



BA (Hons) Fashion (3 years)



Course Information Document 2026-27

BA (Hons) Fashion

Awarded by	University for the Creative Arts
Taught by	London College of Contemporary Arts
Campus School	London

Language	English
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Duration	· 3 years Full-time
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Entry Criteria	At UCA, we want to attract the best and most creative minds in the country – so we take a balanced approach to candidate assessment, taking both individual portfolios and exam results into account.
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That's why your portfolio is an especially important part of your application to study with us – and we can help. Our academics can offer you expert advice on how to showcase your creative work and build a portfolio that will make your application stand out.

More advice on how to create an exceptional portfolio is also available [here](#), along with specific portfolio requirements for this course.

Along with your portfolio, the standard entry requirements** for this course are:

- 112 UCAS tariff points from accepted qualifications*, or
- Pass at Foundation Diploma in Art & Design (Level 3 or 4), or
- Distinction, Merit, Merit at BTEC Extended Diploma, or
- Merit at UAL Extended Diploma, or

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- 112 UCAS tariff points from an accredited Access to Higher Education Diploma in appropriate subject, or
 - 27 points in the International Baccalaureate, see more information about [IB entry requirements](#)

And 4 GCSE passes at grade A*-C and/or grade 4-9 including English and Maths.

Other relevant and [equivalent](#) level 3 UK and international qualifications are considered on an individual basis, and we encourage students from diverse educational backgrounds apply.

If your first language is not English, you will need an IELTS score of 6.0 or equivalent. If you require a visa to study in the UK, you will also need a minimum score of 5.5 in each individual component.

*To see the accepted QCF qualifications, visit: <http://uca.ac.uk/study/accepted-qualifications/>

** We occasionally make offers which are lower than the standard entry criteria, to students who have faced difficulties that have affected their performance and who were expected to achieve higher results.
>>In these cases, a strong portfolio is especially helpful.<<

Regulation

The University for the Creative Arts and its courses are regulated by the Office for Students.

This course has been designed in line with Sector Recognised Standards and reference points, including the [QAA Art and Design](#) Subject Benchmark Statement.

For further information about how the course is quality assured see UCA's Quality & Standards Manual.

What to expect

The BA (Hons) Fashion course is a dynamic and creative community with an international reputation for producing world-class design talent. You will graduate with the essential creative, professional, and practical skills to launch your career in the global fashion industry.

Our course philosophy is centred on a professional learning environment that encourages inquisitive and experimental design thinking. We will challenge you to develop a versatile and adaptable practice, equipping you to respond to both conceptual and commercial briefs. Your work will be underpinned by a critical understanding of the social, economic, and environmental factors shaping the contemporary fashion landscape.

From Level 4 onwards, you will study on campus for two days per week, complemented by asynchronous online learning designed to support independent study, creative development, research, technical exploration, and flexible engagement with course content.

Across all levels of the course, students also have access to additional optional guided studio practice sessions, discipline-focused workshops, technical demonstrations, and specialist skills workshops to further support experiential learning, technical development, and independent creative practice.

You will develop a comprehensive range of specialist skills, including:

- **Practical and Construction Skills:** Pattern cutting (both manual and digital), garment manufacture, drape, tailoring, fabric manipulation, and constructed textiles.
- **Visual Communication Skills:** Design drawing, illustration, mixed media, photography and styling, portfolio presentation, and computer-aided design (CAD).

Upon graduation, you will possess a professionally-focused portfolio and the

transferable expertise required for postgraduate study or to establish a career within a competitive and constantly changing industry.

Year 1 (Level 4)

You will begin to learn and develop essential skills from a research and practical perspective, learning contemporary design practices. You will be taught how to build visual narratives and develop innovative design outcomes, to align with current industry practices.

We have created an environment for you to explore print & textiles as well as develop pattern cutting, sewing and construction skills. You will also gain skills within areas of design drawing, illustration work, use of mixed media, portfolio presentation and computer aided design.

