



LEEDS  
BECKETT  
UNIVERSITY

# Course Specification

## BA (Hons) Fashion Design

Course Code: BFADE

2024/25

[leedsbeckett.ac.uk](https://leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

# BA (Hons) Fashion Design (BFADE)

## Applicant Facing Course Specification for 2024/25 Undergraduate Entrants

Confirmed at NOV 2023

### General Information

<b>Award</b>	Bachelor of Arts (with Honours) Fashion Design
<b>Contained Awards</b>	Bachelor of Arts Fashion Design Diploma of Higher Education Fashion Design Certificate of Higher Education Fashion Design
<b>Awarding Body</b>	Leeds Beckett University
<b>Level of Qualification and Credits</b>	Level 6 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, with 120 credit points at each of Levels 4, 5 and 6 of the UK Credit Framework for Higher Education (360 credits in total).
<b>Course Lengths and Standard Timescales</b>	Start dates will be notified to students via their offer letter. The length and mode of delivery of the course is confirmed below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 3 years (full time, campus based)</li><li>• 4 years (full time with a one-year placement)</li></ul>
<b>Part Time Study</b>	No Part Time Delivery route on this course
<b>Location(s) of Delivery</b>	The majority of teaching will be at City campus but on occasion may be at Headingley campus.
<b>Entry Requirements</b>	Admissions criteria are confirmed in your offer letter. Details of how the University recognises prior learning and supports credit transfer are located here: <a href="https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/student-information/course-information/recognition-of-prior-learning/">https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/student-information/course-information/recognition-of-prior-learning/</a>  Admissions enquiries may be directed to: <a href="mailto:AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk">AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk</a> .
<b>Course Fees</b>	Course fees and any additional course costs are confirmed in your offer letter. Fees enquiries may be directed to <a href="mailto:Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk">Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk</a> .

## Timetable Information

Timetables for Semester 1 will be made available to students during induction week via:

- i) The Student Portal (MyBeckett)
- ii) The Leeds Beckett app

Any difficulties relating to timetabled sessions may be discussed with your Course Administrator.

## Policies, Standards and Regulations ([www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/academicregulations](http://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/academicregulations))

There are no additional or non-standard regulations which relate to your course.

## Key Contacts

<b>Your Course Director</b>	Sam Hudson-Miles
<b>Your Academic Advisor</b>	An Academic Advisor will be allocated during induction
<b>Your Course Administrator</b>	Sophie Baines <a href="mailto:fashionadmin@leedsbeckett.ac.uk">fashionadmin@leedsbeckett.ac.uk</a>

## Sandwich or Other 'In Year' Work Placement Information

### Summary

The placement year is an excellent opportunity for students to gain extensive first-hand knowledge of the fashion industry. It also enables students to try aspects of a diverse industry and ascertain whether they wish to continue with a particular career path upon graduation.

Students completing the Industrial Placement Year variant of the BA (Hons) Fashion Design will automatically be enrolled upon the 20-credit Level Industrial Placement Year module. Successful completion of this will result in 20 credits being 'carried over' into their Level 6 study, replacing the Contextual Studies 3 module.

During the placement year students will be visited by staff at least once, with those students on multiple placements being a priority for more than one visit. During the visit the tutor will examine the nature and extent of the professional experience, discuss placement learning, monitor and guide progress with regard to the selection of a dissertation topic and discuss with the work-based mentor the student's overall performance and progress.

Students may choose to complete a placement in the UK or abroad, although those working abroad may not be visited in person.

Whilst on placement, the students and their prospective employers are required to complete a Health and Safety assessment form, satisfactory completion of which is required for the placement to be approved.

Students are required to record their experiences during the placement year in the form of a reflective report.

### **Length**

Placement year students are expected to find employment in the fashion / related industry for a minimum of 40 weeks. This may consist of up to three separate placements, although it is recommended that students complete the placement year with one company for the entire duration of the placement year, or two placements of approximately equal length. The formal relationship is directly between the student and the company. Whilst they are on their placement, students have to remain registered with Leeds Beckett University.

### **Location**

Staff will help students with the process of finding and applying for a placement, but it is ultimately the student's responsibility to secure the placement.

