

Hertfordshire Higher Education Consortium

Fashion and Textiles

- Foundation Degree



Foundation Degree

What is a Foundation Degree?

Foundation Degrees are university level degree courses that offer an exciting work-based alternative to the traditional university route. They are:

- A stand-alone recognised qualification.
- Equivalent to studying the first two years of an honours degree programme.
- Highly valued by employers.

How does this work?

Foundation Degrees in Hertfordshire are accessible through your local college, as part of the Hertfordshire Higher Education Consortium*. On graduation you will be awarded a University of Hertfordshire validated degree, and depending on your chosen course you even get letters after your name... FdA, FdSc.

Benefits to studying a Foundation Degree

- **real-life projects** which enable you to gain valuable work experience whilst allowing you to apply your skills and knowledge.
- **support** that's available throughout your course from tutors and advisors in College and mentors in your place of work.
- **affordable** because you can choose from one of four colleges to study at you will never be far from home, saving you money on living costs.
- **funding** through student tuition fee loans will cover the cost of your programme – so there's nothing to pay up front.

Who can study a Foundation Degree?

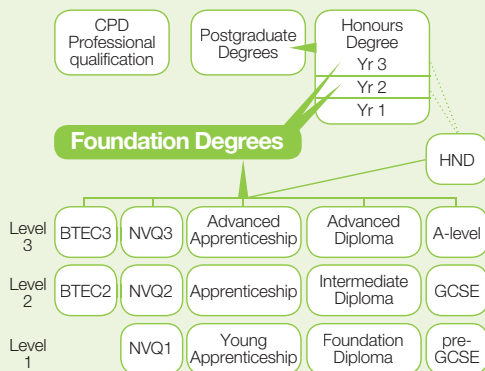
Foundation Degrees are suitable for all kinds of candidates including:

- Those with Level 3 qualifications (eg A Levels, Advanced Apprenticeships, BTECs, Access to Higher Education or City & Guilds).
- Those looking for a change in career.
- Those already employed but wanting to gain a Higher Education qualification either to progress their career or other aspirations.

What can I do with my Foundation Degree?

That really is up to you! Your degree will ensure that you are well equipped to start your career path and research shows that those with a Higher Education qualification earn 25% more than those without! However, if you have a taste for learning you can 'top-up' your Foundation Degree to a BA or BSc honours degree.

How do Foundation Degrees fit with other qualifications?



Hertfordshire Higher Education Consortium*

The Hertfordshire Higher Education Consortium is a partnership between the University of Hertfordshire, Hertford Regional College, North Hertfordshire College, Oaklands College and West Herts College.

The consortium provides innovative, high quality courses that support vocational higher education. Students get the best of both worlds – the benefits and support of studying at college, and access to University facilities including the libraries (LRCs), athletic and student unions all social activities, careers support and much, much more.



The table shows the structure of the Foundation Degree in Fashion and Textiles – illustrated as a full-time course.

Year One	Semester A	Work Based Learning: Developing Professional and Employability Skills (30 credits)	Historical and Contemporary Context (15 credits)	Creative Problem Solving (30 credits)
	Semester B		Creative Languages (15 credits)	Creative Vocational Practice: Fashion and Textiles (30 credits)
Year Two	Semester A	Work Based Learning: Professional Practice (30 credits)	Contextual Studies (15 credits)	Portfolio Development (30 credits)
	Semester B		Cultural and Ethical Debate (15 credits)	Final Major Project: Fashion and Textiles (30 credits)



The Fashion and Textile Industry is global and diverse with many new opportunities. On this programme of study you will have the opportunity to work on many different aspects related to the industry, broadening your design knowledge, developing technical and practical skills in both pattern and textile processes. You will investigate new technologies, create a portfolio and your own collections, be aware of evolving trends, retail markets and design innovations preparing you for the fashion industry.

Year 1 modules – Semester A

Work Based Learning: Developing Professional and Employability Skills

This module will help you to focus on planning your career and developing employability and professional skills. You will take a closer look at the creative and culture sector to identify a route that best suits and reflects your strengths and preferences whilst preparing you for progression by looking at job-hunting techniques, networking and self-promotion. You will articulate your skills and knowledge to create an action plan for progression using appropriate writing skills.

Historical and Contemporary Context

This module will develop your creative, cultural and critical understanding of Fashion and Textiles and the creative work it can produce. You will be introduced to several historical and contemporary periods or movements and examine and identify the ways in which the time, place and conditions of their production influenced and shaped creativity and practice. This will enable you to develop your research abilities, critical faculties and academic skills so that you can investigate, analyse and present your case effectively.

Entry requirements

48 points, including one GCE A2, a BTEC National Diploma/Certificate or equivalent. Plus GCSE grade 4 or above in English language and Maths or equivalent. A presentation of a portfolio of work may be required for some title awards.

Mature students with GCSE grade C or above English language and grade D or above in Maths or equivalent, but lacking traditional level 3 qualifications will be considered on the basis of relevant experience and an appropriate portfolio of work.

