MA Fashion Cultures and Histories

Programme Specification 21/22

Awarding Body	University of the Arts London
College	London College of Fashion
School	School of Media and Communication
Programme	Fashion Communication Programme (L018)
Course AOS Code	LCFMAFCFF02
FHEQ Level	Level 7 Masters
Course Credits	180
Mode	Full Time
Duration of Course	15 months
Valid From	September 1st 2021
QAA Subject Benchmark	None
Collaboration	N/A
UAL Subject Classification	Curation and culture
JACS Code	None
UCAS Code	N/A
PSRB	N/A
Work placement offered	N/A
Course Entry Requirements	The standard entry requirements for this course are as follows: • An Honours degree at 2.1 or above in a related discipline. Applicants with a degree in another subject may be considered, depending on the strength of the application • OR Equivalent qualifications **APEL (Accreditation of Prior (Experiential) Learning)** Applicants who do not meet these course entry requirements may still be considered in exceptional cases. The course team will consider each application that

	demonstrates additional strengths and alternative evidence. This might, for example, be demonstrated by: • Related academic or work experience (minimum of three years) • The quality of the personal statement • A strong academic or other professional reference • OR a combination of these factors Each application will be considered on its own merit but we cannot guarantee an offer in each case. **English Language Requirements** IELTS level 7.0 with a minimum of 6.0 in reading, writing, listening and speaking. Please check our main English Language Requirements.
Selection Criteria	The course seeks to recruit students from diverse socio-economic and cultural backgrounds, and welcomes applications from mature students. The procedures fully comply with the Equal opportunities Policy of UAL and all interviewers have undertaken Fairness in Selection training. The course seeks to recruit students who demonstrate some of the following: • a clear academic interest in the study of fashion through a multidisciplinary approach • evidence of cultural awareness and engagement with social and historical debate • relevant experience working in the fashion (or related) industries • a capacity for intellectual enquiry and reflective thought • a developed and mature attitude to independent study and intellectual growth
Scheduled Learning and Teaching	During your course you will engage with learning and teaching that includes both online and face-to-face modes. The advertised scheduled activity for the course will be delivered through a combination of live, synchronous and asynchronous on-line learning. Scheduled learning and

	teaching activity may include lectures, seminars, studio and workshop briefings, tutorials, external visits and project briefings.

Awards and Percentage of Scheduled Learning

Year 1

Percentage of Scheduled Learning	12
Awards	**Credits**
Postgraduate Certificate (Exit Only)	60
Postgraduate Diploma (Exit Only)	120
Master of Arts	180

Course Aims and Outcomes

The Aims and Outcomes of this Course are as follows:

Aim/Outcome	Description
Aim	Develop your ability to independently master a complex area of knowledge using advanced research skills relevant to fashion histories and cultures.
Aim	Enable you to extend and develop your knowledge and contextual understanding of global cultures and histories of fashion, fashion communication, dress, and the body.
Aim	Develop your independence of judgement and foster an inquiring, analytical approach to the study of fashion, fashion communication, dress and the body within their wider socio-cultural and historical contexts.
Aim	Advance your innovative thinking and intellectual skills through the synthesis of theoretical approaches and methods relevant to Fashion Cultures and Histories.
Aim	Provide an opportunity for you to develop a personal and professional focus at postgraduate level within Fashion Cultures and Histories
Outcome	Evidence a thorough and sophisticated knowledge of cultural and historical theory in relation to fashion, fashion communication, dress and/or the body.
Outcome	Demonstrate a coherent and systematic understanding of the relationship between fashion, dress and culture.
Outcome	Work independently to conduct original research, identifying and utilising an appropriate methodology and building relevant networks for collaborative work.
Outcome	Clearly communicate ideas, both in writing and orally, and critically reflect on your own work and that of your peers.
Outcome	Realise a body of work through independent study that demonstrates an original, innovative and rigorous contribution to our understanding of the significance of fashion and dress.
Outcome	Work collaboratively and professionally with peers and colleagues from contexts to realise a shared outcome.

