

# MA MATERIAL FUTURES



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APPROVED

## MA Material Futures

<b>Awarding Body</b>	University of the Arts London
<b>College</b>	Central Saint Martins
<b>School</b>	M School
<b>Programme</b>	CSM Jewellery, Textiles and Materials (L029)
<b>Course AOS Code</b>	CSMMAMATX01
<b>FHEQ Level</b>	Level 7 Masters
<b>Course Credits</b>	180
<b>Mode</b>	Extended Full Time
<b>Method</b>	Face to Face
<b>Duration of Course</b>	2 years
<b>Teaching Weeks</b>	60 weeks
<b>Valid From</b>	2025/26
<b>Collaboration</b>	N/A
<b>UAL Subject Classification</b>	Textiles and Materials
<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</li><li>• <b>Or</b> an equivalent EU/international qualification</li></ul>

	<p><b>AP(E)L – Accreditation of Prior (Experiential) Learning</b></p> <p>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 level 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><b>Digital Portfolio and Video task</b></p> <p>The quality of portfolio demonstrating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong design and technical skills</li> <li>• A personal approach to developing a design concept (including research, design development and final outputs)</li> <li>• A knowledge and understanding of materials</li> <li>• A creative approach to visual communication and presentation.</li> </ul> <p><b>Interview</b></p> <p>You may be invited to an interview following our review of your application.</p> <p>In addition to the skills demonstrated in the digital portfolio and Video task, the applicant’s potential ability will be assessed using the following criteria:</p>

- The ability to discuss your portfolio demonstrating a critical perspective of your work
- A clear understanding of your design context and an engagement with issues that affect your industry
- The ability to have an informed conversation about your role as a designer
- Motivation, commitment and understanding of the ethos of the MA Material Futures course.

**What we are looking for**

We are looking for people who are highly driven and passionate about design and who keep informed about the material, ethical, moral, social and political issues that affect the creative industries today, as well as how they locate themselves and their work within the global context of design.

## Awards and Percentage of Scheduled Learning

### Year 1

Awards	Credits
Postgraduate Certificate (Exit Only)	60

### Year 2

Awards	Credits
Postgraduate Diploma (Exit Only)	120
Master of Arts	180

### Scheduled Learning Split by Level

Level 7	7%
<b>Total Scheduled Learning Split</b>	<b>7%</b>

## Course Aims and Outcomes

The Aims and Outcomes of this Course are as follows:

Aim/Outcome	Description
Aim	Enable students to research, articulate, produce, present and debate forward thinking material design projects demonstrating a sophisticated and original translation of research into practice within the context of sustainable futures.
Aim	Enable students to develop effective decision-making and professional project management skills relevant to both teamwork and independent practice.
Aim	Encourage students to develop a strong, informed and individual design agenda for the short, medium and long-term future by interrogating and locating their own design practice within the diverse and emerging fields of the design industry.
Outcome	Can identify and use appropriate research methods to define and investigate a research question which leads to a self-directed forward-thinking design brief.
Outcome	Can apply, challenge and develop your creative skills to a high level to produce an innovative body of design work which demonstrates an informed personal design agenda and a mature and sophisticated approach to design and/or craft practice.
Outcome	Can communicate, articulate and debate with confidence and professional attitude all issues explored through the design work to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.
Outcome	Can demonstrate a critical awareness of current, emerging and future issues that will affect the short, medium and long-term future of the design industry, particularly in the context of designing for a more sustainable and resilient future.
Outcome	Can demonstrate professional project management skills, self-direction and initiative in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at an academic and professional level.

