



Design MA

Postgraduate | 16 Months Full-Time | Full Time | Northumbria School of
Design City Campus, Northumbria University | Newcastle

Start September 2021 or January 2022

Design MA

About this course

PLEASE NOTE: Applications for January 2021 intake have now closed. Please visit our [Postgraduate Study webpage](#) to see all options for September 2021 entry.

Our MA Design will prepare you with the essential skills and knowledge to improve your career prospects, start your own business or further develop specialist design skills.

Offering the perfect blend of theory and practice in the context of business and society, the MA Design course will enable you to focus on your own specialist area of design practice. You will cover disciplines such as 3D design, fashion communication, fashion design, fashion marketing, graphic design, communication design, service design, interaction design, industrial design, interior design, 3D design and transportation design.

Developed specifically for those with an interest in design, and who have relevant experience, you will undertake a series of taught modules to develop your knowledge and practical skills, before completing a final project or thesis around your chosen specialism.

In addition to the taught aspect of this course, you will work on live industry projects that will enhance your CV and personal development through collaboration with those currently working in industry. Some recent examples of industry projects include work on oral healthcare with Procter and Gamble, wearable technology projects with the CPI National Centre for Printable Electronics, person-centred healthcare services with the [Academic Health Science Network](#) and the development of innovative kitchenware with [Lakeland](#).

This course will also provide you with the knowledge and experience to be able to set up your very own design company, in addition to providing a strong foundation for progression to PhD studies.

Master of Research opportunity

If you already have quite a clear idea about a particular topic you'd like to explore, or you're interested in a research-based career, then you might want to consider our [Design MRes](#).

[Find out more about studying an MRes at Northumbria here.](#)

Modules & Learning

This MA Design course incorporates practice-based learning that is informed by contemporary and contextual influences and founded on your own personal aims and professional direction.

The first two semesters of this course will focus on developing your core skills through the completion of four modules: design thinking, design practice, direction and

experimentation.

Teaching is delivered via a mix of lectures, seminars and tutorials, which are assessed by coursework and design projects. You will also undertake collaborative projects and, where possible, field trips to allow you to put your skills into practise in a real-world context.

Upon completion of the taught modules, you will undertake a final project or thesis to demonstrate all of the skills you have acquired on this course. This will be undertaken under the supervision of your dedicated tutor who will provide advice and guidance at all stages.

Teaching Staff

Our academic team is made up of research-active experts with extensive knowledge of the design industry. This knowledge is integrated into all aspects of their teaching to ensure that all content within this course is relevant to the workplace and current and emerging trends.

All staff within this department have a strong commitment to developing your skills and knowledge by developing your critical thinking and your ability to apply your skills to complex real-world problems.

They will be there to support you through every step of your course, ensuring you leave with confidence and full understanding of all aspects of this dynamic industry.

In addition to our teaching staff, you will also have access to specialist communities of practice that will provide the foundation for your learning journey through research networks and cross-organisational collaboration. These communities will focus on strategic innovation, performance products and service design.

Facilities

This course is delivered at the Northumbria School of Design, which is located at City Campus East – a dedicated learning space that is located within Newcastle city centre.

Throughout the duration of your course you will have access to state-of-the-art facilities such as our University library – which is ranked in the top three in the UK – and well equipped working space, The Hub, which is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Your learning experience will be enhanced through the use of technology and learning materials such as module guides, assessment information, lecture presentation slides and reading lists will be available via our innovative e-learning platform, Blackboard. You can also access student support and other key University systems through your personal account.

Research-rich Learning

The MA Design course is taught by our team of research-active academics who incorporate their

Design MA

individual areas of specialism into the course's contextual modules to ensure they reflect the realities of the design industry and today's modern working environment.

The development of your own research skills is at the core of the MA Design course and you will develop research-informed methods of understanding the complexity inherent in real-world situations. These methods will enable you to make better decisions, advance the field of your practice and add new knowledge that will help you perfect your skills in your own particular discipline.

Supported by subject specialists and industry networks, you will also have the opportunity to join an expert-led community of practice in strategic design and innovation, performance product design or service design, as well as engaging with traditional disciplines such as fashion and industrial design.

Give your career an edge

This course will allow you to enhance your practical skills and knowledge in a specialist area of design.

You will work on live industry projects that will enhance your CV and personal development through collaboration with those currently working within this dynamic industry. Some of the recent examples of industry projects include work on oral healthcare with Procter and Gamble, wearable technology projects with the CPI National Centre for Printable Electronics, person-centred healthcare services with the Academic Health Science Network and the development of innovative kitchenware with Lakeland.

You will also develop your business and employability skills, in addition to achieving a master's level qualification in this discipline.

Your Future

Once you have completed the MA Design course you will possess the skills and ability to make an impact in the design industry, whether you are just starting out in your career or looking to enhance your professional development.

