

# Portfolio Guidance

## BA (Hons) Fashion Design

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Your portfolio is one of the most important parts of your application. It is your opportunity to show us your work, and our opportunity to find out more about you. You may not have presented your work before, so here is some guidance with preparing your portfolio. We also have a YouTube guide at <http://dctr.pro/26t>

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

Your portfolio should demonstrate a creative, inventive approach to the development of ideas, projects and personally directed work. It should show experimentation, drawing, design development, materials and processes. Show us how you develop your ideas, from inspiration and research, initial drawings to final outcomes through boards, sketchbooks and photographs to finished pieces. Make sure you bring two or three sketchbooks with you. (*Overseas/EU applicants – please include sketches and drawings in your digital portfolio.*)

Show us the range of your work: research and context, different drawing styles, design ideas, fabric ideas, print, collage and mixed media. Drawing shows your ability to observe still life, structure or people with accuracy, so make sure to include some recent drawing. If you have life drawing examples, include them in your portfolio. Drawing can also include collage and the use of unconventional materials. Include practical textile work, stitch, manipulation of different materials and final outcomes, such as artwork, fashion garments, sculptures or any piece that represent your identity as a designer.

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### 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 relevant.

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### How should I present my portfolio? (*interviews only*)

We do not expect you to spend a lot of money on expensive mounts, but it is important that you select your work carefully and present it in a clear 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, try to include photographs of your work instead.

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### 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 know that you are interested in studying one of the pathways, we would expect to see some work demonstrating your interest in and understanding of the subject.

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### 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.

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### 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.

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### Information for International / EU Students

We do not expect international or EU students who are not already studying in the UK to attend an interview. As a rule, international and EU students are invited to send in a portfolio of work via email 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 and EU students should send it to us as soon as possible after applying and after you have received our portfolio request.

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## Top Tips

- **Interviewees:** Interviews can seem daunting, especially if you have not been to one before, so make sure you arrive in good time to avoid any extra pressure.
- Do your research about the school and course! Learn as much about the course as possible before your interview. Read our prospectus, come to an Open Day and visit our blog and website [www.wsabafashion.com](http://www.wsabafashion.com) or [www.southampton.ac.uk/wsa](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/wsa)
- Come prepared with questions about the course and the school. It shows that you are interested and informed.
- If you have any special requirements, please inform Admissions well in advance of your interview.
- **All applicants:** Tailor your portfolio to the course you're applying to. Investigate the Fashion Design programme thoroughly before making your selection for your portfolio. Remember that courses with the same name at different universities can vary greatly.