Year 2 (Level 5)

You will expand on the wide range of skills learnt at level 4 within areas of design and pattern cutting by exploring tailoring and draping techniques, this is attached to industry live briefs and outcomes.

Professional practice is also embedded at this level to enhance employability skills. Within this year you will partake in an industry placement for a minimum of five weeks that will provide an insight into the fast - paced global fashion industry.

Year 3 (Level 6)

During level 6, you will take control to harness all the skills learnt in the previous years to develop your Final Year Collection which you will have full autonomy over. This year is about self-directed study, and you will be encouraged to discover your signature style to equip you for the ever changing and competitive global fashion industry.

Principles of this course

This course will deliver a personalised learning journey, following five key principles:

- Practice-led and professionally contextualised

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- Discipline-specific with interdisciplinary exposure
 - Technologically relevant
 - Employment focussed
 - Internationalised learning

Highlights

The campus is located in London and within close proximity to a variety of galleries, museums, and cultural events. The city has a vibrant fashion scene and is home to some of the world's most iconic designers and fashion houses, as well as a dynamic community of emerging talent. London Fashion Week, held twice a year, is a major event in the global fashion calendar. As a cultural hub, London provides a platform for creatives to highlight their skills, and the city's creative industries offer a wide range of job opportunities.

The fashion team at LCCA also being industry practitioners, have a wide network of professionals and regularly invite companies, freelancers, and collectives to partake in live briefs and give insight talks into the sector.

Your course – unit by unit

Year 1 (Level 4)

Introduction to Fashion Design; 30 credits

Introduction to Fashion Design equips you with the essential problem-solving skills demanded by the contemporary fashion industry by grounding your creative practice in rigorous research, critical thinking, and analysis. You will explore a range of contemporary design practices and research methodologies to stimulate innovation and inform experimentation. By fostering an integrated approach to 2D and 3D development, alongside a critical understanding of materials and

colour, you will learn to generate creative, informed, and sustainable design solutions.

Fashion Visual Communication; 30 credits

This foundational module develops your ability to visually communicate fashion concepts with creativity and professional clarity. You will explore a diverse range of techniques, from observational drawing and illustration to digital portfolio design and Computer-Aided Design (CAD) applications. By establishing a strong, personal visual language, you will learn to effectively translate your design ideas from initial concept to a compelling, industry-ready presentation.

Creative Cutting and Construction; 30 credits

In Creative Cutting and Construction, you will master the essential technical and creative skills of garment construction, focusing on pattern cutting, sewing, and 3D realisation. You will move beyond theory to translate your 2D design concepts into finished 3D garments, developing both foundational and experimental skills grounded in contemporary fashion practice and sustainable methods. Through reflective and independent learning, this module will not only build your technical expertise but also foster your personal and professional growth as a designer.

Introduction to Fashion History and Theory; 30 credits

Introduction to Fashion History and Theory provides a foundational framework in fashion history and theory, introducing tools for visual and textual analysis while highlighting connections between theory and studio practice. You will explore significant movements and moments in fashion, design, and the arts within social, political, and cultural contexts, using a chronological framework to understand cultural change driven by technological, economic, social, and aesthetic forces. The module develops skills in visual analysis, case study research, and interpretation, enabling you to examine how styles and fashions evolve and diffuse across time and cultures, and to discuss your own design work from a theoretical perspective.

Year 2 (Level 5)

Innovative Design Practice; 30 credits

This practice-led module challenges you to redefine contemporary outerwear by mastering and then subverting traditional tailoring. You will build a strong

technical foundation by deconstructing a classic tailored jacket before applying this knowledge to design an innovative eight-look collection. The project culminates in the complete realisation of one signature look—from pattern cutting and construction to developing an original print design—allowing you to create a highly crafted, forward-thinking garment that showcases your unique design identity.

