Programme Specification

Every taught course of study leading to a UAL award is required to have a Programme Specification. This summarises the course aims, learning outcomes, teaching, learning and assessment methods, and course structure. Programme Specifications are developed through course validation and are formally approved by UAL Validation Sub Committee (VSC). They are available to prospective students through the course web page, and must be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure currency of information (for example, following any modifications or local developments).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Awarding Body</th>
<th>University of the Arts London (UAL)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB)</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching Institution</td>
<td>London College of Fashion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Award</td>
<td>PG Cert Fashion: Buying and Merchandising</td>
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<tr>
<td>Length of Course</td>
<td>15 Weeks</td>
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<tr>
<td>UCAS code</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date of production/revision</td>
<td>June 2017</td>
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Course Aims

- to provide a highly focused and vocational education in specific aspects of fashion-related disciplines, namely Creative Pattern Design, Fashion and Lifestyle Journalism and Buying and Merchandising;
- to provide an opportunity for advanced level study within the named discipline which extends your existing knowledge, skills and professional abilities to postgraduate level;
- to develop your intellectual, analytical and problem solving skills to advanced level through a synthesis of theoretical and practical approaches to learning;
- to meet local and regional needs for vocational education in the fashion industry

Course Outcomes

The outcomes that you will have demonstrated upon completion of the course, are:
1. a high level of intellectual enquiry and analysis, and the application of creative thinking appropriate to relevant industrial/professional problems;

2. an enhanced level of professional skills and knowledge, developed through integrated application of theory and practice;

3. a greater awareness of current practice and new technologies within the discipline, and the ability to integrate these to their existing practice;

4. a deeper understanding of both the relationships and the distinctions between the buying and merchandising functions within the UK retail industry, and enhanced capability in negotiating and decision making.

**Learning and Teaching Methods:**

The following learning and teaching methods are employed to support the integrated achievement of the course outcomes:

- lectures
- seminars
- group work
- self-directed study

**Scheduled Learning and Teaching**

This is the percentage of your time spent in timetabled learning and teaching. You are expected to study for 600 hours over 15 weeks; below is the amount of time which is timetabled activity. The rest of your learning time will be self-directed, independent study.

**Postgraduate Certificate Fashion: Buying and Merchandising**

Percentage of time spent in timetabled learning and teaching – 22%

**Assessment Methods:**

Within the Buying and Merchandising course, summative assessment of each unit takes the form of case study analysis, written essay and project presentation.
Throughout the programme, opportunity for formative assessment feedback is provided in individual tutorials. Students are encouraged to formulate their own self-assessment via the use of the log book throughout the course.

The award of PG Certificate is based on the successful completion of all units. Credit is awarded when a student passes each unit and the final awarded grade will be determined by the weighting of assessment grades as outlined in the regulations.

Reference Points

The following reference points were used in designing the course:

- The College Learning and Teaching Strategy
- The College Assessment Strategy
- The Learning and Teaching policies of the University of the Arts London
- University of the Arts London Level Descriptors
- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications
- Business and Management subject benchmark statement

Programme Summary

Programme structures, features, units, credit and award requirements:

The programme operates within the University’s Credit Framework and carries 60 credits at level 7. The course is full-time over a period of 15 weeks.

The credit rating of 60 credits equates to a notional study time of 600 hours in total, of which approximately one-third will be academic staff contact hours. The study time is divided into three units of 20 credits each.

Units for the Award of Pg Cert:

- Buying and Merchandising, 20 credits;
- Marketing and Supply Chain Management, 20 credits;
- Integrated Project, 20 credits.

All students are entitled to a tutorial package that consists of:

- one induction tutorial (group or, one-to-one)
- one tutorial per term for the duration of their course of study at LCF
- group tutorials as required
- an appropriate level of confidentiality.

Distinctive features of the course:
provision of a vocationally relevant post graduate degree course;
access to specialist resources at a standard appropriate to the target industries;
preparation of students for employment or further study.

The course develops a knowledge of issues relevant to current practice in the UK buying and merchandising sector, integrated with practical professional skills in communication, negotiation and presentation. The relationships within the supply chain, and critical path management will be an important part of the curriculum. Distinctive features of the course are training in using the specialist commercial IT planning system, and the strong links established with retail buying and merchandising offices in London.

Recruitment and Admissions

Selection Criteria

The course team seeks to recruit students who can demonstrate:

- an enthusiasm for fashion and awareness of current ideas;
- knowledge of the fashion industry and a strong vocational interest in buying and merchandising;
- an open minded approach and commitment to self development through analysis and willingness to experiment with new ideas;
- an ability to successfully complete a business numeracy test;
- computer literacy, preferably on a Microsoft Windows platform.

Entry Requirements

Course entry requirements:

- a good first degree (2.1 or above) (or equivalent) in fashion or business plus GCSE Mathematics grade C or above (or equivalent)
- or sufficient relevant experience in the fashion industry (retail or manufacturing)
- IT skills

Exceptionally, applicants who do not meet these course entry requirements may still be considered if the course team judges the application demonstrates additional strengths and alternative evidence. This might, for example, be demonstrated by: related academic or work experience; the quality of the personal statement; or a combination of these factors.

English language requirements

All classes are conducted in English. If English is not your first language you will be asked to provide evidence of your English language ability when you enrol.
The level required by the University for this course is IELTS 6.5 with a minimum of 5.5 in each skill.

Please visit the UAL Language Requirements page. Read carefully and look at the relevant documents.

### Course Diagram

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full Time:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Weeks 1-10</strong></td>
<td><strong>Weeks 11-15</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buying and Merchandising;</td>
<td>Integrated Project;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 credits</td>
<td>20 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing and Supply Chain</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management; 20 credits</td>
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