	Distinctive Features
1	The only theory-based Master's specialising in fashion studies offered by a dedicated fashion college in London. By equipping students with a critical framework to interrogate and develop debates in the field of fashion studies and the fashion industry, this course reflects LCF's mission to drive social transformation. Key among our interests are the history and diversity of global fashion cultures; considerations of sustainability, labour and ethics, and the social and cultural complexities of late modernity. The course is shaped by five core values: creativity; criticality; community; collaboration and compassion. Students join a community of scholars, alumni and industry partners working to transform the fashion industry and fashion studies, in London and beyond, through critical and creative scholarship.
2	Theory is practice. Critical thinking sits at the heart of everything we do. Students develop a suite of specialised skills, competencies and knowledges to generate independent and original scholarship addressing emerging areas of fashion studies and seeking to deepen our understanding of fashion, dress and culture. We cultivate an approach driven by rigorous research, questioning and creative thinking, grounded in the belief that rigorous knowledge is transformative and indeed essential in a world in which globalisation and digital media technologies have connected cultures in an unprecedented way whilst drawing into focus the vast inequalities structuring human societies.
3	Generating theory to enact change in professional contexts. Our belief that it is as important to communicate new ideas beyond the university as it is to share them within it has led to Research for Professional Contexts, one of our core course units. This unit provides students with the opportunity to work closely with researchers and key industry partners to develop critical insights in response to a live brief or contemporary debate. Students have opportunity to develop professional skills and expertise in conducting research for multiple audiences and to engage creative thinking and independent research to contribute to emerging debates and questions facing the industry and our field of study. This unit will prepare students for future careers regardless of whether they progress to further study or go into industry.
4	Embedded within LCF's culture of leading fashion scholarship. Students on MA Fashion Cultures and Histories are taught by leading scholars in their respective areas of study, drawn from London College of Fashion's diverse and dynamic research community. Our teaching is shaped by our research specialisms, the classroom providing an inclusive and engaged space as researchers share their research methods and approaches and elaborate on their published works. Course Leader Dr Rosie Findlay is joined by researchers from LCF's Research Department, the Centre for Sustainable Fashion, the Centre for Fashion Curation and the Centre

for Cultural and Historical Studies in addressing diverse topics from across the field of fashion studies and inviting students to be part of the conversation.

Course Detail

MA Fashion Cultures and Histories is a theory-based Master's degree that provides students with a cross-disciplinary foundation in relevant, innovative and critical fashion histories and theories. It provides unique opportunities for students to develop high-level writing, research, and analytical skills in interrogating fashion as global industry, media, dress, and bodily practice.

In responding to the developments in the media landscape and the need for socially, culturally and politically engaged professionals with theoretical and critical knowledge, the course aims to prepare researchers and critical innovators who can generate new thinking about fashion and help to shape the ways in which it is understood, presented and evaluated. In providing the tools for constructing compelling narratives about fashion for specialist and general audiences in multiple formats, the course prepares students for future-facing careers in research, publishing, education, museums, think tanks, institutes, within the fashion industry or to undertake further study in a fashion-related subject.

Course Units

Collaborative Challenge (20 credits); Cultural and Social Theory (20 credits); and Fashion Histories (20 credits) are taught in Block 1. Research Proposal (20 credits); Fashion Narratives (20 credits); and Research for Professional Contexts (20 credits) are taught in Block 2. MA Project is taught in Block 3.

These units involve the types of learning and assessment outlined earlier in this document. Each student will have one 30 minute tutorial during the four core course units (Cultural and Social Theory; Fashion Histories; Fashion Narratives; Research for Professional Contexts), and work closely with tutors in three cross-college units (Collaborative Challenge; Research Proposal; MA Project). Students will also have a 20 minute pastoral tutorial in each Block to discuss their progress, goals and student experience.

Learning and Teaching Methods

Alongside more traditional methods, such as lectures, seminars, workshops, field trips, and group and individual tutorials, the course cultivates the following set of teaching and learning strategies.