Creative Drape Practice; 30 credits

Creative Drape Practice advances your creative practice by merging advanced draping techniques with critical contextual inquiry. You will investigate diverse historical and global traditions, using research to drive innovative experimentation directly on the stand. Embracing a forward-thinking approach, you will integrate sustainable design principles by evaluating material lifecycles and purposefully apply Artificial Intelligence (AI) to enhance your creative process from ideation to visualisation. Ultimately, this module will enable you to create sophisticated and sustainably-minded fashion outcomes that are both technically resolved and rich with cultural meaning.

Professional Practice; 30 credits

This module develops your professional practices in relation to the global fashion industry through both preparation and experience. You will focus on employability skills, professional materials, and the ability to critically reflect on your learning and professional development in the context of industry practices, while also developing and applying business, professional, and entrepreneurial skills relevant to the creative industries.

Theories of Culture, Identity and Communication; 30 credits

Theories of Culture, Identity and Communication explores key debates in contemporary design culture, highlighting the role of theory in understanding practice. You will consider how objects and images shape social and cultural meaning, including issues of identity, taste, fashion, and ethical responsibility. The module encourages reflection on representation, consumption, and the designer's role within social and cultural contexts. Seminars on subject-based and interdisciplinary themes culminate in an essay or alternative media project,

fostering connections between theory and practice while developing research skills in preparation for the final year dissertation.

Year 3 (Level 6)

Professional Portfolio; 30 credits

The Professional Portfolio builds upon your experiences and skills gained during the Professional Practice unit in Level 5 and enables you to evaluate and identify future objectives and prepare for employment within the global fashion industry and/or Post Graduate study.

Final Major Project - Collection; 60 credits

The Final Major Project - Collection provides you with the opportunity to combine your learning through the development and realisation of a substantial body of creative work. You will critically evaluate your personal strengths, professional aspirations, and industry expectations to define and produce a Final Major Project that communicates a distinct design identity. The module supports the conception and delivery of both a Pre-Collection and a Final Collection, enabling you to explore self-directed research themes, engage in diagnostic and experimental design processes, and refine advanced technical and professional skills. You will be expected to undertake sustained research, test and prototype ideas, and resolve outcomes through pattern cutting, garment construction, styling, and presentation.

Applied Fashion Research Project; 30 credits

The Applied Fashion Research Project provides the opportunity to undertake a substantial, self-directed, desk-based research project, allowing you to synthesise the knowledge and skills acquired throughout your degree. You will progress from formulating a unique research question to producing a rigorous and critically informed academic report based on secondary sources, culminating in a significant piece of work that demonstrates your expertise and prepares you for postgraduate study or professional life.

Who teaches this course?

The course team, led by the Course Director, brings together a wealth of academic expertise and high-level professional experience across business and creative industries.

Academic staff hold postgraduate qualifications in their relevant disciplines—many at Master's or PhD level—or bring significant senior industry experience, including entrepreneurship, applied business leadership, and advanced professional practice. This ensures that teaching is both academically rigorous and grounded in current industry context.

Subject Leaders are responsible for the design, delivery, and academic quality of their modules, while lecturers support student learning through engaging, interactive teaching and ongoing guidance in preparation for assessment.

Embedded within the provision is a strong connection to industry. Students benefit from regular engagement with industry experts through guest lectures, workshops, and live project activity. These external contributors bring current insight, professional expertise, and practical know-how, enriching the curriculum and, where appropriate, supporting opportunities for placements and real-world project experience.

The provision is further strengthened by a dedicated team of Student Success Tutors, all of whom hold recognised teaching qualifications. Working alongside the academic team, they provide targeted academic skills development and deliver strategic interventions to support group learning in key areas such as academic writing, critical thinking, and research skills. In addition, they offer personalised one-to-one academic and pastoral support, ensuring that students are effectively supported throughout their learning journey.

