

Programme Specification for
MA Fashion



1. Programme title	MA Fashion
2. Awarding institution	Middlesex University
3. Teaching institution	Middlesex University
4. Details of accreditation by professional/statutory/regulatory body	
5. Final qualification	MA Fashion
6. Year of validation Year of amendment	
7. Language of study	English
8. Mode of study	Full-time/ Part-time

9. Criteria for admission to the programme

Appropriate qualifications or experience:

- a good honours degree in Fashion Design, Fashion Communications, Fashion Textiles or a relevant art and design subject– or recognized equivalent professional qualification;
- applicants with a good honours degree in a non-art and design subject and substantial experience working within the field, or able to demonstrate an aptitude for working in art and design at this level may be considered;
- applicants without the normal qualifications but who have extensive and substantial work experience in appropriate areas may be considered through accreditation of prior learning (APEL).

In all cases, admission is dependent on:

- evidence of subject-related skills (through submission of a portfolio of work or equivalent, as hard copy and/or PDF or PowerPoint files);
- sufficient command of the English language – those applicants for whom English is not the first language must demonstrate evidence of attainment by an IELTS overall score of 6.5 or higher (with no component achieving less than 6), or equivalent.

Applicants with less than six in any component score are strongly recommended to undertake the University's Pre- sessional English Language Course.

- supportive academic/professional references;
- an appropriate personal statement which outlines in general terms an area of interest that would provide the focus of study and with reference to the following guideline headings:
 - a) an area of interest or a provisional title;
 - b) background experience directly or indirectly relevant to the proposed area of study;
 - c) consideration about how your research might be done (even though this may change later) and any possible outcome(s);
 - d) an indication of the resources considered necessary to undertake a successful investigation;
 - e) evidence of an initial exploration in the area of the project and reference to research and practice that has already been carried out by the applicant and/or others.

Please note that applicants with visual impairment may find aspects of the programme excessively challenging.

10. Aims of the programme

The programme aims to:

- provide an advanced academic environment that encourages and promotes a reflective approach to Masters' level Fashion practice and research;
- enable students to produce an advanced, articulate and coherent body of work that reflects a personal vision and language that is appropriate to the cultural and social context;
- establish a systematic investigative approach to creative practice, research and methodologies, and one that explores the critical interrelationship between theory and practice in fashion;
- examine, critically evaluate and develop the language(s) used to articulate research in the field of Fashion;
- create knowledge about the implementation of particular strategies for learning central to the foundation of scholarship in fashion practice, research, and professional capacity.

11. Programme outcomes

A. Knowledge and understanding

On completion of this programme the successful student will have knowledge

Teaching/learning methods

Students gain knowledge and understanding through:

and understanding of :

1. Key concepts and ideas in creative thinking and different fashion research methodologies.
2. The range, social significance and history of contemporary fashion practice and the social role of the creative practitioner.
3. Current, individually related practice at the forefront of the contemporary fashion field and the interrelationship between theory and practice.
4. The processes of individually relevant creativity and their role in investigating and testing the validity of supposition.

- workshops, lectures, seminars and tutorials;
- self-directed study.

Assessment methods

Students' knowledge and understanding is assessed by:

- coursework, including reports, presentations and dissertation.
- The criteria for assessment are both generic across Level 7 as well as specific to the module.

B. Cognitive (thinking) skills

On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:

1. Articulate relevant questions and present complex concepts and ideas in research and contemporary practice of individual relevance.
2. Assess the validity of evidence through rational disputation and the application of advanced research skills.
3. Demonstrate a capacity for critical reflection, identifying appropriate fashion research needs and considering the means and methodologies for meeting them.
4. Synthesise and implement advanced knowledge regarding the utilisation of particular strategies for learning when developing their own practice.

Teaching/learning methods

Students learn cognitive skills through:

- workshops and weekly seminars;
- presentations and coursework;
- self-directed study.

Assessment methods

Students' cognitive skills are assessed by:

- coursework, including participation in weekly seminars, project work, reports and dissertation.
- The criteria for assessment are both generic across Level 7 as well as specific to the module.

<p>C. Practical skills</p> <p>On completion of the programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manage (plan, organise, monitor, progress and complete) a complex creative or research project. 2. Apply dedicated fashion conceptual and technical skills at an advanced professional level. 3. Implement appropriate, effective and creative technological practice and research knowledge resources. 4. Follow principles and conventions of communication in research and practice appropriate to individual needs. 	<p>Teaching/learning methods</p> <p>Students learn practical skills through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • workshops and weekly seminars; • coursework; • self-directed study. <p>Assessment methods</p> <p>Students' practical skills are assessed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • coursework, including participation in weekly seminars, project work, reports and dissertation. • The criteria for assessment are both generic across Level 7 as well as specific to the module.
<p>D. Graduate skills</p> <p>On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply reflective practice strategies in developing advanced self- managed learning and professional practice. 2. Make use of a group as a creative resource in collaborative learning practices and team endeavours. 3. Carry out advanced work by connecting individually relevant theory with practice. 4. Communicate effectively utilising a variety of methods, applicable to individual needs and future professional context. 5. Plan for effective career development. 	<p>Teaching/learning methods</p> <p>Students acquire transferable postgraduate skills through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • weekly seminars; • coursework; • self-directed study. <p>Assessment methods</p> <p>Students' postgraduate skills are assessed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • coursework, including participation in weekly seminars, project work, reports, and presentations. • The criteria for assessment are both generic across Level 7 as well as specific to the module.