Enquiry-based learning

A core aspect of each unit is embedded activities that cultivate student-led enquiry into the areas under study. This includes, but is not limited to, strategies such as provocations that students are invited to independently research in preparation for class, and

methods-based research such as participant observation in public spaces and sites that develop the themes of the set readings. This strategy elaborates the agency students have to shape the focus of their learning, which is otherwise primarily evident in their ability to research a topic of their choosing in each of their assessments.

Collaboration

The College-wide Collaborative Challenge, offered in Block 1, offers students a key opportunity to develop skills of collaboration within and external to their own cohort. Other units in the course builds on these abilities, such as the Research for Professional Contexts unit in which students are invited to collaborate in response to the live brief or critical debate. As collaboration is a core principle of this course, students will also be encouraged to initiate self-directed collaborative projects, such as public-facing events (talks, screenings, roundtables) to which prospective students, other MA cohorts within UAL, and alumni will be invited; and to organise and participate in enhancement activities, such as class trips and outings or extracurricular research activities.

Knowledge Exchange

Given that this course seeks to intervene in and innovate both the fashion industry and the field of fashion studies, it follows that engaging with contemporaneous problems and debates would be a central component of this course's pedagogy. The practice of this cohort is theory, and we will respond to pressing current issues through research, data collection and analysis, and critical thinking. The format for this work will be knowledge exchange, led by industry partnerships.

Peer-to-Peer Learning and Feedback

Peer-to-peer learning and feedback connects to two of the five core principles of the course, community and criticality. Developing the skill of offering collegial and constructive criticism is key for a career in academia, one of the industries our graduates enter. This is embedded in the course, as students present their ideas in class and read and critique each other's work as part of the ongoing formative feedback generated across Blocks 1 and 2.

Expert Talks

Experts from the fashion industry and leading scholars from across UAL and other HEI's are regularly invited to share their expertise with the students in an array of forms, including guest lectures, panels, and workshops. These talks are embedded in the curriculum, complementing and extending the core delivery. Students are encouraged to

respond in the classroom as well as in their own scholarly practice, and to nominate scholars and practitioners who they wish to invite to speak to the cohort.

Technical Delivery

Technical delivery developing core skills of slide deck production and communicating research through appropriate media will be embedded in the curriculum to support the core course unit, Research for Professional Contexts. This provision has been discussed with the Technical Coordinator- Media, whose team will teach these competencies alongside academic and practice-based instruction in the classroom.

Assessment Methods

Students on this course will produce:

- Written, researched essays
- Written reviews
- Group presentation (oral and slide deck)
- Critical, researched outcome (format subject to student choice in negotiation with unit leader)
- Written, researched dissertation

Reference Points

The following reference points were used in designing the course:

- The Master's Degree Characteristics (QAA, September 2015) benchmark statements have been consulted in order to support the development of the course learning outcomes, inform the indicative content in the curriculum and to further develop teaching and learning methods and assessment.
- Creative Attributes Framework, UAL
- Better Lives agenda, LCF

Course Diagram

MA Fashion Cultures and Histories – PLEASE NOTE DUE TO VACATION DATES, SPECIFIC DELIVERY WEEKS MAY CHANGE.

S=summative assessment

E1, E2=summative element assessment

LEVEL 7																																												
BLOCK 1															BLOCK 2															BLOCK 3														
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45

Collaborative Challenge (20 credits) — weeks 1–12, S at week 13

Fashion Histories (20 credits) — E1 at week 5, E2 at week 13

Cultural and Social Theory (20 credits) — E1 at week 5, E2 at week 13

Research for Professional Contexts (20 credits) — weeks 16–28, E1 at week 21, E2 at week 28

Fashion Narratives (20 credits) — weeks 16–27, S at week 28

Research Proposal (20 credits) — weeks 18–27, S at week 28

Masters Project (60 credits) — weeks 31–45, S at week 45

The University will use all reasonable endeavours to provide the Course and the services described in this Output. There may be occasions whereby the University needs to add, remove or alter content in relation to your Course as may be appropriate for example the latest requirements of a commissioning or accrediting body, or in response to student feedback, or to comply with applicable law or due to circumstances beyond its control. The University aim to inform you of any changes as soon as is reasonably practicable