



LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY

Course Specification

BA (Hons) Fashion Design

Course Code: BFADE

2026/27

Award and Title: BA (Hons) Fashion Design (BFADE)

Applicant Facing Course Specification for 2026/27 Entrants

Confirmed at 11/2025

General Information

Award	Bachelor of Arts (with Honours) Fashion Design If you opt to undertake a full year placement and this is completed successfully you will have the words 'with placement year' added to the award title including for any contained awards that you are eligible for.
Contained awards	Bachelor of Arts Fashion Design Diploma of Higher Education Fashion Design Certificate of Higher Education Fashion Design
Awarding body	Leeds Beckett University
Level of qualification and credits	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). If you have opted to undertake a full year placement and complete this successfully you will achieve an additional 120 credit points at level 5. This will be included in your transcript.
Course lengths and standard timescales	Start dates will be notified to students via their offer letter. The length and mode of delivery of the course is: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 years (full time, campus based)• 4 years (full time, campus based, with placement year – if applicable)
Part time study	No Part Time Delivery route on this course
Location(s) of delivery	The majority of teaching will be at City campus but on occasion may be at Headingley campus.
Entry requirements	Admissions criteria are confirmed in your offer letter. Details of how the University recognises prior learning and supports credit transfer are located here: https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/student-information/course-information/recognition-of-prior-learning/ Admissions enquiries may be directed to: AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk .

Course fees

Course fees are confirmed in your offer letter. A breakdown of any additional costs is included on the online prospectus entry for this course.

Fees enquiries may be directed to Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk.

Policies, Standards and Regulations

<https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/our-university/public-information/academic-regulations/>

Standard regulations apply to this course.

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

N/A

'In Year' Work Placement Information**Summary**

Students may also enrol on a 120-credit point placement module which allows students to gain credit during a placement year. Terms and conditions apply and full details will be discussed during the course.

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 if they wish to continue with a particular career path upon graduation.

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. While 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.

Approval

Whilst students source their own placements, they will need to meet requirements which will be outlined before module enrolment.

Timetable

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.

Key Contacts

Your course director Sam Hudson-Miles

Your course administrator Emma Panther/Sam Shaw fashionadmin@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

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

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

1	<u>Research</u> 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.
2	<u>Creative Process</u> 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.
3	<u>Self-Initiated design briefs</u> 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.
4	<u>Communication</u> 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.
5	<u>Professionalism</u> 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.

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

Compulsory modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Cut and Construction	40	1
Fashion Design Communication	20	1
Contextual Studies 1	20	2
Fashion Design Process	40	2
Number of credits of compulsory modules	120	

Level 5

Compulsory modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Tailoring	40	1
Contextual Studies 2	20	1
Fashion Industry	20	2
Fashion Design Identity	40	2
Number of credits of compulsory modules	120	

Placement year

Compulsory modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Placement Year	120	Full Year
Number of credits of compulsory modules	120	

Level 6

Compulsory modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Major Project	60	1
Contextual Studies 3	20	1
Professional Portfolio	40	2
Number of credits of compulsory modules	120	

Assessment 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

Level 4

Level 4 is assessed by coursework.

Level 5

Level 5 is assessed by coursework.

If a full year placement is chosen

Level 5 placement is assessed by a written assignment.

Level 6

Level 6 is assessed by coursework.

Workload

Overall Workload	Level 4	Level 5	Placement	Level 6
Teaching, learning and assessment	424 hours	371 hours	-	236 hours
Independent study	776 hours	829 hours	-	964 hours
Placement	-	-	1400 hours	-