12. Programme structure (levels, modules, credits and progression requirements)

12. 1 Overall structure of the programme

MA Fashion takes an innovative approach that enables you to specialise while collaborating, experimenting, and enhancing your skills with students and staff from across the department.

Taught by some of the UK's leading practitioners and technical experts, you'll explore your chosen area of Fashion within a contemporary framework that will equip you with the practical skills, business acumen and industry insights you need to succeed in today's global market.

Whether you want to explore innovative design, promote fashion internationally or set up your own label, we have the world-class facilities, practitioners and industry expertise to prepare you for an exciting career.

Students can choose to work in any of the wide range of fashion areas, covering Fashion Design, Fashion Communication and Promotion, Jewellery and Accessories, or Fashion Textiles – our MA Fashion programme is uniquely structured to enable you to specialise while drawing on a broad range of resources and expertise.

Students undertake four 30 credit modules and a final 60 credit module at Level 7:

- **ART4000** Developing Practice (*30 credits*)
- **ART4001** Critical Debates (*30 credits*)
- **ART4002** Advanced Research (*30 credits*)
- **ART4073** Body & Space (*30 credits*)
- **ART4004** Major Project (*60 credits*)

The MA Fashion programme is undertaken in a single calendar year (October to November) comprising three 15 week stages. In **part-time** mode the programme is undertaken over two calendar years comprising six 15 week stages. At present, there is a single entry point in October.

On successful completion of 60 credits (**ART4000** and **ART4001**) students are eligible for a Postgraduate Certificate exit award and on successful completion of 120 credits (**ART4000**, **ART4001**, **ART4002** and **ART4023**) for a Postgraduate Diploma exit award. Students must complete 120 credits for the Postgraduate Diploma before commencing the final 60 credit module that leads to the MA award

Each 30 credit module requires a minimum of 300 hours of study (comprising taught sessions, the guided use of campus resources and independent study), supplemented by contributions from visiting academics and professional practitioners.

Students should expect to commit a minimum of 36 hours/week (**full-time**) or 18 hours/week (**part-time**) to their studies. Contact teaching and input from visitors is front-loaded in the first two stages and consists of studio sessions, lectures, seminars, workshops, group and individual tutorials.

Learning in these stages leads progressively towards self-directed study in the final

stage, which is supported through periodic individual and group supervision and access to campus resources and facilities.

The **ART4001 Critical Debates**, and **ART4002 Advanced Research** modules are shared by all postgraduate Art & Design programmes, and delivery is made collectively all subject cohorts, and is intended to develop an active and engaged cross-disciplinary postgraduate culture and community.

The **ART4000 Developing Practice** and **ART4073 Body & Space** modules are taught in subject-specific groups with the opportunity to see and respond to work across all the art and design postgraduate programmes at key formative and summative assessment points. All the preliminary modules are intended to provide students with the context, knowledge and skills necessary for the initiation, development and realisation of a significant self-directed project.

The **ART4004 Major Project** module is taught in subject specific groups working towards a final submission of a substantial creative art, design and/or research project together with a comprehensive project report and a verbal presentation. The final submission for the MA Fashion programme is a fully realised body of pathway specific practical work and critical report with all backing research and supported by a viva.

12.2 Levels and modules

Level 7

COMPULSORY

OPTIONAL

PROGRESSION
REQUIREMENTS

<p>Full-time students must take all of the following:</p> <p>Term 1 ART4000 <i>30 credits</i></p> <p>ART4001 <i>30 credits</i></p> <p>Term 2 ART4002 <i>30 credits</i></p> <p>ART4073 <i>30 credits</i></p> <p>Term 3 ART4000 <i>60 credits</i></p> <p>Part-time students must take all of the following:</p> <p>Term 1 ART4001 <i>30 credits</i></p> <p>Term 2 ART4002 <i>30 credits</i></p> <p>Term 1,2,3 ART4000 <i>30 credits</i> (as a long thin module)</p> <p>Term 4 ART4073 <i>30 credits</i></p>		<p>Successful completion of:</p> <p>Term 1 – PG Cert. ART4000 <i>30 credits</i></p> <p>ART4001 <i>30 credits</i></p> <p>Term 2 – PG Dip. ART4002 <i>30 credits</i></p> <p>ART4073 <i>30 credits</i></p>
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12.3 Non-compensatable modules (note statement in 12.2 regarding FHEQ levels)	
Module level	Module code
Level 7	ART4000
Level 7	ART4001

Level 7	ART4002
Level 7	ART4073
Level 7	ART4004

13. Curriculum map

See attached.