If English is not your first language, you will need an IELTS score of 6.0 or 80 IBT or equivalent.

How to apply

Applications are to be made through UCAS – www.UCAS.com. Institutional Code: Herts H36.

How will I be assessed?

The assessment of the programme is all based on coursework in the form of practical and written assignment. Coursework may be based on both individual work and group work.

What will I learn?

This higher education qualification develops your design and practical skills to standards that will impress the future retailers that you will deal with. The modules prepare you for a career in the retail sector or within design studios supplying Fashion and Textiles and exhibition concepts.

Where will I study?

The Foundation Degree in Fashion and Textiles is offered at West Herts College and North Herts College. For more information visit www.westherts.ac.uk or www.nhc.ac.uk

Progression routes

Students who pass the Foundation Degree may progress study a BA Interior Architecture and Design. In order to progress you must be awarded the Foundation Degree, have a recommendation from your tutor and you may be required to attend a guidance tutorial.



Creative Problem Solving

This module has been designed to prepare you for further study and the workplace. You will gain an understanding of the key production processes and professional practices relevant to Fashion and Textiles and the cultural and creative industries, in addition to learning methods of conceptualising creativity and authorship.

Year 1 modules – Semester B

Work Based Learning: Developing Professional and Employability Skills

This module will help you to focus on planning your career and developing employability and professional skills. You will take a closer look at the creative and culture sector to identify a route that best suits and reflects your strengths and preferences whilst preparing you for progression by looking at job-hunting techniques, networking and self-promotion. You will articulate your skills and knowledge to create an action plan for progression using appropriate writing skills.

Creative Languages

This module is all about creativity in action. Through investigating several well-known practitioners with in the field of Fashion and Textiles, concentrating on their expressive languages, and through comparing them with each other whilst relating them to your own ideas you will produce a body of your own work where you will build on your own repertoire of ideas, ready to be incorporated into project work in other modules.

“ The staff have been amazing, very helpful, very friendly, it has been a real learning curve for me; I have acquired a lot of knowledge and skills and have, with tutorial guidance, been able to achieve work of a very high standard. I have thoroughly enjoyed the course. ”

Jordan Jenkins, student 2012/13

Creative Vocational Practice: Fashion & Textiles

This module focuses on building a range of professional creative skills in fashion and textile design through practically based workshops. Areas covered will include:

- Practical assignments in design and illustration
- Pattern cutting and garment construction
- Stitched, knitted and printed textile techniques
- Computer-aided design
- Visual studies

Live or simulated briefs of the kind you are likely to encounter in a professional fashion environment will be used to develop your skills and provide you with an understanding of the requirements of fulfilling vocational briefs such as:

- Audience/ client needs
- Expectations
- Time management

Year 2 modules – Semester A

Work Based Learning: Professional Practice

In this module you will further your professional skills to undertake and communicate a project plan and present the outcomes successfully to employers and/or potential clients. This will involve working with an employer on a project to meet their needs. Dependent on the type of project this may be conducted on the employer's premises.

Contextual Studies

This module provides an introduction to contemporary critical perspectives in the theory and practice of the creative arts to provide a frame of reference for Fashion and Textiles. Through the examination of creative practices within a variety of historical, sociopolitical, aesthetic and institutional contexts you will learn the basis for critical examination in practice.

Portfolio Development: Fashion & Textiles

Focusing on your chosen fashion and textiles specialisms you will now deepen your skills whilst building and developing your portfolio of work for progression to employment or further study in fashion and textiles. Your portfolio will consist of a single large project or a number of smaller projects which respond to employer needs.

Year 2 modules – Semester B

Work Based Learning: Professional Practice

In this module you will further your professional skills to undertake and communicate a project plan and present the outcomes successfully to employers and/or potential clients. This will involve working with an employer on a project to meet their needs. Dependent on the type of project this may be conducted on the employer's premises.

Cultural and Ethical Debate

This module will cover theme based explorations of the influences that shape creative messages in a range of contexts. You will develop awareness of how social and cultural constructs are formed, evolve, and are challenged and used to influence future developments considering issues such as; consumption globalization, sustainability, race, gender diversity and the role of stereotypes.

Final Major Project: Fashion & Textiles

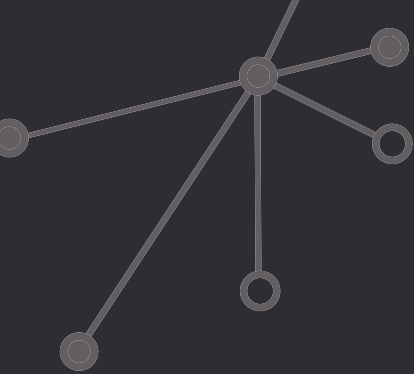
This module draws upon you learnt experience and learning in a final project that will confirm you as a creative professional in fashion and textile design. Through a negotiated brief you will focus on your personal interests that demonstrates your skills and knowledge to articulate a complete creative process from need identification to realisation and presentation.





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For further information

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