in depth research relevant to fashion buying and to develop this work into 2D and 3D outcomes. This will include research and analysis of forecasted trends and contemporary references and in-depth market and shop research. Research will be used to support and inform the development of ideas, concepts and phased range plans which demonstrate knowledge and understanding.

The module will initially involve the development of Statement of Intent together with a detailed action plan for the research and design development to be undertaken together with consideration of your budget. In depth market/shop and range research; S.W.O.T and/or P.E.S.T analysis; target customer profiling; consideration of micro and macro trends; sustainability, ethics and current issues influencing fashion will be essential to contextualise the design and range planning process.

The module will conclude with the professional realisation and presentation of phased range plans together with a digital presentation suitable for a design selection meeting. The work produced in this module will be presented in an end of year static show.

Due to the intense nature of the module a meticulous approach to time planning and a professional working ethos is required throughout to ensure that multiple deadlines are met and should be documented within the Statement of Intent.

Additional academic support is available from the ACES team (Academic Coaching and Employability)

11**Admission to the course**

Admissions are considered from students who have a minimum of 48 UCAS points
Credit points can be from the following:

- Diploma in Foundation studies Art and Design
- 2+ A Levels with one being in an Art and Design based subject
- BTEC/UAL Diploma or Extended Diploma in Art and Design or Fashion
- International Baccalaureate
- Other combinations not currently listed on the UCAS tariff may also be considered
- Mature students with relevant experience and/or qualifications, including Access to HE Diploma within Art and Design, are welcome to apply.

All suitable applicants will be asked to submit a portfolio/e-portfolio of relevant work or equivalent as evidence of their capability to sustain the course successfully. Candidates not able to do this may be required to sit assessments of their ability to complete the course satisfactorily.

International applicants will require an equivalent Level 3 qualification and may require an IELTS score of at least 5.5, with no component less than 5.0, in addition to the standard entry criteria. Equivalent scores from other English language tests will be considered. Additional support for speakers of languages other than English is provided in two ways; general academic English classes and technical tutorials. These technical tutorials give international students the opportunity to have technical language further explained. Non-UK qualifications will be assessed in comparison to their UK equivalents.

The course meets the requirements for widening participation and lifelong learning. The entry criteria encourage applications from a range of candidates including non-traditional HE applicants and meet the needs of a diverse range of learners.

Accreditation of Prior Learning

Accreditation of Prior (Experiential) Learning (APEL) will be available for applicants who have substantial experience in the Fashion sector and are able to provide evidence of their previous attainment of specific learning outcomes. Guidance will be taken from NTU's Quality Handbook relating to Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL), which includes specific guidance on APEL for admission with advanced standing. Additionally, guidance on the definitions and boundaries, policies and procedures will be taken from the UK Quality Code for Higher Education, Chapter B6: Assessment of Students and the Recognition of Prior Learning. Any APEL decisions will be formally reported to the Examination Board.

Students who have recent relevant vocational experience and who have previously covered required competences and/or underpinning knowledge and understanding will be considered as individual cases.

Students who have achieved the outcomes identified for a whole module prior to joining the course will be eligible to apply for accreditation of prior learning. This will involve the accumulation by the student of a portfolio of evidence to support the application, which will be assessed during the interview process by the Course Leader in consultation with the relevant Module Leader. The module will be recorded as a Pass.

12 Support for learning

- Students undertake a Nottingham College induction delivered by the HE Centre team and a 3-day course induction delivered by the course team including course information and assessment, individual and group taster tasks, familiarisation with facilities etc.
- Handouts and key demonstrations are often videoed and uploaded to the course interact page for students to reference.
- Key manufacturing and pattern cutting handouts/videos can be accessed/referenced in the studio and weekly sewing workshops are provided to support practical modules and independent study.
- Small group tasks are integrated into modules in which the students are regularly mixed up. Students are also encouraged to form 'Study Buddy' groups out of taught sessions
- Trips during the year to fashion related exhibitions, seminars and factories etc. also provide a valuable opportunity for more informal integration and the development of a sense of course community within the group
- During the course students collaborate with FdA Photography students on photo shoots, FdA Graphics students on brand development and all Fashion students during the annual fashion show.
- Weekly group/individual tutorials, with a fashion specialist, cover discussions on assessment process, health and wellbeing, time management, individual progress reviews etc. Part time students also meet weekly with their tutor to discuss progress etc.
- The needs of individual students are central to Nottingham College's vision to enable all students to develop and achieve whilst considering the diversity of the student cohort fairness and accessibility for all.
- The College and course team are keen to remove all obstacles to learning and achievement. Students with a statement of need meet periodically with the course leader and their support tutor to discuss specific issues which may impact on learning and achievement. With permission information is then disseminated to the course team as required.
- Achievement and attendance are tracked and closely monitored via the online ebs/one track system and reviewed regularly by the course leader and at course team meetings
- Career and employment progression opportunities are discussed and researched within FAS503 Professional Development. The writing of CV's, personal statements and letters of application and portfolio building are also covered.
- The ACES team (Academic Coaching Employability Skills) provide additional academic 1 to 1 support to all students e.g. research skills, Harvard referencing, grammar and punctuation, CV writing and personal statements etc.
- Students can access wellbeing support from the fashion department's Learning Achievement Coach.

