

Mr John Gilchrist
Freedom of Information Officer

15 April 2019

Ref: FOI/March 2019/ Gabrielle

By email to gabrielle@respectforanimals.org

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Dear Gabrielle

Your request for information received on 22 March 2019 has been dealt with under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You asked:

- 1) Does your HE establishment have a policy on the use of fur? Please provide a copy of the policy and any related documents.
- 2) Does real fur feature in any of your fashion or design courses, and if so, in what way? Please send copies of course documents that refer to fur.
- 3) What financial support, including sponsored competitions do you receive from the fur industry? By members of the fur industry we refer to fur associations such as Fur Europe, the International Fur Federation, British Fur Trade Association, Saga Furs, and Copenhagen Fur (not an exhaustive list).
- 4) The fur industry is very keen to boast about its work with students, including in the UK. Does your HE establishment allow or facilitate members of the fur industry to promote any of the following:
 - Design competitions
 - Summer schools (including the London Fur Summer School run by Rebecca Bradley London Fur)
 - Post-graduate internships
 - Scholarships
 - Saga Furs Design Centre
 - Future Furs programme run by the International Fur Federation
- 5) Please provide the name, position, and email details for the person(s) responsible for developing policy in this area.

University Response

- 1) Middlesex University does not have a published policy about the use of fur.
- 2) There are no mandatory or optional modules in the fashion programmes that specify the use of real fur.
- 3) Middlesex University does not receive any financial support from the fur industry. If students opt to enter competitions organised by fur associations they are free to do so, in which case lecturers will ensure they are appraised of the ethical and sustainability issues surrounding fur so they can make their own value judgements.
- 4) Middlesex University does not facilitate members of the fur industry to promote any of these activities, with one exception. GH Leathers [<http://www.leathermerchants.com/about>] give introductory talks about leather tanning and dyeing processes to final year fashion students at the beginning of each academic year, and offer preferential prices for leather and some fur for student's final collections. This is balanced with information and samples about available faux-fur and leather substitute products held in our institutional Materials Library, in order to give students options.
- 5) Professor Gareth Williams, Head of the Design Department, g.r.williams@mdx.ac.uk
Scott Ramsay Kyle, Director of Fashion Programmes, s.ramsaykyle@mdx.ac.uk

I trust this satisfies your request sufficiently. Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, you have the right to complain about the University's response to your request for information. If you have such a complaint, you may contact Mr David Maplas, Director of Student Affairs, Middlesex University, Hendon campus, London NW4 4BT, tel: 020 8411 5830, d.malpas@mdx.ac.uk within 40 days of the date of this letter for a review of the University's decision. If you remain unsatisfied with the outcome of that complaint, you may seek further recourse by lodging an appeal with the Information Commissioner.

Yours sincerely

John Gilchrist
Freedom of Information Officer