This course will prepare you for broad range of jobs within design companies, private organisations and the public sector, in addition to specialist jobs within your chosen specialism.

Completion may enhance promotion prospects in some professions, in addition to providing enhanced opportunities for management level roles.

This course will also provide you with the knowledge and experience to be able to set up your very own design company, in addition to providing a strong foundation for progression to PhD studies.

Who would this course suit?

Want to develop your current practice and skills in a particular design direction? This course could be for you.

Entry Requirements 2020/21

Standard Entry

Applicants should normally have:

A minimum of a 2:2 honours degree in design or a related discipline. Applicants with appropriate work experience and/or a relevant professional qualification will be considered

International qualifications:

If you have studied a non UK qualification, you can see how your qualifications compare to the standard entry criteria, by selecting the country that you received the qualification in, from our country pages. Visit www.northumbria.ac.uk/yourcountry

English language requirements:

International applicants are required to have a minimum overall IELTS (Academic) score of 6.5 with 5.5 in each component (or approved equivalent*).

*The university accepts a large number of UK and International Qualifications in place of IELTS. You can find details of acceptable tests and the required grades you will need in our English Language section. Visit www.northumbria.ac.uk/englishqualifications

Entry Requirements 2021/22

Standard Entry

Applicants should normally have:

A minimum of a 2:2 honours degree in design or a related discipline. Applicants with appropriate work experience and/or a relevant professional qualification will be considered

International qualifications:

If you have studied a non UK qualification, you can see how your qualifications compare to the standard entry criteria, by selecting the country that you received the qualification in, from our country pages. Visit www.northumbria.ac.uk/yourcountry

English language requirements:

International applicants are required to have a minimum overall IELTS (Academic) score of 6.5 with 5.5 in each component (or approved equivalent*).

*The university accepts a large number of UK and International Qualifications in place of IELTS. You can find

Design MA

details of acceptable tests and the required grades you will need in our English Language section. Visit www.northumbria.ac.uk/englishqualifications

Module Overview

Year 1	
DE7001	Design Thinking
DE7002	Design Process
DE7003	Project / Thesis
DE7004	Design Practice 1: Professional Direction
DE7005	Design Practice 2 : Experimentation
EF0126	Academic Language Skills in FADSS Level 7

Finance

Tuition Fees (UK students)

2021 entry: Full Fee £7,350

2020 entry: Full Fee £7,170

Please note that the tuition fee amount you will pay may increase slightly year on year in line with inflation and subject to government regulations.

Tuition Fees (EU students)

2021 entry: Full Fee £16,000

2020 entry: Full Fee £7,170

Please note that the tuition fee amount you will pay may increase slightly year on year in line with inflation and subject to government regulations.

Tuition Fees (International students)

2021 entry: Full Fee £16,000

2020 entry: Full Fee £15,500

Please note that the tuition fee amount you will pay may increase slightly year on year in line with inflation and subject to government regulations.

Additional Costs (All Students)

2021 entry: There are no Additional Costs

2020 entry: There are no Additional Costs

Design MA

Financial Support

Northumbria University is committed to supporting our students. We offer scholarship packages for students depending on their abilities.

You can find out more information on our individual packages at www.northumbria.ac.uk/study-at-northumbria/fees-funding/pg-fees-funding

Financial support opportunities have associated eligibility conditions, therefore it is essential applicants consider all requirements and observe the application process and deadlines.

For more information about healthcare-related charges in the UK, you can speak to the [Welfare, Immigration and Funding team](#) based in Student Support and Well-being.

Congregation Costs

When you graduate you will be invited to attend your graduation ceremony. Congregation ceremonies have associated costs, for instance **to take part you will be required to hire a graduation gown and cap**, you may also wish to purchase a professional photograph or additional guest tickets. To give you an approximation of costs, for students graduating in 2018/19, the price of an additional guest ticket was £12.50. Please be aware that the associated costs of graduation ceremonies are subject to review each year. Gown hire and photography are purchased from external providers, therefore the University cannot demonstrate prices.

Library Costs

Your University Library provides a postal service for books and journal articles which will be sent world-wide to Northumbria students who are studying part-time, by distance learning or are work based learners. Students who are placement for more than six weeks are eligible to use the service whilst on placement.

There is no charge for posting books out, but you will be required to pay the cost of any return postage. We recommend that items are returned by recorded delivery. You can of course, return books in person to either University Library campus.

Overdue charges apply to all library loans to encourage you to return items on time when they have been recalled for use by another reader. Loan renewal is automatic for up to four months or until another reader requests that item. Charges are entirely avoidable by returning items on time, but where incurred will vary according to loan status and the length of time an item is overdue. Overdue charges exist to ensure the Library Collection benefits the whole student community.