## **Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course**

N/A

## **Course Overview**

### **Aims**

The aims of the programme are to:

- to produce confident, enterprising, adaptable, co-operative designers
- to enable students to achieve their full creative potential with the requisite skills to enter the global fashion industry to develop students' technical skills in making and communication
- to develop each student as an enquiring creative, capacity for innovatory thought, and informed responses to design constraints
- to develop enterprising, effective, self-reliant, and self-directed designers capable of lifelong learning
- to create graduates who will be able to challenge popular notions about fashion design and propose ethically and culturally responsive designs

### **Course Learning Outcomes**

#### **Target Award: BA (Hons) Fashion Design**

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1	<p><b>Research</b></p> <p>Ability to assimilate theories, methodologies, and concepts to inform fashion design practice and promotion for a global audience, using both staff led and self-initiated approaches.</p>
2	<p><b>Creative Process</b></p> <p>Ability to use a range of fashion design processes, with specific regard to garment design and making, and where appropriate to consider sustainable approaches, and to include conventional and digital visual methods for design and promotion.</p>
3	<p><b>Self-Initiated design briefs</b></p> <p>Ability to produce detailed and informed fashion design briefs based upon self-initiated research, demonstrating a sympathetic and critical understanding of the design problems posed, and taking into consideration appropriate solutions in terms of materials, form, and construction.</p>
4	<p><b>Communication</b></p> <p>Ability to use appropriate conventional and digital visual media to convey the intentions of the design brief and final design outcomes of a fashion design project to a global audience, to include oral, visual, and social media solutions.</p>
5	<p><b>Professionalism</b></p> <p>Ability to take self-directed approach to work, and to work well in a team, to manage and prioritise workload in a time efficient manner, and to act professionally when working with a diverse range of global clients, fellow students, and other professionals.</p>

### Contained Awards: Information required for grids below

#### Bachelor of Arts Fashion Design

No.	Learning Outcome
1	<p><b>Research and Information / Data Collection / Theory and Principles</b></p> <p>Select, gather, critically evaluate, prioritise and organise information from an extensive range of primary and secondary sources.</p>
2	<p><b>Analysis and Interpretation</b></p> <p>Interpret a range of situations and adopt a critical approach to explore fashion design problems / issues from a range of different standpoints.</p>
3	<p><b>Synthesis, Evaluation, and Reflection</b></p> <p>Critically reflect on a range of different issues, information and events: plan and evaluate a range of valid, informed fashion design solutions.</p>
4	<p><b>Creativity and Application</b></p> <p>Express informed personal approaches to fashion design practice and identify new perspectives on existing knowledge for the solution of problems and the transfer of knowledge into new contexts.</p>
5	<p><b>Communication</b></p>

No.	Learning Outcome
	Communicate in a clear and concise way, in formal styles, in relation to academic work appropriate to fashion design, taking into account the audience.
6	<b>Organisation and Planning</b> Work autonomously to complete significant extended academic tasks and be able to accept responsibility for the process and outcomes.
7	<b>Technical Capabilities</b> Demonstrate originality in knowledge generation using appropriate tools and technique to achieve innovative solutions.

### Diploma of Higher Education Fashion Design

No.	Learning Outcome
1	<b>Research and Information / Data Collection / Theory and Principles</b> Select, gather and organise information independently from a wide range of primary and secondary sources.
2	<b>Analysis and Interpretation</b> Examine more complex fashion design problems to illuminate relevant factors. Justify the validity of the analytical process, seeking evidence to offer and support interpretations.
3	<b>Synthesis, Evaluation, and Reflection</b> Apply ongoing reflective theory and thinking to a range of situations and evaluate possible fashion design solutions
4	<b>Creativity and Application</b> Develop a personal standpoint through the exploration of new perspectives relating to the knowledge, issues and solutions within fashion design
5	<b>Communication</b> Communicate, in a clear and concise way, using a range of academic styles and modes appropriate to fashion design and taking account of the audience
6	<b>Organisation and Planning</b> Organise self and plan tasks independently; negotiate outcomes and process
7	<b>Technical Capabilities</b> Demonstrate competence and confidence in the application of discipline-specific specialist skills/tools/ techniques.

## Certificate of Higher Education Fashion Design

No.	Learning Outcome
1	<b>Research and Information / Data Collection / Theory and Principles</b> Gather and organise information from recommended and appropriate sources
2	<b>Analysis and Interpretation</b> Explain in detail and make sense of simple fashion design situations and problems by breaking information into parts and identifying the relevant motives, causes and main inherent issues
3	<b>Synthesis, Evaluation, and Reflection</b> Give deliberate thought to fashion design situations and problems and systematically reflect on the issues and how they affect self and others
4	<b>Creativity and Application</b> Identify and consider the original aspects of fashion design
5	<b>Communication</b> Communicate in a clear and concise way, through a range of formal and informal tasks taking account the audience
6	<b>Organisation and Planning</b> Organise self and prioritise tasks (under supervision, if appropriate); organise and plan own studying patterns
7	<b>Technical Capabilities</b> Demonstrate competence in the application of discipline specific specialist skills tools/techniques to accomplish the task.

