

## Portfolio guidance

# BA (Hons) Fashion Design

Your portfolio is one of the most important parts of your application. It is your opportunity to show us your work and it is our opportunity to find out more about you. We realise that you may not have presented your work at interview before, so here is some help with preparing your portfolio.

### What do you want to see in my portfolio?

Your portfolio should demonstrate a lively, inventive approach to the development of projects and personally-directed work. It should contain evidence of your experimentation with materials and processes. Show us how you develop your ideas, from inspiration and research, initial drawings, and development of ideas through workbooks or photographs to finished pieces. Make sure you bring two or three sketchbooks with you, but do not include scrapbooks of materials from magazines.

Show us the range of your work: painting, different drawing styles, print, collage and mixed media. Drawing, for example, shows your ability to observe still life, structure or people with accuracy, so make sure to include some. If you have had the opportunity to study the human figure, try to also include life drawing in your portfolio. Drawing can include collage and the use of unconventional materials. Include practical textile work, stitch, manipulation of a range of different materials and final outcomes

### How many pieces should I include?

Your portfolio should include a minimum of 30 pieces and 2-3 sketchbooks. We will need to see evidence of course projects and self-directed work. Your work should have been produced within the last twelve months, although earlier work can be included if it is particularly relevant to your interests and development.

### How should I present my portfolio?

We do not expect you to spend a lot of money on expensive mounts, but it is important that you should select your work carefully and present it in a clear, logical and professional way.

Fashion and fabric awareness is very important, but if you are unable to bring fabrics, swatches, garments or other three-dimensional objects, you should try to include photographs of your work.

### Top Tips

- Interviews can seem daunting, especially if you have not been to one before, so make sure to arrive in good time so as to avoid any extra pressure.
- Do your research! Learn as much about the course as possible before your interview. Read our prospectus, come to an Open Day and visit our website.
- Come prepared with questions about the School or the programme. It shows that you are interested, and is also a good opportunity for you to relax.
- Tailor your portfolio to the programme. Investigate the Fashion Design programme thoroughly before making your selection for your portfolio. Remember that courses with the same name at other universities can be very different.
- If you have any special requirements, please inform Admissions well in advance of your interview.

### I already know which pathway I want to study, should I tailor my portfolio to it?

Fashion Design offers you the opportunity to study the discipline broadly and then to opt to take a pathway, Menswear or Womenswear. If you already feel that you know that you are interested in studying one of the pathways in particular, we would expect to see some work which demonstrates your commitment and proficiency in the subject.

### My portfolio does not only contain fashion-related work - is this a problem?

Our students come from a range of art backgrounds. Make sure to include as much fashion related work as you can and work that shows an awareness of textures, fabrics and shape.

### Information for Mature students

We understand that mature students may not have work that is structured in the same way as A-Level or Foundation students. We are, however, still interested in seeing self-directed work, including sketchbooks and finished pieces.

We also understand that some applicants may have to include work that is over a year old. Life experience and any courses that you may have taken over the last few years will be relevant, but make sure that you include as much recent work as possible in your portfolio.

### Information for International Students

We do not expect international students who are not already studying in the UK to come to an interview. On some occasions a member of staff may be visiting your country and an interview may be arranged. As a general rule, international students are invited to send in a portfolio of work by e-mail or by post for consideration.

Please note that we will not be able to make a decision on your application before we have seen your portfolio, so international students should send it to us as soon as possible after applying.