

Art and Design Practice (Fashion) National Diploma level 3

Course Overview

This is the first year of a two year qualification and is equivalent to 1.5 A Levels. Successful progress can lead to entry onto the second year Extended Diploma (equivalent to 3 A Levels). This exciting course provides students with the opportunity to experience a broad range of subjects that strongly reflect practices used in the fashion industry. It is aimed at people wishing to further their education in the fashion and textiles industry. If you are aged 16 to 18, you will be enrolled on a study programme. This will include retaking GCSEs or undertaking Functional Skills in English and maths if you haven't already achieved a grade 4 or above. You will take part in activities that help you to develop your personal skills, such as building your character and confidence. This will help you to live well and move into your chosen career. If you are 16-19 years old these activities will be timetabled as will work experience and placement. You can also choose to take part in other activities. For other age groups, activities will be tailored to your needs.

What you will learn

This course is aimed at people wishing to further their education within the area of fashion and textiles. You will develop skills in a wide range of areas including drawing development, computer-aided design (CAD), pattern cutting and garment manufacture, and fashion design and illustration. You will learn how to design and construct garments and accessories to industrial standards and you will be taught how to use industrial machinery safely.

If you successfully complete year 1 of this programme, you will then progress to the Extended Diploma Level 3. You will study the following subjects: exploring specialist textile techniques; design methods; accessory production; garment production; 3D sculptural textiles; printed textiles; fashion marketing; and a self-directed final major project that will be exhibited as a catwalk show at a city-centre venue. There will also be a range of industry speakers and industry trips throughout the year.

Entry Requirements

Standard entry to this course requires one reference. It is desirable that you can demonstrate 90% attendance. 4 GCSEs at grade 4 (C) including English including a Fashion/Textiles/Art/Design related subject is required. GCSE Maths at grade 4 (C) or above is desirable. You will also require a portfolio that demonstrates your suitability for your chosen course. Consideration will be given to all applicants over the age of 19 who do not hold formal English and maths qualifications.

How you will be assessed

All units are assessed through practical assignments. You will receive formative assessments and feedback that will inform you of the grade you are working towards. We will set targets that inform you how to improve. There are no examinations or external assessments on this course.

Course Fees

If you are 18 or above entering this course you may incur fees if you apply for entry on the first or second year of the programme. Please see our guidance on 19+ fees on our website

Course Progression

This level 3 course allows successful students to progress either into the creative arts industry or higher education in graphic design, or a range of allied subject areas. The course equips you to enter the creative industries at a junior level. There will also be an element of simulated work experience through live projects, competitions, and industrial assignments during year two of the course. This is a one year course and successful completion, 90% attendance and a good reference are required in order to progress onto the Extended Diploma second year.

What Happens Next

Apply online via the College website, or if your school uses the Positive Steps @16 (PS16) application system please apply through this and speak to your careers advisor if you are unsure. You will need details of your qualifications, a reference, and a personal statement to complete your application. Once your application has been successfully processed, you will be sent a conditional offer and be invited to a Welcome Event at the College to meet your tutors, learn more about your chosen course of study and tour the facilities. You will then need to confirm your acceptance of the course offered to you.

Course Details

Course Code	P00132
Start Date	08/09/2025
Study Hours	Full Time
Duration	1 year
Campus	St Margaret's Campus
Level	3

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