

FASHION & SUSTAINABILITY

TRIMESTER 1 - Bachelor & Diploma units

FASHION DESIGN: FUNCTION

→ Design Process

In this unit, students dive into the exciting world of fashion design, exploring the basics of sketching and understanding the essential terms that bring garments to life. They'll develop hands-on drawing skills while learning how to talk the talk when it comes to the technical and creative details of fashion. As they document their own fashion choices, from their wardrobe to how they express themselves through clothing, students will reflect on the power of fashion in everyday life.

FIBRES, FABRICS & FABRICATIONS

→ Materials and Making

In this unit, students get hands-on with the building blocks of fashion—fibres, fabrics, and the interesting methods that turn them into the textiles we wear. They'll dive into the fascinating world of fibre production, gaining an understanding of how different fibres perform and how they're transformed into the fabrics that make up our clothes. Along the way, they'll also explore the environmental impact of fabric choices, considering how the resources we select shape both the fashion industry and the planet.

TRIMESTER 2 - Bachelor & Diploma units

FASHION DESIGN: REINVENTION

→ Design Process

In this unit, students explore the life cycles of fashion products and discover innovative ways to extend their lifespan. They'll learn about design strategies that breathe new life into existing garments, helping to reduce textile waste and promote a more sustainable fashion industry. With a focus on creativity and functionality, students will sharpen their visual communication skills by using digital software to create technical drawings that could be used in fashion production. It's all about reimagining fashion and mastering the tools that make sustainable design possible.

FASHION RESOURCING & REMAKING

→ Materials and Making

In this unit, students are introduced into the world of resourcing, reusing, and remaking, with a special focus on the product life cycle. Through hands-on exploration of garment construction and reverse engineering techniques, they'll discover how to reinvent, extend the life of existing garments with a focus on economical use of materials. By investigating the potential of transforming existing products, students will learn how to creatively extend the life of garments and contribute to a more sustainable fashion future.

SUSTAINABLE FASHION BUSINESS

→ Industry and Enterprise

In this unit, students are introduced to the world of fashion business and explore how smart business decisions can lead to more sustainable outcomes in the fashion industry. They'll get familiar with key business terms and operations, while also learning about different business models—linear, recycled, and circular—and how they impact sustainability. By investigating the fashion supply chain, students will uncover the challenges behind managing transparent and eco-friendly fashion businesses. It's the perfect opportunity to see how business and sustainability can work hand-in-hand in the ever-evolving world of fashion.

Creative Industry Foundations (Stage 1)

→ Industry Awareness

Creativity is more than just inspiration; it is a skill, a discipline, and an essential tool for navigating the complexities of the modern world. In this unit, you will explore creativity's role across diverse disciplines and communities, gaining valuable insight into the ethical and cultural values that shape creative practice. You will develop critical skills to evaluate information, articulate ideas, and confidently reflect on creative work. By engaging with a dynamic community of students from across Collarts, you will have the opportunity to explore your creative potential and establish a strong foundation for your studies and future career in the creative industries.

HISTORY OF FASHION SYSTEMS

→ Industry and Enterprise

This unit takes you on a journey through the history of the modern fashion system, highlighting how methods of production, distribution, and consumption have evolved over time. You'll also explore alternative approaches to fashion that prioritise values beyond just trends and profits. Along the way, students will gain insight into how technology, society, politics, culture, and economics have shaped—and continue to shape—the fashion industry today. It is a fascinating look at the forces driving fashion forward, and how they've transformed the way we experience style.

CREATIVE FOUNDATIONS (Stage 2)

→ Industry Awareness

In this unit, you will immerse yourself in the world of the creative industries and explore the many pathways to transforming your passion into a profession. Through insights from industry professionals and hands-on creative activities, you will develop a deeper understanding of how your industry operates while reflecting on your career aspirations and creative potential. From generating ideas to bringing them to life, you will experiment with flexible approaches to creative collaboration, working on cross-disciplinary projects that mirror real-world creative environments. By gaining a clearer perspective on the industry landscape, you will be better equipped to carve out your place as a creative professional and make confident, informed career choices.

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. Students will also enhance their visual communication skills for fashion, learning practical illustration and textile rendering techniques to bring these rich, culturally-infused designs to life.

BESPOKE, COUTURE & SLOW MAKING

→ Materials and Making

In this unit, students will dive into the world of bespoke and couture garment creation, mastering technique and craftsmanship. They will explore how personalisation, custom-made approaches create deeper connections between makers and users. This unit explores slow-making approaches, allowing students to deepen their understanding of garment construction through thoughtful, detailed practice. This unit further develops the understanding of garment construction by slow making.

BUSINESS STRATEGY & DESIGN THINKING

→ Industry & Enterprise

In this unit, students dive into strategic design thinking and the power of customer co-creation, focusing on how to shape exceptional customer experiences and service design. Topics covered include everything from strategic alliances and commercial joint ventures to customer co-creation and innovative business models. Students will explore design thinking principles, business model generation, sustainability strategies, and more, all aimed at fostering creative, sustainable, and forward-thinking business solutions. It's a hands-on approach to understanding how design and business intersect to drive innovation and success.

ELECTIVE

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TRIMESTER 4 - Bachelor only units

FASHION DESIGN: FUTURES

→ Design Process

In this unit, students investigate approaches to generating 'future value' in fashion products as a way to extend the product's usefulness and life cycle. Through face-to-face interviews with the fashion-consuming public, students will identify common issues with existing garments, then design and develop a product prototype using Clo3D software, applying design thinking. It's a hands-on approach to tackling real-world fashion challenges with cutting-edge digital tools, combining creativity and practical 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 innovative 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 expand and develop upon their 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 concept exploration, skills in technical documentation, 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. Over the course of the unit, students will design and produce samples and prototypes aimed at tackling pressing issues and inefficiencies in today's fashion and textile industries. It's an opportunity to turn theory into practice and make a tangible impact with innovative, sustainable design solutions.

ETHICAL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

→ Industry and Enterprise

In this unit, students investigate the legal and ethical responsibilities involved in running a fashion business that prioritises both people and the planet. They will dive into key topics like ethics, human rights, corporate social responsibility and sustainability principles. Students will learn how to identify and apply best practices in the fashion industry. By examining real-world cases and exploring the legal framework surrounding ethical fashion, students will gain the knowledge to navigate the complexities of running a responsible forward-thinking fashion business.

COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

→ Industry Awareness

In this unit, students gain the commercial insight needed to create, build, and sustain a brand that stays true to its core values. They'll explore the key elements of brand management, from crafting compelling messages to examining the strategies that successful brands use to grow their presence in a global market. Students will also develop their own brand narratives, focusing on using clear, accurate language, authenticity and ensuring transparency to build trust and connection with audiences.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

→ Industry and Enterprise

In this unit, students are introduced to the exciting world of creative entrepreneurship, specifically within the context of fashion ventures. They'll explore the innovative thinking and entrepreneurial achievements of leaders across various industries, gaining valuable insights into what it takes to succeed as a creative entrepreneur. Students will also have the chance to refine their career plans, preparing themselves for the structural, decision-making, and ethical challenges that come with launching and growing a fashion business.

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 will showcase their understanding of the business environment and apply the skills needed for professional practice. They'll create a comprehensive business plan for a new venture or product launch, covering everything from market research to financial planning and strategy. This project is designed to give students real-world experience in launching a business, helping them refine their entrepreneurial skills and prepare for a successful career in the industry.

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.