<b>Distinctive Features</b>	
1	<b>Future-facing design approach:</b> Exploring the intersection of craft, science and technology the course curriculum asks students to look beyond existing boundaries to anticipate future needs, desires and challenges. By encouraging students to explore future trends, narratives and possible future scenarios they are able to better interrogate the way we are living now, synthesising their observations to an individual project proposal and apply a design approach to propose how this could be reconsidered and redesigned for a more sustainable future. The graduates of the course are renowned for producing work designed through a future-focused lens, and the course continues to garner considerable media coverage and attract industry attention.
2	<b>Material as a starting point in the design approach:</b> Taking materiality as the starting point of the design process, the course curriculum encourages students to integrate high and low materials and processes, pursuing relevant applications across fashion, architecture, product & industrial design, communication and critical design. With material at the core of the design process the application of the students' research and making is not pre-determined, but developed through extensive sampling to test the material properties, potential and user scenario. This means the output and application of work maintains a rich breadth.
3	<b>Embedded focus on sustainability:</b> Using design and materiality as a platform to critically interrogate our sustainable future is a core component of the curriculum, with a holistic design approach and deep understanding of the wider sustainable agenda as an assessed component of the course. Introducing and underlining the design challenges of the 21st Century through crits, tutorials as well as a variety of workshops, students are required to consider the short and long term sustainability of their design output.
4	<b>Research informing the curriculum:</b> Research is embedded within the course curriculum and students regularly have the opportunity to engage with UAL research active staff through tutorials and lectures. Students also have access to the events organised by the Postgraduate Community at UAL. The curriculum is engineered to encourage students to engage with the critical context of design and to become aware of emerging issues that will affect the future of design and materiality. The justification and critical analysis of the design project is inherent to the creative process. Students are encouraged to combine social, political and economic inquiry to inform future design applications, ensuring they are tapping into a current or future discourse of relevance and resonance.
5	<b>Dynamic and adaptive curriculum:</b> The course structure is divided into three units across two years. Unit 1 is front-loaded with contact time and offers an intensive learning experience in which students are exposed to a broad variety of new ideas and technical skills. The curriculum reflects and responds to current and emerging pertinent themes within the design industry. This ensures

	the curriculum stays fluid, adaptive and responsive, while also allowing us to set the agenda for the future of design and materiality.
6	<b>Industry links:</b> MA Material Futures continues to develop new links, and indeed strengthen old, with collaborative partners across a range of industry sectors. Offering an effective exchange of fresh innovative research and concepts, in return for valuable insight into an industry sector, the course values the experience of live client briefs which also provide opportunities for students to gain external exposure and professional practice experience.
7	<b>Multi-disciplinary teaching and learning approach:</b> MA Material Futures encourages a multi-disciplinary learning approach, exploring the full spectrum of materiality from low-tech analogue craft processes to high-tech smart and interactive technologies.
8	<b>Staff expertise:</b> The core staff team is extremely active in a professional design context, running their own companies or studios and producing globally recognised work. The team possess a breadth of expertise that spans across a variety of different design fields. Staff enrich and often support the course through their professional and creative contacts.
9	<b>External experts:</b> To complement and enhance specific project briefs, we involve a wide range of external experts and design practitioners. The course also runs a 'Design Perspectives' programme that introduces students to a wide range of design approaches and practitioners from across the creative industries and beyond.
10	<b>Teaching enhanced by income generation:</b> When possible, the course team try to initiate live projects to help generate income. This additional income enables increased teaching provision and external opportunities. Each live project demands a range of communication and presentation skills as well as design thinking.

## Course Detail

MA Material Futures encourages a wholly multi-disciplinary approach to design. Through trans-disciplinary practice and collaboration you will explore how we will live in the future. By working with experts, taking risks and blurring the boundaries between design, science and technology, you will look beyond existing disciplines, anticipating the future needs, desires and challenges that we face in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

We believe that only by observing and analysing how we live today we can begin to explore how we might occupy tomorrow. Considering the current and future context of design decisions is key to our ethos. We will encourage you to combine social, scientific, political, environmental, ecological and economic inquiry. These insights will help inform future design scenarios, material propositions and research-led speculations.

Taking materiality as the starting point of the design process – literally the things we can touch, feel, interact with and observe – we integrate high and low technological materials and processes. Our students explore and come from a diverse range of disciplines. These include the worlds of fashion and architecture, as well as industrial, communication, textile, critical, digital and speculative design.

