

Kelly Dearsley | Knowledge Exchange Excellence Pathway | London College of Fashion | Programme Director



Kelly Dearsley, currently Programme Director of Fashion Communication at London College of Fashion (LCF), left a decade long career in advertising to enrol at LCF as a mature student studying fashion photography. After completing her MA she began her career in academia as an hourly paid member of staff at LCF, going on to become Course Leader for FdA Fashion Styling and Photography and finally taking her current role as a Programme Director.

Kelly says: “Knowledge Exchange Excellence is where all parties learn and feel the value of their contribution. This is challenging as it is widely acknowledged that there are power relations to consider, however I don’t believe these challenges are insurmountable. The first step in my experience, is to acknowledge these exist and then to keep them very much in mind when planning and organising the activity. It’s successful when everyone involved feels their position is valued, when this happens it is wonderful energy.”

Recently, Kelly switched from the Teaching Excellence Pathway to Knowledge Exchange Excellence. For Kelly, having Knowledge Exchange as a recognised pathway encourages the development of long term partnerships with the industry and demonstrates the value of networking across research, conferences, workshops and other opportunities to her students.

“Knowledge Exchange Excellence offers opportunities for students, academic staff and industry partners to come together to explore pertinent questions in fashion communications in a way that is both inspiring and rewarding.”