All teaching staff either hold a recognised teaching qualification (such as PGCert HE, or FHEA) or are actively working towards one, reflecting their commitment to excellence in teaching and learning.

The team is committed to continuous professional development and operates with a strong growth mindset. Staff regularly engage in CPD through internal and external training, industry collaboration, research activity, and professional practice. This

ongoing development ensures that teaching remains current, innovative, and aligned with both academic standards and evolving industry needs.

Collectively, this blend of academic achievement, professional expertise, industry engagement, and comprehensive student support underpins a high-quality learning experience and contributes to strong student satisfaction and progression outcomes

What will learning look like?

Our courses are delivered through a blended learning model, designed to provide a flexible yet academically rigorous experience.

You will typically attend campus one to two days per week for intensive, face-to-face teaching, complemented by structured asynchronous online learning via our Virtual Learning Environment, Canvas. This integrated approach combines the benefits of collaborative, in-person engagement with the flexibility of self-paced digital study, creating a comprehensive and contemporary learning experience. Alongside this, you will be expected to undertake independent study and complete termly assessments.

On-campus teaching is centred on applied and experiential learning, placing you at the heart of the educational process. Sessions are highly interactive and include workshops, group investigations, problem-based activities, and practice-led challenges that reflect real-world scenarios. The emphasis is on active participation and critical reflection, with limited reliance on traditional lecture formats.

Teaching takes place in our modern, purpose-designed facilities in central London. You will learn in flexible classrooms, specialist studios, and collaborative social spaces that support both small group work and whole-class discussion. Our studio and exhibition areas also provide opportunities to develop and showcase your work in a professional environment.

Your on-campus experience is supported by a rich range of online learning materials. Outside of class, you will engage with curated resources such as interactive activities, quizzes, video content, and guided research tasks. These are designed to reinforce and extend your learning, as well as prepare you for upcoming sessions. Reflective activities are also embedded throughout, encouraging you to evaluate your progress and develop critical thinking skills.

Throughout your studies, you will receive personalised academic support. Individual and group tutorials offer dedicated time to review your progress, refine your work, and act on feedback. Formative assessments and peer review activities are integrated across the curriculum to build confidence, strengthen communication skills, and promote a culture of continuous improvement and collaborative learning.

By the end of the course you will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge and skilful practices in the development, construction, and realisation of design solutions.
2. Employ both convergent and divergent thinking in the processes of observation, investigation, sustainability, speculative enquiry applied to the process of design realisation.
3. Evaluate, adapt, and apply a range of practical, theoretical, and creative skills to meet the changing needs of the global fashion industry.
4. Formulate and communicate ideas, concepts, and judgements to an intended audience, informed through the critical analysis and synthesis of appropriate research material.
5. Evaluate and apply Personal Development Planning principles to identify personal strengths and needs, and reflect upon professional development in relation to industry needs
6. **EDI:** Demonstrate understanding and application of inclusive and ethical practices, reflecting principles of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.
7. **Sustainability:** Apply sustainable methods, including circular economy principles, in the development and resolution of creative or academic work.
8. **AI:** Critically engage with artificial intelligence and emerging technologies to support creative problem-solving or discipline-specific outcomes.
9. **Business Skills / Enterprise:** Develop and apply business, professional, or entrepreneurial skills relevant to the creative industries.

Student support

At LCCA, our commitment to your success extends beyond the classroom. We offer a comprehensive and personalised support system to ensure you have access to the help you need throughout your academic journey. These services are designed to promote inclusion, wellbeing, and not only your academic achievement but your personal and professional success as well. You will also be supported by a Student Success Tutor who will offer academic and pastoral guidance throughout your studies.

Our support framework includes several dedicated services:

1. Student Accessibility Services

Our specialist Student Accessibility Services team provides confidential advice and support for students with wellbeing needs, disabilities, long-term health conditions, mental health difficulties, or specific learning differences. The team can conduct needs assessments to implement reasonable adjustments, arrange for learning materials in alternative formats, and connect you with mental health and wellbeing resources. They work closely with academic staff to ensure your support plans are effectively implemented, creating an inclusive learning environment for all.

