



**Northumbria
University**
NEWCASTLE

Welcome to the BA (Hons.) Fashion programme at Northumbria University.

We are looking forward to meeting and working with you in your first year when you will be developing your fashion knowledge, skills, and your individual creative talents. We have an exciting year planned for you.

During this year you will be learning how to design for your chosen specialism of Fashion. You will be introduced to various methods and processes that will underpin your future career in this industry. As fashion professionals of the future you will need to understand garments, and develop a set of skills that are built upon in depth research and visual communication. With this in mind, please prepare for your Semester 1 studies by undertaking the Summer Preparation tasks below in an A3 sketchbook (or loose sheets). This work will also be useful to help the team understand your skills and interests and will inform your early learning, but note that it will not be assessed separately. Please bring this preparatory work with you to your first class.

We look forward to seeing you at the Fashion Programme Induction Week in September. Induction week timetable details will be posted on the website for you. In the meantime, we hope you enjoy your summer!

Best wishes

The Fashion Team

Preparation Work

1. Getting to know you...the Instagram Challenge

The global pandemic has challenged us all to find new ways to stay in touch and to make new connections virtually. While we are looking forward to meeting you in person during your studio experience, we would like to get to know a little about you first. Please set up an Instagram page for your university work, and use it to introduce yourself via the Instagram Challenge. Document your preparations for university and ideas/work in progress too...

We don't want you to share any confidential information (!) but we would love to know what makes you 'you', find out what you are interested in, and get an insight into your relationship with fashion – what's your design philosophy, or your definition of style? We are interested to know what inspires you, who or what influences you, which magazines, films, social media appeal to you. What are your hopes, dreams, aspirations and ambitions?

Your Instagram images should be mainly visual (photos, collages, drawings, small objects), with supporting text. You may want to include some fun content too – your favourite things, guilty pleasures, your 'super power' - or a detail that people may be surprised to know – it's your choice.



2. Garment drawing...

"Drawing is vision on paper." Andrew Loomis

A successful designer must be able to work independently, and have the ability to research, visually record/communicate their ideas, and understand how garments are constructed. To begin your learning in these areas, please do the following:

What...? Draw a minimum of **3 key garments** from observation... *include 'iconic' or 'key' items or wardrobe staples, e.g. jeans, leather jacket, T shirt, trench coat, knitwear, parka, tailored jacket, etc...*

Why...? To develop your understanding of how the garments are constructed, to develop your visual communication skills, to give your tutors an idea of your existing abilities, to prepare for your first year studies...

How...? Choose a range of garment types to draw – *tops, bottoms, outerwear, underwear, and in a variety of 'weights' or fabrics – textures, patterns, wovens, knits, colours, etc.*

Draw a 3D garment from **observation** (not from photographs, the internet, or books!), using different types of line, colour, and using a range of media and techniques... *draw them from the front, back and sides – inside and out. Draw them upside down, on hangers, lying flat on the floor, on bodies. Explore the proportions, the shapes, details, colours and fabrics...draw accessories such as bags, shoes, sunglasses, etc.,*

The drawings can be whole garments, or close up detailed studies. You are expected to make more than 1 drawing of each garment to show your understanding of construction. Details are important – show topstitching, and any other details or embellishments, show how the collars and openings work. See 4th year student examples below for an idea of how this might be approached – but you won't be expected to be this standard – yet! (Images are sourced from www.northumbriafashion.com).

Where...? From your own wardrobe, museums, shops, etc. Please include supporting notes – brand/designer, where the garments came from, and other relevant information.

When...? Over the summer - before your teaching starts.

