



LEEDS  
BECKETT  
UNIVERSITY

# Course Specification

## MA Fashion

Course Code: MFASH

2024/25

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

**Award and Title :** *MA Fashion (MFASH)*

## **Applicant Facing Course Specification for 2024/25 Postgraduate Entrants**

Confirmed at November 2023

### **General Information**

<b>Award</b>	Master of Arts Fashion
<b>Contained Awards</b>	Post Graduate Diploma Fashion Post Graduate Certificate Fashion
<b>Awarding Body</b>	Leeds Beckett University
<b>Level of Qualification and Credits</b>	Level 7 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, with 180 credit points at Level 7 of the Higher Education Credit Framework for England.
<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>• 1 year (full time, campus based)</li><li>• 2 years (part-time, campus based)</li></ul>
<b>Part Time Study</b>	PT delivery is usually at half the intensity of the FT equivalent course, although there may be flexibility to increase your pace of study to shorten the overall course duration. Some modules may be delivered in a different sequence to that defined within this information set but the modules offered within each level are consistent. Please note that the work placement option is not generally available to PT students.
<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:  
[AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk).

### **Course Fees**

Course fees and any additional course costs are confirmed in your offer letter. Fees enquiries may be directed to  
[Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk).

### **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**

**Your Course Director**

Sam Hudson-Miles

**Your Academic Advisor**

Will be allocated during induction

**Your Course Administrator**

Sophie Baines [Fashionadmin@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:Fashionadmin@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

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

N/A

## Course Overview

### Aims

This professional multi-disciplinary Master's course in Fashion enables students to choose specialist study in Fashion Design, Fashion Writing or Visual Communication for Fashion. These three distinctive pathways hone students' talents and skillsets, preparing them to enter the fashion industry with higher-level attributes with which to enter the fashion industry, either on an employed, or self-employed basis. The course is underpinned by the core theoretical modules, Research Methods and Dissertation.

Students will choose one of the three specialisms, Fashion Design, Visual Communication and Fashion Writing from the outset, and whilst multi-disciplinary work between these specialisms is possible, each is distinct from another. Students are encouraged to collaborate, either with one another, with students cross-discipline, or with industry professionals.

The course aims:

- To produce highly motivated, adaptable, self-reliant and resourceful graduates
- To provide students with a learning experience that will enable them to work independently and creatively, developing their existing knowledge and expertise to produce innovative contributions to the fashion industry
- To further students' professional practice for the fashion industry

### Course Learning Outcomes

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

CL1: Research	Work autonomously to select, devise, apply and critically evaluate theoretical and practice-based research methods for an extended piece of self-directed personal research
CL2: Critical Analysis	Examine problems and issues related to the fashion industry critically and in detail using appropriate theoretical and practice-based research methods and strategies.
CL3: Technical	Select and effectively apply a range of complex theoretical and practice-based techniques and processes to novel situations to achieve innovative and experimental solutions for the fashion industry.
CL4: Communication	Select, use and modify appropriate styles and modes of communication for a wide range of tasks and purposes taking account of the audience within the fashion industry.

CL5: Professionalism	Demonstrate professionalism, such as time management and organisation, the ability to work independently and collaboratively where appropriate, with a self-critical awareness of the complex processes and outcomes within the fashion industry with sensitivity to equality, diversity and culture.
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## Teaching and Learning Activities

### Summary

Learning is primarily focused upon project-based self-initiated research. Initial guidance is provided through the Research Methods module, which will introduce a variety of theoretical and practice-based research methods. The Research Methods module is taught alongside the Independent Project 1 module, with the latter being the vehicle in which students will explore pre-existing research and development skills, and those explored in Research Methods. There is symbiosis between all four modules, with the practice-based realisation of the project undertaken through Independent Project 2, and the theory that informs the practice articulated through the Dissertation module.

All students will complete the core modules Independent Project 1 and Independent Project 2. These modules are taught in the groupings of Fashion Design, Visual Communication for Fashion and Fashion Writing to enable teaching and study in the chosen specialism. This also enables cross-specialism teaching and learning to happen, where appropriate. The Independent Project modules aim to broaden and challenge student's existing knowledge of their subject area. Through a wider knowledge of both their specialist route of study, the fashion industry, as well as a broader approach to art and design developed from the module Research Methods, students are encouraged to develop innovative and market aware approaches to their specialist study. Emphasis is placed upon independent study, individuality, and creative approaches, with students expected to approach commercial design problems with an innovative and experimental outlook appropriate to their specialist study.