We are committed to developing ethical Material Futures practices. To achieve this, we are working to embed UAL's Principles for Climate, Social and Racial Justice into the course.

## Course Units

In MA Material Futures, units may include external workshops, lectures and projects. Through hands-on making, you will explore emerging sciences and technologies, processes and materials. You will also investigate current trends and behavioural insights. Through this, you will generate new design applications to contribute to a more sustainable tomorrow.

### Unit 1: Material Exploration

Unit 1 is intended to be a test bed for new ideas, approaches and design collisions. You will be encouraged to forget your previous disciplines and methodologies, and to experiment and be ambitious. You will be exposed to new technologies, science and design practices alongside methods of material and design research.

Experimentation, innovation, contextual and critical knowledge and design-led personal research is key. The unit draws on academic research, industrial links and a programme of current speakers. It is engineered to stimulate debate and to engage you in the critical context of design. You will be encouraged to engage with

emerging issues that will affect the future of your personal design practice.

In this unit you will be expected to develop experimental design work and innovative design proposals. You will discuss and critically debate issues related to your practice. Your work in this unit will encourage you to create and propose sustainable concepts, artefacts and materials.

## **Unit 2: Material Proposition**

In Unit 2 you will combine your new knowledge of emerging material practice with your previous skill set. You will create a personal research project proposal and critical journal. These will explore a topical issue in the field of material futures. This unit should be used as an opportunity to launch a physical and theoretical design proposition. You will identify and engage with relevant experts who can support you in your chosen field of design. They will help navigate the complexities of turning your design proposition into a reality.

At the beginning of the unit, short projects or workshops may help you structure the critical framework for your final project. By the end of the unit, you will have framed a design issue. You will have identified relevant research methods to produce a final creative portfolio. This body of work and research investigation will culminate in an exhibition of design propositions.

## **Unit 3: Material Impact**

In Unit 3 you will contextualise, construct and launch your design proposition. This is predominantly a self-initiated unit. It allows you the freedom to pursue your own research interests and personal approach within the discipline.

What is the real-world impact? Why is this proposition pertinent now or in the future? You will also complete a critical text which explores and contextualises your work within a wider context. You present your work at the College's annual showcase.

**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**

MA Material Futures is an extended full-time course which runs for 60 weeks over two academic years. You will be expected to commit 30 hours per week to study, which includes teaching time and independent study.

The course has been designed in this way to enable you to pursue studies, while also undertaking part-time employment, internships or care responsibilities.

### **Credit and award requirements**

The course is credit-rated at 180 credits.

On successfully completing the course you will gain a Master of Arts (MA degree).

Under the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, an MA is Level 7. All units must be passed in order to achieve the MA but the classification of the award is derived from the mark for the final unit only.

If you are unable to continue on the course, a Postgraduate Certificate (PG Cert) will normally be offered following the successful completion of 60 credits, or a Postgraduate Diploma (PG Dip) following the successful completion of 120 credits.

### **Learning and Teaching Methods**

The learning and teaching methods devised for this course include:

- Formative assessments;
- Group critique;
- Independent study;
- Individual tutorials;
- Lectures/workshops introducing research methodologies and techniques;
- Peer learning;
- Self-evaluation;
- Technical demonstrations.

## **Assessment Methods**

- Design portfolios
- Presentations
- Project proposals
- Critical journals
- Design projects

## **Reference Points**

The following reference points were used in designing the course:

- The Learning and Teaching policies of the University of the Arts London
- College policies and initiatives
- The QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)
- Consultation with relevant industries.

## Course Diagram

**MA Material Futures** – PLEASE NOTE DUE TO VACATION DATES, SPECIFIC DELIVERY WEEKS MAY CHANGE.

S=summative assessment

LEVEL 7 - Year 1																														
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: Material Exploration (60 credits)																				S	Unit 2: Material Proposition (60 credits)									
LEVEL 7 - Year 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 2 continued										S	Unit 3: Material Impact (60 credits)																		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*