Library books which have been lost or damaged beyond repair will be charged at the replacement cost of the item and a non-refundable handling charge.

If you lose your University smart card there is a replacement charge of £10 to obtain a new one. This cost is waived if your smart card has been stolen and you can provide a police crime reference number.

Placement Costs

Placements in industry are a core element of many of Northumbria's courses. Whilst many of these placements are optional, some are mandatory. They offer you a great opportunity to gain hands-on experience, giving you a distinct edge in the job market. To undertake a placement, you will need to budget for any accommodation and travel charges.

Printing & Photocopying Costs

Students will receive a printing credit of £10 in 2019/20 and

Other Additional Costs

Accommodation Costs

Many students find that staying in University accommodation enhances their student experience, and Northumbria has a fantastic selection available for you. Visit our [accommodation pages](#) to investigate your options for living and studying in Newcastle. All costs incurred are optional and students should select the most appropriate accommodation for their needs.

Disability Support

In order to access disability or dyslexia support, students may be required to provide evidence of their disability. This evidence is often provided by an external body (for example, by a medical specialist or GP) and these external bodies may charge for providing this evidence. Also, if a disabled student is eligible for DSA funding for computer equipment, depending on their funding body, the student may be required to make a contribution of £200 towards the cost of any computer equipment. For more information about how to access disability support, contact [Student Support and Well-being](#).

Healthcare Costs

Students, depending on their circumstances, may incur some charges for accessing healthcare or medication from the National Health Service. These include charges for prescriptions, charges for dental checks and treatment, and charges for other services, such as providing vaccinations or for certain types of medical evidence (for example, evidence to support a Personal Extenuating Circumstances/PEC claim at the University, if required). These charges are set and charged by NHS services, rather than by the University, and will be subject to change.

Certain applicants who apply for a UK visa will pay an Immigration Health Surcharge. International students from particular countries may also be required to pay to have a tuberculosis (TB) test.

We also strongly recommend that all EU and international students take out their own insurance policy to cover costs which are not met by the National Health Service. It is your responsibility to ensure you pay for adequate insurance cover for the duration of your stay in the UK.

2020/21*. This will provide 1,000 pages of A4 single-sided black and white printing. Any additional printing is paid for by the student.

*Newcastle and London campus only. Amsterdam endeavours to be a paperless campus and printing of submission is not required. Costs at Newcastle Campus may be subject to change for 2020/21.

Visa Costs

International students will be required to pay visa application fees, and associated fees as required - such as the Immigration Healthcare Surcharge, Tuberculosis tests, fees to renew or extend a visa, and fees associated with appealing a visa/immigration decision. These fees are set and charged by the UK government, rather than by the University, and are subject to change. More information about these fees can be found on the [UK Government's website](#), and information about applying for a visa to study at Northumbria can be found on our [here](#).

Useful Links

Tutor Profiles

www.northumbria.ac.uk/study-at-northumbria/courses/design-dtfdej6/tutor-profiles/

Student Profiles

www.northumbria.ac.uk/study-at-northumbria/courses/design-dtfdej6/student-profiles/

Alumni Profiles

www.northumbria.ac.uk/study-at-northumbria/courses/design-dtfdej6/alumni-profiles/

www.northumbria.ac.uk/study-at-northumbria/courses/design-dtfdej6/pfna-accordions/

Communities of Practice

www.northumbria.ac.uk/study-at-northumbria/courses/design-dtfdej6/communities-of-practice/

www.northumbria.ac.uk/study-at-northumbria/courses/design-dtfdej6/alumni-profile-pod/

www.northumbria.ac.uk/study-at-northumbria/courses/design-dtfdej6/book-an-open-day/

www.northumbria.ac.uk/study-at-northumbria/courses/design-dtfdej6/facilities-carousel/

www.northumbria.ac.uk/study-at-northumbria/courses/design-dtfdej6/facilities-pod/

www.northumbria.ac.uk/study-at-northumbria/courses/design-dtfdej6/guardian/

www.northumbria.ac.uk/study-at-northumbria/courses/design-dtfdej6/guardian-ranking/

www.northumbria.ac.uk/study-at-northumbria/courses/design-dtfdej6/links/

www.northumbria.ac.uk/study-at-northumbria/courses/design-dtfdej6/main-images/

www.northumbria.ac.uk/study-at-northumbria/courses/design-dtfdej6/modules---rethinking-the-future/

www.northumbria.ac.uk/study-at-northumbria/courses/design-dtfdej6/research/

www.northumbria.ac.uk/study-at-northumbria/courses/design-dtfdej6/student-profile-pod/

www.northumbria.ac.uk/study-at-northumbria/courses/design-dtfdej6/teaching-staff/

www.northumbria.ac.uk/study-at-northumbria/courses/design-dtfdej6/what-is-design/

