

FASHION & SUSTAINABILITY

TRIMESTER 1 - Bachelor & Diploma units

FASHION DESIGN: FUNCTION

→ Design Process

In this unit, students are introduced to the basic concepts of fashion design. Students develop practical drawing skills and learn relevant terminology used to describe the technical and design features of garments. Students reflect upon their own use of fashion and clothing through documentation of personal fashion consumption, wardrobe composition, and self-fashioning choices, before applying their understanding of fashion's various functions in a group project.

FIBRES, FABRICS & FABRICATIONS

→ Materials and Making

In this unit, students are introduced to the properties of fibres, fabrics, and fabrication methods used in fashion and clothing. Students study fibre production, develop knowledge on the performance of specific fibres and fabrics and learn how fibres are processed to become textiles while discovering the environmental impact of selecting certain types of resources.

TRIMESTER 2 - Bachelor & Diploma units

FASHION DESIGN: REINVENTION

→ Design Process

In this unit, students learn about fashion product life cycles and approaches to extend the life of a product. They are introduced to various design strategies that allow the reinvention of existing fashion products to divert fashion and clothing from textile waste. Students develop their visual communication skills using digital software to produce technical drawings for fashion production.

FASHION RESOURCING & REMAKING

→ Materials and Making

In this unit, students are introduced to the concept of resourcing, reusing, and remaking with particular focus on product life cycle. Through investigation of garment construction and reverse engineering techniques, students explore the potential for garment reinvention using existing products.

TRIMESTER 3 - Bachelor only units

FASHION DESIGN: HERITAGE

→ Design Process

In this unit, students investigate the design and development of fashion products that have special value because of their cultural heritage and tradition. Students will research various cultural traditions and explore fashion and textile techniques that have a legacy of embedding emotional connection into garment design. They will further their abilities in visual communication for fashion, via practical development illustration and textile render techniques.

BESPOKE, COUTURE & SLOW MAKING

→ Materials and Making

In this unit, students will study the techniques and craftsmanship involved in the creation of bespoke/couture garments. The unit will explore how personalisation and custom-made approaches generate a connection between makers and users in a variety of traditional clothing cultures. The subject further develops the understanding of garment construction by slow making.

SUSTAINABLE FASHION BUSINESS

→ Industry and Enterprise

In this unit, students are introduced to fashion business and the connection between business decisions and sustainable fashion outcomes. Students develop an understanding of business terminology and business operations and the key characteristics of linear, recycled, and circular business models. Students investigate the fashion supply chain to understand the challenges of managing sustainable and transparent fashion business operations.

CRITICAL THINKING

→ Industry Awareness

In this unit, students are introduced to critical thinking and communication skills. They will learn to activate their critical thinking skills by exploring modes of analysis, problem-solving, reflection, evaluation and creation. Students will be presented with artistic works and industry issues to critically evaluate, embracing both analytic and synthetic thinking processes.

HISTORY OF FASHION SYSTEMS

→ Industry and Enterprise

This unit explores the historic evolution of the modern fashion system with a focus on the changing methods of production, distribution, and consumption of fashion as well as introducing alternative concepts of the fashion system that identify other priorities. Through this unit, students will gain an understanding of how technology, society, politics, culture, and economic drivers have and continue to shape today's fashion industry.

CRITICAL SURVEY

→ Industry Awareness

In this unit, students are presented with a broad survey of the fashion and content industries. Presentations by industry professionals provide a broad overview of the industry environment and guest speakers will connect with students to share their experiences, as well as to reflect on the industry at large.

BUSINESS STRATEGY & DESIGN THINKING

→ Industry & Enterprise

In this unit, students explore strategic design thinking and customer co-creation including customer experience and service design. Topics examined include strategic alliances, commercial joint venture partnerships, PSS, customer co-creation, design thinking principles, business model generator methodologies, innovation strategies, and business sustainability.

FASHION STYLING

→ Industry Awareness

Students are introduced to the skills and knowledge required to professionally plan and execute fashion styling, by experimentation within the production aspects of styling – photography, lighting, makeup and hair, colour analysis, and post-production editing. They learn to brief a photographer and hair and makeup creatives and experience guest stylists, sourcing from retailers, participation in photo shoots, visits to design houses, and fashion parades.