2. Student Support and Administration

The Student Support and Administration team is your first point of contact for a wide range of administrative and academic queries, ensuring your smooth progression through the course. They are available to assist with enrolment and registration, answer questions about timetabling and attendance, and provide guidance on general course-related matters. This dedicated support ensures you can focus on your studies with confidence.

3. Student Experience

We are committed to providing a vibrant and enriching student experience. Our Student Experience team enhances your time at LCCA through comprehensive orientation and induction programmes, helping you settle into your studies. They also support a range of student societies and extracurricular activities, allowing you to connect with peers and build your community. Crucially, the team facilitates feedback

and student representation opportunities, ensuring your voice is heard and contributes to the continuous improvement of the college.

4. Safeguarding and Data Protection

Your safety, wellbeing, and privacy are our highest priorities. We have robust safeguarding policies and confidential reporting mechanisms in place to ensure a secure learning environment for everyone. We also adhere strictly to data protection regulations, including GDPR, to ensure your personal and academic data is handled securely and responsibly at all times.

Our approach to employability

At LCCA, we place your future career at the centre of everything you study. Our Careers Studio combines support embedded within your course with one to one careers guidance, employer engagement and a 24/7 digital careers hub, ensuring you are fully prepared for life after graduation.

Throughout the BA (Hons) Fashion course, employability is embedded through practical studio-based learning that reflects contemporary professional practice in the fashion industry. Students develop creative, technical and professional skills through design projects, garment construction, drape practice, visual communication, portfolio building and industry-focused research. This enables students to build confidence while developing the key attributes employers seek in fashion graduates, including creativity, problem solving, communication, technical accuracy, collaboration, research skills and professional resilience.

Across the programme, students develop industry-relevant skills in areas such as fashion design development, visual communication, pattern cutting, garment construction, draping, portfolio presentation, contextual research and sustainable design practice. Studio projects require students to move from concept to realisation, translating 2D ideas into resolved 3D outcomes while working to professional standards in presentation, finish and communication.

Industry engagement is embedded throughout the course through live briefs, guest lectures, workshops, employer-led activity and professional feedback. Students are also supported to engage directly with the fashion industry through placements and industry projects. The Professional Practice module at Level 5 includes the preparation

of CVs, cover letters, professional portfolios and self-promotional materials, followed by a five-week work placement or alternative industry-focused project. This gives students first-hand experience of professional environments and supports them in building networks and industry confidence.

Employability is developed progressively throughout the course through a structured approach that supports students in building the skills, knowledge and professional identity required for careers in fashion design and the wider global fashion industry.

Year 1

In the first year, students develop core creative and technical skills through modules such as Introduction to Fashion Design, Fashion Visual Communication, Creative Cutting and Construction, and Introduction to Fashion History and Theory. Students begin exploring the relationship between research, design development and garment realisation, while learning how to communicate ideas through drawing, CAD, portfolio presentation and garment construction.

This stage introduces students to the professional expectations of the fashion industry by developing their ability to research, experiment, respond to critique and meet deadlines. Students begin to build their portfolios and develop essential professional habits in time management, reflective practice and visual communication.

Year 2

In the second year, students deepen their creative identity and strengthen their industry readiness through modules such as Creative Drape Practice, Innovative Design Practice, Theories of Culture, Identity and Communication, and Professional Practice. Students refine their technical skills in draping, fabrication, outerwear development and collection building, while also developing a stronger critical understanding of culture, identity, sustainability and communication within fashion.

At this stage, employability becomes more explicit through the Professional Practice module, where students prepare professional self-promotional materials and complete a five-week work placement or industry-focused project. This gives students direct experience of workplace processes, professional communication and the wider business context of the fashion industry.