### C: Level Learning Outcomes

Level	No.	Learning Outcome
4	1	<b>Research and Information / Data Collection / Theory and Principles</b> Gather and organise information from recommended and appropriate sources
	2	<b>Analysis and Interpretation</b> Explain in detail and make sense of simple fashion design situations and problems by breaking information into parts and identifying the relevant motives, causes and main inherent issues
	3	<b>Synthesis, Evaluation, and Reflection</b> Give deliberate thought to fashion design situations and problems and systematically reflect on the issues and how they affect self and others
	4	<b>Creativity and Application</b> Identify and consider the original aspects of fashion design
	5	<b>Communication</b> Communicate in a clear and concise way, through a range of formal and informal tasks taking account the audience

	6	<b>Organisation and Planning</b> Organise self and prioritise tasks (under supervision, if appropriate); organise and plan own studying patterns
	7	<b>Technical Capabilities</b> Demonstrate competence in the application of discipline specific specialist skills tools/techniques to accomplish the task.
5	1	<b>Research and Information / Data Collection / Theory and Principles</b> Select, gather and organise information independently from a wide range of primary and secondary sources.
	2	<b>Analysis and Interpretation</b> Examine more complex fashion design problems to illuminate relevant factors. Justify the validity of the analytical process, seeking evidence to offer and support interpretations.
	3	<b>Synthesis, Evaluation, and Reflection</b> Apply ongoing reflective theory and thinking to a range of situations and evaluate possible fashion design solutions
	4	<b>Creativity and Application</b> Develop a personal standpoint through the exploration of new perspectives relating to the knowledge, issues and solutions within fashion design
	5	<b>Communication</b> Communicate, in a clear and concise way, using a range of academic styles and modes appropriate to fashion design and taking account of the audience
	6	<b>Organisation and Planning</b> Organise self and plan tasks independently; negotiate outcomes and process
	7	<b>Technical Capabilities</b> Demonstrate competence and confidence in the application of discipline-specific specialist skills/tools/techniques with accuracy and proficiency.
6	1	<b>Research and Information / Data Collection / Theory and Principles</b> Select, gather, critically evaluate, prioritise and organise information from an extensive range of primary and secondary sources.
	2	<b>Analysis and Interpretation</b> Interpret a range of situations and adopt a critical approach to explore fashion design problems / issues from a range of different standpoints.
	3	<b>Synthesis, Evaluation, and Reflection</b> Critically reflect on a range of different issues, information and events: plan and evaluate a range of valid, informed fashion design solutions.
	4	<b>Creativity and Application</b> Express informed personal approaches to fashion design practice and identify new perspectives on existing knowledge for the solution of problems and the transfer of knowledge into new contexts.
	5	<b>Communication</b> Communicate in a clear and concise way, in formal styles, in relation to major pieces of academic work appropriate to fashion design, taking into account the audience.
	6	<b>Organisation and Planning</b> Work autonomously to complete significant extended academic tasks and be able to accept responsibility for the process and outcomes.
	7	<b>Technical Capabilities</b>



# Teaching and Learning Activities

## Summary

### Design Studio Learning Environment

BA (Hons) Fashion Design is a studio-based course. Students from all levels of the course work and learn in the Fashion Studio. Studio learning emphasises the integration of theory and practice and the acquisition of design skills through project-based study. This approach is enabled by 'open-access' studios facilitated by tutor guided and independent learning. The studio creates an environment which stimulates collective, co-operative, and active learning and fosters in the students a strong sense of belonging, course ownership and course identity. All delivery is in-person, predominantly in the Fashion studios. Lectures and seminars are also live, in-person. Only in unavoidable circumstances would a taught session be delivered online.

### Design Projects & Studio Practice

The principal vehicle for teaching learning is the design project and modules are structured around projects which are modelled on professional fashion design practice and are intrinsically responsive to personalised learning. The acquisition of skills and understanding is embedded in the design projects which are underpinned with lectures, visits, seminars, workshops and studio-tutorials.

The principal learning method is centred on design practice where design is learnt by doing; its importance to the overall teaching and learning strategy can be summarised as:

- The developmental nature of the teaching, learning and assessment process is addressed through modules which rely on a constant cross referral of ideas with tutorial support and peer criticism.
- The atmosphere and interaction within the peer group creates a theatre for exploration, experiment and discussion, particularly appropriate for interdisciplinary and group-based learning.
- The critical element of self-direction inherent in this approach develops independence of thought and fosters an enterprising attitude and maturity of critical judgement, enabling personalised learning and individual challenges to be shaped to meet students' needs, interests and aspirations.
- Design activities present effective intellectual challenge through purposeful exploration, design invention, synthesis, and reflective, self-critical practice.
- Reflective and critical practice engendered by self-criticism, self-assessment and peer review.

### Connections Between Modules and Levels

The course has been holistically designed so that the process which underpins design projects is clearly articulated in module outcomes across all levels of the course.