TRIMESTER 4 - Bachelor only units

FASHION DESIGN: FUTURES

→ Design Process

In this unit, students discuss approaches to generating 'future value' in fashion products as a way to extend the product's usefulness and life cycle. Students interact with the fashion-consuming public to research problems with existing garments through face-to-face interviews; using this information, students will then design and develop a product prototype using the five stages of design thinking.

ZERO WASTE TECHNIQUES & TECHNOLOGIES

→ Materials and Making

This unit will introduce students to zero waste techniques and technologies as an approach to sustainable garment creation. Students learn alternative approaches to flat pattern-making, seamless technologies and emerging digital applications. They learn how to manage pre-consumer and post-consumer textile waste that highlights the opportunities to collaborate with other individuals, businesses, and sectors that find value in textile waste.

TRIMESTER 5 - Bachelor only units

FASHION DESIGN: PERSONAL INVESTIGATION

→ Design Process

This unit is dedicated to students' personal investigation into fashion and sustainability where they will explore possible fashion/clothing design concepts that apply principles of sustainability in preparation for their capstone project. Students refine their concept to develop capabilities in project planning, including timelines, supply chain mapping, and critical path management. They will work with fashion industry professionals to refine their understanding of roles where they can best leverage their knowledge for career progression.

MATERIALS & MAKING: PERSONAL INVESTIGATION

→ Materials and Making

This unit is dedicated to students' personal investigation into suitable materials and making practices. They will research suitable material and making processes in preparation for their capstone project and document supply chain connections and considerations of the product life cycle with regard to recycling and reuse. Students build a network of contacts in fibre/fabric sourcing and manufacturing.

TRIMESTER 6 - Bachelor only units

FASHION DESIGN: CAPSTONE PROJECT

→ Design Process

In this unit, students develop fashion/clothing design concepts from previous units. Students will be supported and guided to produce examples and prototypes of sustainable products that seek to address current issues and inefficiencies in the fashion industry. They will create a supporting folio that demonstrates their skills in technical documentation and appropriate fashion communication and styling techniques.

DESIGN REALISATION: CAPSTONE PROJECT

→ Materials and Making

The capstone project is designed to demonstrate students' knowledge and capabilities in sourcing, selecting, and applying suitable textile materials and making processes that produce a series of sustainable fashion/garment propositions. Throughout the unit, students will produce samples and prototypes that seek to address current issues and inefficiencies in contemporary fashion and textiles.

ETHICAL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

→ Industry and Enterprise

In this unit, students explore the legal obligations involved in running an ethical fashion business. Students analyse ethics, human rights, corporate social responsibility, and sustainability principles to identify best practices in the fashion industry.

COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

→ Industry Awareness

In this unit, students develop commercial awareness of how to create, build, and sustain a brand that aligns with its values. It explores brand management; message creation and techniques used by successful brands to expand their reach in a global marketplace. Students create brand narratives with an emphasis on using accurate language and ensuring transparency.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

→ Industry and Enterprise

In this unit, students are introduced to the principles of creative entrepreneurship in the context of fashion ventures. Students draw upon the inspired thought and entrepreneurial accomplishments of leaders in a variety of disciplines in order to understand creative entrepreneurship. Students have the opportunity to fine-tune their career plans and to anticipate structural, decision-making, and ethical challenges.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

→ Industry Awareness

In this unit, students critically reflect on their career direction in the field of sustainable fashion to prepare for industry placement and work opportunities. They will develop a career plan, make contacts within their field, and present examples of their work in a professional format. They will research and identify relevant companies and individuals and refine their professional communication skills to network with industry contacts.

BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP: CAPSTONE PROJECT

→ Industry and Enterprise

In this Capstone Project, students demonstrate their understanding of the business environment and the knowledge and skills required for professional practice. They will create a business plan for a new venture or product launch.

INDUSTRY PLACEMENT

→ Industry Awareness

This unit is to be completed in the last trimester of every student's academic career at Collarts and aims to build on all skills and knowledge acquired throughout the course. Fashion and sustainability students will apply for, and successfully undertake 60 hours of a practical placement as an experience that contextualises their course work to date.