Methods of learning and teaching will vary depending upon the specialist study chosen by the student. The specialisms in Fashion Design and Visual Communication for Fashion are both entirely practice-based. Students completing these specialist routes will be taught via technical studio-based demonstrations, group critiques, studio talks led by staff, and visiting speakers from industry. 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.

The specialism in Fashion Writing is predominantly lecture and seminar-based supported by individual tutorials, but may also include writing and media workshops where appropriate. Students will also have staff-led studio talks, and industry speaker talks.

Students will be expected to demonstrate in-depth self-evaluation of their project-work, both in terms of its progress in relation to their research proposal, and the historic and contemporary professional context in which it has been produced.

The Research Methods and Dissertation modules are delivered via a combination of lectures and seminars. Students will be allocated seminar groups based upon their specialist study, which will enable them to develop their research in a more focused manner. The Research Methods lecture series is delivered across multiple PGT provision in the School. As such, it will reflect the multifarious and idiosyncratic approaches to theoretical and practice-based research across the subject areas of art and design in the School. The primary reason for this is to encourage a multi-discipline approach to research, whereby the focus for research may lie in a different subject area, which will in turn potentially encourage innovative approaches to the Independent Project modules.

Similarly, the Dissertation module is taught across a range of PGT provision in the School. In the first instance, students will attend a lecture series relating to research skills specific to a range of dissertation modes. This will include a formal social sciences and humanities approach, as well as the more arts-based approach of a critical study. Following tutor advice, students will be able to choose which mode is the most appropriate. Lectures will be supported by subject and dissertation mode specific seminar groups, and individual tutorials.

MA Fashion uses MyBeckett VLE for all teaching resources, online assessment submissions, and student communication. In some circumstances where there is cross-discipline teaching, such as Research Methods, the CAGD, the Subject area's other VLE platform, will be used.

The course has a holistic approach in that it encompasses a range of traditional and digital approaches to learning and teaching. This is particularly evident in the Fashion Design specialism as the demonstrations and workshops focus upon both traditional techniques, such as pattern-cutting, drawing and textile-based processes, along with digital processes, such as Adobe software demonstrations for visual communication.

## Your Modules

This information is correct for students progressing through the programme within standard timescales. Option modules listed are indicative of a typical year. There may be some variance in the availability of option modules. 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.

<b>Level 7</b>			
<b>Semester 1</b>	<b>Core (Y/N)</b>	<b>Semester 2</b>	<b>Core (Y/N)</b>
Research Methods (30 credits)	Y	Dissertation (30 credits)	Y
Independent Project 1 (60 credits)	Y	Independent Project 2 (60 credits)	Y

Part-time students will be supported by the course team to determine an appropriate selection of modules from the level for each year of study.

## Assessment Balance and Scheduled Learning and Teaching Activities

The assessment balance and overall workload associated with this course are calculated from core modules and typical option module choices undertaken by students on the course. They have been reviewed and confirmed as representative by the Course Director, but applicants should note that the specific option choices students make may influence both assessment and workload balance.

A standard 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

On this course students specialising in Fashion Design will be assessed predominantly through coursework, which may take the format of a portfolio, garment or collection of garments, product(s) or prototypes or an installation. Students will produce an 8,000 – 10,000-word dissertation, critical report, or business plan.

Students specialising in Visual Communication for Fashion will be assessed predominantly through coursework, which may take the format of a portfolio, magazine, website, video, exhibition or installation. Students will produce an 8,000 – 10,000-word dissertation, critical report, or business plan.

Students specialising in Fashion Writing will be assessed predominantly through coursework, which may take the format of a portfolio, magazine, website, essay, article or exhibition. Students will produce an 8,000 – 10,000-word dissertation or critical report.

### Workload

Overall Workload	
Teaching, Learning and Assessment	270 hours
Independent Study	1,530 hours
Placement	N/A

### 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.