The design projects increase in complexity as the course develops and incrementally the responsibility for shaping the design project brief is devolved to students. This process

culminates in the personally determined Major Project at Level Six, and supported by the Professional Portfolio and Contextual Studies 3 modules.

At each level of the course, critical writing, which develops understanding of the cultural, historical, technical, and ethical context in which fashion design exists, provides essential support for the design project of the relevant level. This writing increases in breadth, detail, and intellectual challenge as the course progresses.

### Visiting Lecturer Programme

A visiting lecturer programme provides inputs by theorists, design practitioners and practitioners from related professions; student nominations are encouraged.

### Visiting Critics:

This includes practising designers, including alumni who contribute to learning through review and critique of student work.

### School Workshops and CAD labs

Student design activities are supported by a multi-media workshop and specialist Digital (CAD) labs which are staffed by specialist learning officers.

Booking system operates in workshops to manage the resource effectively and priority is given to Level Six students during in April and May each year.

### Celebrating and Learning from Success

Each year, Level Six students create an exhibition of their work as part of the university Degree Show. Level Four and Five students are allocated roles to support Level Six students during the preparation of the exhibition. The exhibition is collaborative event which showcases and promotes the course identity and the quality of student achievement. Selected Level Six students may also be invited to give presentations about their work and learning to Level 4 and 5 students, as an aspirational endeavour.

### Your Modules

This information is correct for students progressing through the programme within standard timescales. Students who are required to undertake repeat study may be taught alternate modules which meet the overall course learning outcomes. Details of module delivery will be provided in your timetable.

Level 4			
Semester 1	Core (Y/N)	Semester 2	Core (Y/N)
Cut and Construction (20 credits)	Y	Contextual Studies 1 (20 credits)	Y

Level 4			
Fashion Design Communication (40 credits)	Y	Fashion Design Process (40 credits)	Y

Level 5			
Semester 1	Core (Y/N)	Semester 2	Core (Y/N)
Tailoring (40 credits)	Y	Fashion Industry (20 credits)	Y
Contextual Studies 2 (20 credits)	Y	Fashion Design Identity (40 credits)	Y

Level 6			
Semester 1	Core (Y/N)	Semester 2	Core (Y/N)
Major Project (60 Credits)	Y	Major Project (continued) (60 Credits)	Y
Contextual Studies 3 (20 credits)	Y	Professional Portfolio (40 credits)	Y

Students that have successfully completed the Industrial Placement Year prior to Level 6 will already have 20 credits of Level 6 study due to the associated 20-credit module. These students will not complete the Contextual Studies 3 module.

### Assessment Balance and Scheduled Learning and Teaching Activities by Level

The assessment balance and overall workload associated with this course are calculated from core modules on the course.

A standard 20-credit module equates to 200 notional learning hours, which may be comprised of teaching, learning and assessment, any embedded placement activities, and independent study. Modules may have more than one component of assessment.

#### Assessment

Level 4 is assessed by coursework predominantly.

Level 5 is assessed by coursework predominantly.

Level 6 is assessed by coursework predominantly.

## Workload

Overall Workload	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6
Teaching, Learning and Assessment	424 hours	371 hours	236 hours
Independent Study	776 hours	829 hours	964 hours
Placement	-	40 weeks	-

## Learning Support

If you have a question or a problem relating to your course, your Course Administrator is there to help you. Course Administrators work closely with academic staff and can make referrals to teaching staff or to specialist professional services as appropriate. They can give you a confirmation of attendance letter, and a transcript. You may also like to contact your Course Rep or the Students' Union Advice team for additional support with course-related questions.

## Student Services

If you have any questions about life at university, call into our Student Services Centre at either campus or contact Student Advice directly. This team, consisting of trained officers and advisers are available to support you throughout your time here. They will make sure you have access to and are aware of the support, specialist services, and opportunities our university provides. They also work on a wide range of projects throughout the year all designed to enhance your student experience and ensure you make the most of your time with us. Student Advice are located in the Student Services Centre in the Leslie Silver Building at City Campus and on the ground floor of the Priestley Building at Headingley Campus. The team can also be contacted via email at [studentadvice@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:studentadvice@leedsbeckett.ac.uk), telephone on 0113 812 3000, or by accessing our online chat link, available on the student homepage.

## Support and Opportunities

Within MyBeckett you will see two tabs (Support and Opportunities) where you can find online information and resources for yourselves. The Support tab gives you access to details of services available to give you academic and personal support. These include Library Services, the Students' Union, Money advice, Disability advice and support, Wellbeing, International Student Services and Accommodation. There is also an A-Z of Support Services, and access to online appointments/registration.

The Opportunities tab is the place to explore the options you have for jobs, work placements, volunteering, and a wide range of other opportunities. For example, you can find out here how to get help with your CV, prepare for an interview, get a part-time job or voluntary role, take part in an international project, or join societies closer to home.