14. Information about assessment regulations

Please refer to the Middlesex University Regulations at <http://www.mdx.ac.uk/regulations> or the Your Study pages on UniHub: <http://www.unihub.mdx.ac.uk>

The modules **ART4000**, **ART4001**, **ART4002**, **ART4073** are graded on Pass/Fail. The final module **ART4004** Major Project is graded on the University 1–20 marking scale, which determines the level of the Award (Pass, Merit or Distinction).

For complete assessment regulation details, please refer to the University Regulations. Self-deferral is not allowed on any of the modules – students seeking to defer must consult the Assessment Administrator.

15. Placement opportunities, requirements and support (if applicable)

N/A

16. Future careers (if applicable)

The MA Fashion programme provides an insight into the benefits of reflective practice, aiding postgraduates to develop as autonomous learners. It offers the opportunity to work in-depth on a major self-directed project that could lead to employment, publication, or to commissioned work within the fashion industry.

The nature of the programme, also offers a fundamental skill at an advanced level for progression to a higher academic qualification such as doctoral research. This is a new course and we expect postgraduates to follow in the footsteps of undergraduates who have gone on to work for brands such as Louis Vuitton, Alexander McQueen, Burberry, Celine, Givenchy, Kenzo, Versace, Vivienne Westwood, Preen, Aquascutum, Stephen Jones, Marchesa, McQ, Hardy Amis, Bottega Veneta, H&M, and ASOS.

Postraduates also have the opportunity to start their own design label with recent examples including Christopher Raeburn, Martine Rose, Malene Oddershede Bach, Ashish, Ashley Isham, and Boudicca.

17. Particular support for learning (if applicable)

- Fashion studio spaces (with access for disabled students) and computer facilities.
- A range of fashion workshops and technical staff and facilities provide the technical input for the realization of any studio-based materials required for the research projects.
- Superb technical facilities include, technical sewing and pattern cutting studios, screen printing for textiles workshop, digital textile printing workshop, digital embroidery workshop, fabric dye labs, weave workshop, knit workshop, 4 photography studios and the digital darkroom, jewellery and small metals workshop, 3D workshop (including 3D printer), ceramics workshop.
- Library facilities and resources, including specialist books, journals videos, DVDs, slides, special collections, and computer programmes. There is a fine collection of Fashion books, journals and videos/DVDs of recorded programmes on the work of Fashion designers.

18. JACS code (or other relevant coding system)

W640

19. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)

Art and Design
History of Art
Architecture and Design

20. Reference points

- Relevant University Regulations <http://www.mdx.ac.uk/regulations/>
- QAA Subject Benchmark Statements for Art and Design
- QAA Subject Review Report 9Q231/99 (Art and Design)
- QAA Subject Overview Report Q013/2000 (Art and Design)
- Middlesex University Corporate Plan
- School of Art and Design Plan
- Learning and Teaching Policy and Strategy Student, Staff, External Examiners and Graduates feedback and comments

21. Other information

Please note programme specifications provide a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information about the programme can be found in the rest of your programme handbook and the university regulations.

Appendix 2: Curriculum Map

Curriculum map for MA Fashion

This section shows the highest level at which programme outcomes are to be achieved by all graduates, and maps programme learning outcomes against the modules in which they are assessed.

Programme learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding		Practical skills	
A1	Key concepts and ideas in creative thinking and different fashion research methodologies.	C1	Manage (plan, organise, monitor, progress and complete) a complex creative project.
A2	The range, social significance and history of contemporary fashion practice and the social role of the creative practitioner.	C2	Apply dedicated fashion conceptual and technical skills at an advanced professional level.
A3	Current, related practice at the forefront of the contemporary fashion field and the interrelationship between theory and practice.	C3	Implement appropriate, effective and creative technological practice and research knowledge resources.
A4	The processes of creativity and their role in investigating and testing the validity of supposition.	C4	Follow principles and conventions of communication in research and practice.
Cognitive skills		Graduate Skills	
B1	Articulate relevant questions and present complex concepts and ideas in research and contemporary practice.	D1	Apply reflective practice strategies towards self- managed learning and professional practice.
B2	Assess the validity of evidence through rational disputation and the application of advanced research skills.	D2	Make use of a group as a creative resource.
B3	Demonstrate a capacity for critical reflection, identifying appropriate fashion research needs and considering the means and methodologies for meeting them.	D3	Carry out advanced work by connecting theory with practice.
B4	Synthesise and implement knowledge regarding the utilisation of particular strategies for learning when developing their own practice.	D4	Communicate effectively utilising a variety of methods, applying appropriate and reasoned structures.
		D5	Plan for effective career development.

