

# GRADUATE DIPLOMA FASHION



## Graduate Diploma Fashion

<b>Awarding Body</b>	University of the Arts London
<b>College</b>	Central Saint Martins
<b>School</b>	M School
<b>Programme</b>	CSM Fashion (L028)
<b>Course AOS Code</b>	CSMGDFSHF01
<b>FHEQ Level</b>	Level 6 Grad Diploma
<b>Course Credits</b>	120
<b>Mode</b>	Full Time
<b>Method</b>	Face to Face
<b>Duration of Course</b>	1 year
<b>Valid From</b>	2025/26
<b>Collaboration</b>	N/A
<b>UAL Subject Classification</b>	Fashion Design
<b>PSRB</b>	N/A
<b>Work placement offered</b>	N/A
<b>Course Entry Requirements</b>	<p>The standard entry requirements for this course are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An honours degree in a relevant discipline such as fashion, fashion textiles, accessory design, or jewellery design</li> <li>• An equivalent EU/international qualification.</li> </ul>

	<p><b>AP(E)L – Accreditation of Prior (Experiential) Learning</b></p> <p>Exceptionally applicants who do not meet these course entry requirements may still be considered. The course team will consider each application that demonstrates additional strengths and alternative evidence. This might, for example, be demonstrated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Related academic or work experience</li> <li>• The quality of the personal statement</li> <li>• A strong academic or other professional reference</li> </ul> <p><b>OR</b> a combination of these factors.</p> <p>Each application will be considered on its own merit but we cannot guarantee an offer in each case.</p> <p><b>English language requirements</b></p> <p>IELTS score of 6.5 or above, with at least 5.5 in reading, writing, listening and speaking (please check our main <a href="#">English language requirements</a> webpage).</p>
<p><b>Selection Criteria</b></p>	<p>We select applicants according to potential and current ability in the following areas:</p> <p>Evidence of research skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You should provide evidence of your creative exploration of research (research sketchbooks, examples of materials/images that you collect for inspiration)</li> <li>• Ability to develop ideas in visual form</li> <li>• Please evidence your ability to produce design solutions which make an imaginative use of imagery, colour, materials and technical skills shown in sketchbooks, illustrations etc.</li> </ul> <p>3D sense:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please provide examples of your ability to translate two-dimensional design into three-dimensions (actual garments are not required – photographs or digital images will be accepted).</li> </ul> <p>Sensitivity to fabric and colour (including digital images of</p>

fabric samples where appropriate):

- Evidence of use of fabrics and colour application e.g. swatches either attached to design drawings or on a separate sheet.

Technical skills:

- Specification drawings to show in detail your understanding of garment construction e.g. seam placements, darts etc. and design details e.g. collar, cuff details.

In addition to the skills demonstrated in the portfolio, you should demonstrate by means of your personal statement in the application, your:

- Reason for choosing the course
- Motivation and commitment
- Awareness of contemporary fashion design
- Capacity for self-reflection
- Communication skills.

### **What we are looking for**

We are seeking students who are dedicated, motivated, ambitious, hardworking and serious about progressing their fashion careers by using the course as a stepping stone to the College's MA Fashion or other postgraduate courses or to gaining employment in the fashion industry. Students are expected and encouraged to take full advantage of all that London offers as a fashion, social and cultural capital.

## Awards and Percentage of Scheduled Learning Year 1

Awards	Credits
Graduate Diploma	120

### Scheduled Learning Split by Level

Level 6	17%
<b>Total Scheduled Learning Split</b>	<b>17%</b>

## Course Aims and Outcomes

The Aims and Outcomes of this Course are as follows:

Aim/Outcome	Description
Aim	To facilitate a deeper understanding of the creative design process, engaging with in-depth research and practice that considers social, racial, and climate justice and identifies where students' work is situated within the wider fashion industry.
Aim	To enable students to develop a physical and/or digital body of work that explores, extends and strengthens individual identity, resolving design challenges, effectively communicating original ideas.
Aim	To produce imaginative, responsible designers with advanced critical and reflective abilities equipped with the knowledge and a professional skill set to support application to postgraduate study or employment in the global fashion industry.
Outcome	Students will assimilate a series of guided projects to create a well-resolved portfolio that communicates considered design development and final outcomes effectively.
Outcome	Students will articulate critical analysis of the contemporary global fashion industry to produce work that considers social, racial, and climate justice.
Outcome	Students will interact effectively with others through collaborative engagement, negotiation and communication to formulate ideas and present imaginative solutions.
Outcome	Students will demonstrate high-level capabilities to evaluate and resolve creative challenges using digital and practical tools and processes.
Outcome	Students will evidence the ability to work independently, with a capacity to manage time effectively to produce creative outcomes to a professional standard.
Outcome	Students will develop and communicate high-level professional skills appropriate to support application for postgraduate study and or employment.

	Distinctive Features
1	<b>A rich resource to explore innovation and creativity:</b> Students experiment and gain creative freedom through guided projects. The course provides a supportive structure, which stimulates the breadth and depth of research and promotes an innovative approach to design.
2	<b>Inspirational teaching:</b> On the Graduate Diploma in Fashion, students are guided by highly experienced creative practitioners; as such, they benefit from the teaching and learning methods that have produced some of the world's leading fashion design professionals.
3	<b>Professional portfolio development for further study:</b> Students are introduced to a range of approaches to inform the visual communication and digital articulation of imaginative projects that support an application for entry into postgraduate study or employment in the fashion industry.
4	<b>Promoting social, racial, and climate justice in design:</b> Students consider Fashion within a global context; they evaluate and explore their ideas, using this knowledge to formulate independent judgements that produce original outcomes within an ethical framework.
5	<b>Global Alumni network:</b> Many of our alumni go on to work across a wide spectrum of careers in the fashion industry. Career destinations of our students include some of the most prominent fashion companies worldwide.