Year 3

In the final year, the emphasis shifts towards professional readiness, specialisation and transition into the industry. Through the Applied Fashion Research Project, students strengthen their independent research, analysis and critical thinking. Through the Final Major Project and Professional Portfolio modules, students develop a substantial body of work that reflects their personal design identity, technical strengths and career ambitions.

Students produce a resolved collection, professional portfolio, self-promotional materials and digital presence, enabling them to position themselves for employment, freelance opportunities or postgraduate study. By the end of the course, graduates leave with a professionally presented body of work and the confidence, industry awareness and self-promotional tools needed to take their next steps successfully.

To support your career development, students have access to one to one careers guidance, drop in sessions and workshops on CV writing, portfolio development, LinkedIn, applications and interview skills, both in person and online. Our Digital Careers Studio provides 24/7 access to jobs, resources and virtual appointments.

Students interested in freelancing or establishing their own label are also supported to explore enterprise pathways through practical advice on self-promotion, career planning, business awareness and entrepreneurial development.

LCCA continually develops its employability provision based on feedback from students, graduates and employers to ensure that our courses remain aligned with the evolving needs of the fashion industry.

Our commitments

At LCCA, our programme fully integrates the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs), Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI), Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), and the realities of operating in a VUCA (Volatile, Uncertain, Complex, Ambiguous) world. These themes are embedded across all units to encourage critical engagement with global and social

challenges as well as rapid technological changes driven by Artificial Intelligence (AI).

We are committed to equipping you with the knowledge and skills to make responsible decisions that promote environmental sustainability, social justice, and ethical business practices. By applying these principles in practical business contexts and understanding how AI tools can ethically support decision-making and innovation, you will develop into a socially responsible and forward-thinking professional prepared to succeed in dynamic and complex business environments. Aligned with our values of inclusive education, the programme provides an accessible and equitable learning environment in physical, digital, and intellectual terms.

You will be supported in considering EDI implications in your work and professional practice through teaching methods that encourage critical awareness and inclusive thinking. Through experiential learning and a strong emphasis on the development of professional, academic, and practical skills, students graduate with the confidence and capabilities to lead, innovate, and contribute responsibly within diverse business environments.

Sustainability

Through our commitment to Education for Sustainable Development across the curriculum we aim to empower learners to make informed decisions and take responsible actions for environmental integrity, economic viability and a just society for present and future generations.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Our approach to EDI is driven by an ambition to support our students to realise their potential at LCCA and be able to become creative professionals who enable the world to be fairer, more equitable and more inclusive.

We aim to provide our a physical, technological and attitudinal environment that is inclusive and accessible and a teaching and learning environment that challenges them to think and learn about the EDI implications that relate to their chosen discipline.

Overall methods of assessment

Overall methods of assessment	Written exams:	Practical Assessment:	Coursework:
Level 4	0%	40%	60%
Level 5	0%	28%	72%
Level 6	0%	0%	100%

Indicative course learning hours

Indicative course learning hours	Independent:	Scheduled:	Percentage of scheduled delivered online:	Placement:
Level 4	59%	41%	27%	0%
Level 5	47%	40%	51%	13%
Level 6	64%	36%	17%	0%

Additional course costs

You will need to purchase calico from our university supply, as well as purchase fabrics for your final garment construction, at the end of each design unit. You also need to cover the cost of travel for exhibitions that you will need to attend to gain primary research. You should allocate approx. £120 for field trips.

In your final year during your Final Year Collection project, you will need to have a substantial amount of funding to create your collection, typically £2000. We do encourage collaborations and sponsorships for final collections to help financially.

Visits

Visits to galleries and museums will take place as part of a unit of study. Advance notice would be given of any associated costs.

Equipment/materials recommended

We recommend that you bring at least one 1TB hard drive to back up your work.

A laptop (Mac or PC) for research and development of work is highly recommended.