13 Graduate destinations/employability

Three specific progression routes have been identified for FdA Fashion graduates:

Progression onto BA (Hons) Design (Fashion pathway) top-up year at Nottingham College. Students from the current FdA in Fashion have successfully graduated from the course, successfully gained employment or set up their own niche businesses on completion.

Progression into the second or third year of a Fashion degree, or specialist one-year BA top-ups at universities in the UK. Successful completion of the FdA Fashion course is as a pre-requisite for these courses. Students who have taken this route and successfully graduated from their degree courses include:

Birmingham University	BA (Hons) Fashion Design, BA (Hons) Garment technology BA (Hons) Fashion Business & Promotion
University of Derby	BA(Hons) Fashion Studies
De Montfort University	BA(Hons) Fashion Design BA(Hons) Fashion and Textile Design
University of East London	BA(Hons) Fashion Design
London College of Fashion	BA(Hons) Fashion Design
Manchester Metropolitan University	BA (Hons) International Practice BA (Hons) Fashion Design
Nottingham Trent University	BA(Hons) Fashion Design BA(Hons) International Fashion Business BA (Hons) Knitwear
UAL Ravensbourne	BA (Hons) Fashion Design
Rochester	BA(Hons) Atelier BA(Hons) Fashion Design
Southampton Solent University	BA (Hons) Fashion Promotion & Communication

Employment within the fashion industry. Students have gained employment upon graduation. Examples of recent positions include:

- Buyers at House of Frazer, Arcadia Group, Sainsbury Tu and George at ASDA
- Designer Diesel Jeans; Lingerie designer and pattern technologist with Quantum Clothing
- Pattern technologist with Paul Smith
- Swimwear designer with Dare to Bare
- Garment technologist with Ted Baker, Alp Clothing
- Designer at Knitmania, NewLook, TOPSHOP
- Students have also started small businesses in niche areas.

Student Successes

Students have been finalists in the:

- Nottingham Young Creatives award 18-24 Fashion Category in 2017
- Former student Hannah Wallace Won the Gold Award for Menswear and the overall student award at Graduate Fashion Week 2016
- Just Fashion 2014 @ Hay Festival sponsored by The Environmental Justice Foundation (shown in Vogue online).

14 Course standards and quality

- The course team monitors student feedback on module delivery via HE Learner Voice Forum, the National Student Survey (NSS), online module feedback sheets, student representative attending the course team meetings, group tutorials and discussions
- Written/oral 1 to 1 feedback is given on all assessed work and ongoing formative feedback during studio sessions
- Assessment is reviewed by an internal verifier, the courses independent External Examiner and a Nottingham Trent University Verifier who monitor the standard of students work and the delivery of the course; they both submit an annual report on the standards and quality of the course
- A Course Standards and Quality Report (CSQR) and action plan is produced each year and progress on action points carefully monitored
- The Foundation Degree Characteristics statements and BA Benchmark statements by the Quality Assurance Agency have informed the course's learning outcomes
- Student marks are presented formally at the Examination Board for ratification at the end of each academic year.

15 Assessment regulations

This course is subject to Nottingham College's HE Assessment Policy (located in the Handbook for Higher Education Students), a copy of which will be made available to you at induction.

16 Additional Information

Collaborative partner(s):	Nottingham Trent University
Course referenced to national QAA Benchmark Statements:	Foundation Degree; Art and Design
Date implemented:	February 2018