## Course Detail

The Postgraduate Diploma in Fashion supports you to develop your creative identity in response to the changing landscape of the fashion industry. The course challenges you to demonstrate deep consideration and resourcefulness and push past traditional boundaries, to create your own distinct design narrative for a global market. We recruit graduates from Fashion and related disciplines, helping you to refine your work, primarily to progress to further study or directly to employment.

- We guide students to become thoughtful practitioners, whose work is positioned within an ethical framework that considers social, racial and climate justice.
- You will be encouraged to enhance your ideas by working across disciplines and through collaboration, as part of a supportive community.
- You will design and produce practical or digital final outcomes, with opportunities to explore other specialist areas such as Knit or Print.
- You will be guided by industry practitioners to develop your creativity and communicate rigour in your process and thought. Through this experience, you will benefit from the learning and teaching methods that have produced some of the world's leading fashion designers.
- Our graduates go on to work in a wide range of careers in fashion. Many complete Masters degrees in the UK and overseas: in Fashion and Fashion Communication at Central Saint Martins, at London College of Fashion, Royal College of Art, Parsons New York and IFM in Paris.

In the Central Saint Martins Fashion Programme, we work to be at the heart of debate about the future of fashion. Our students are designers, communicators and academics. Teaching is our core purpose and our research, industry and external relationships enrich our approach. We are committed to reflecting and influencing the sustainable transformation of the industry. Social, racial and climate justice are our core values and we believe in a fairer world for all. Our outlook is international, inclusive and diverse, reflecting the global nature of our community. We believe we must constantly challenge ourselves to shape fair and ethical opportunities in fashion. We believe in the power of cooperation, collaboration and partnerships through both analogue and digital experiences.

**Important note concerning academic progression through your course:** If you are required to retake a unit you will need to cease further study on the course until you have passed the unit concerned. Once you have successfully passed this unit, you will be able to proceed onto the next unit. Retaking a unit might require you to take time out of study, which could affect other things such as student loans or the



visa status for international students.

**CSM Academic Support** is delivered by a team of academics and practitioners working alongside your course to help you progress and achieve your maximum potential as a student. Academic Support can help you to develop your skills in different areas, including critical thinking, research and writing, time management, presentations and working independently and collaboratively. These may be offered as part of your timetabled classes or as bookable tutorials and workshops.

### **Mode of study**

The Graduate Diploma in Fashion is offered in full-time mode which runs for 30 weeks over one academic year.

### **Course Units**

The Graduate Diploma in Fashion consists of two units of study. We recognise that our students come to the course with different types and levels of prior learning and experience. The curriculum builds on an integrated mode of learning where the knowledge acquired in the first unit provides the foundation for the learning in the second unit. It begins with projects that support you in identifying your design strengths. You will develop your work in consultation with staff on an ongoing basis.

Unit 1 contains projects that diagnose individual strengths and needs. As you progress throughout the course, projects will be negotiated with course staff and become increasingly self-directed, allowing you to demonstrate independent learning in the context of your final projects.

#### **Unit 1: Diagnostic: Research and Creative Development**

Unit 1 has a diagnostic function, introducing you to the course team and the Fashion programme. You will be expected to create work and present your ideas to the tutors and your peers for discussion and critique. You will work on a number of projects, allowing your tutors to assess your practice and support your development. You will also be introduced to fashion within a global context and consider sustainability and social, racial, and climate justice in design.

The unit culminates in a project which enhances and consolidates your skills in working creatively to a design brief.

## **Unit 2: Final Project and Portfolio: Development and Resolution**

In this unit, you will define the rationale for your final design project. You will use the skills and knowledge developed in Unit 1 to realise design work that resolves a self-directed design challenge. The major part of this period is given over to the completion of a final project that effectively communicates what you have gained from the course. This unit comprises completed creative work, together with a portfolio of design work. This unit concludes with final assessment.

### **Credit and award requirements**

The course is credit-rated at 120 credits at HE Level 6. All units must be passed in order to achieve the Graduate Diploma and there is a single exit point.

### **Learning and Teaching Methods**

We use the following teaching and learning methods to support the achievement of the course outcomes, delivered in a combination of onsite and online formats:

- Briefing documents and meetings
- Learning through research
- Technical support: Digital skills (2D and 3D), pattern cutting, garment construction and realisation
- Practical demonstrations
- Studio practice
- Critiques
- Presentations
- Peer learning
- Independent study
- Self-evaluation and reflection

(see full list in Unit teaching and learning methods)

### **Assessment Methods**

Portfolio which includes:

- Projects
- A digital or physical outcome
- Supporting research and development work
- Formative assessment
- Summative assessment

(see full list in unit assessment description)

## Reference Points

The following reference points were used in designing the course:

- UAL Learning and Teaching Strategy
- UAL 2022 – 2032 Strategy
- QAA 2019 Subject Benchmark Statement: Art and Design
- Office for Students: The regulatory framework for higher education in England
- Consultation with relevant industries
- Consultation with current students and course alumni
- UAL Framework for Embedding the Principles for Climate, Racial and Social Justice

## Course Diagram

**Graduate Diploma Fashion** – PLEASE NOTE DUE TO VACATION DATES, SPECIFIC DELIVERY WEEKS MAY CHANGE.

S=summative assessment, F= Formative assessment

LEVEL 6 – Year 1																															
BLOCK 1															BLOCK 2																
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		
Unit 1: Diagnostic: Research and Creative Development (60 credits)		F				F						F		S	Unit 2: Final Project and Portfolio: Development and Resolution (60 credits)				F										S		

*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*