

## THE ARTS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE AT BOURNEMOUTH

### PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

The Programme Specification provides a summary of the main features of the **BA (Hons) Textiles** course, and the learning outcomes that a 'typical' student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she passes the course.

Further detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching and learning methods of each unit may be found in your Course Handbook.

#### Key Course Information

Final Award	BA Honours
Course Title	Textiles
Teaching institution	The Arts University College at Bournemouth
Awarding Institution	The Arts University College at Bournemouth
Professional accreditation	None
Length of course / mode of study	1 year full-time
Level of final award (in FHEQ)	Level 6
Subject benchmark statement(s)	Art and Design
UCAS code	W231
Language of study	English
Date of Validation	2009
Date of most recent review	N/A
Date programme specification written/revised	September 2009 Revised June 2011

#### Course Philosophy

British textile design has a worldwide reputation for originality, creativity and innovation. At the Arts University College at Bournemouth we will encourage you to fully embrace this long-standing tradition by providing the opportunity for you to become part of the next generation of distinctive, skilled and inventive designers and makers.

Textiles at the Arts University College at Bournemouth will provide you with the opportunity to become a creative textile designer/maker within this exciting and innovative global industry. Here emphasis is placed upon individual creative reflexive practice, investigation into processes and techniques practice, exploring both visual and theoretical principles in the investigation of colour, texture and pattern, through experimentation with drawing, dye, print, stitch, CAD, fabric construction and manipulation, towards the development of tactile materials found within the discipline of textiles.

Our intensive, creative and vocational courses will support your emerging aspirations by providing you with a breadth of technical skills and the knowledge required to produce professional outcomes. Our vision is to inspire and encourage you to mature as autonomous and individual textile designers and practitioners through the exploration, reflection and refinement of your practice, which will enable you to position yourself at the forefront of the creative textile industries. We will, therefore, support you in

your experimental and formal engagement within this field, through the exploration of both usual and unusual materials, the expected and unexpected process.

Historical and contemporary contextual studies are embedded throughout the curriculum. This diverse subject area strengthens practice by challenging intellectual enquiry and informing your creative development. Critical inquiry will support conceptual thinking, with practical, ethical and sustainability issues being central to your learning, enabling you to become a conscientious and responsible designer of the future.

An understanding of the professional practice of a textile designer/maker, and the demands placed upon them, will be paramount. Awareness of the rapidly changing professional arena is supported through work-based learning, industry set briefs, live projects, student led placements and engagement with textile professionals from the Course's extensive industry links.

As a specialist community of practitioners, we value teamwork and collaborative practice – seeking to promote opportunities for complementarity, as well as individual creativity. A range of exploratory and practical workshop based experiences will prepare you fully for employment; these are complemented and tested by engagement with practitioners and industry experts throughout.

Our graduates are able and agile creative practitioners who can engage with a range of innovative textiles processes. You will be able to demonstrate versatile and complex approaches to textile applications, and be confident communicators of creative intent. The emphasis placed upon commercial acumen, enterprise and self-reliance during your professional studies on the Textile degree course at The Arts University College at Bournemouth will also aid your ability to plan your career. You will be able to apply your skills confidently to either freelance design, studio-based design/making, or to the vast range of related creative industries which exist both nationally and internationally.

### **BA (Hons) Top-Up**

The BA (Hons) Top-Up year is a one-year course affording you the time and tutorial contact necessary to demonstrate your personal focus and systematic understanding of the textiles discipline. You will work towards an industry standard portfolio that reflects the depth and complexity of your design solutions/propositions, some of your ideas challenging the boundaries of this exciting discipline. Supported with professional and transferable skills and knowledge, you will possess the qualities required for employment within the textiles field and related industries in a range of situations that require you to exercise personal responsibility and have the confidence to make decisions in complex and continually changing circumstances. This will also prepare you for extended involvement with the subject at Masters Level, or to train in the teaching profession.

### **Course Aims**

The course aims to:

- Develop and apply an in depth knowledge and a systematic understanding of techniques, processes, and skills required for contemporary textiles practice (e.g. visual and design led principles through drawing, colour, surface pattern experimentation, CAD, dye, print, fabric manipulation, stitch and the development of tactile materials/surfaces/artefacts).
- Extend and apply your knowledge and understanding of textile design/making and innovative creative practice, through an understanding of the limitations and aesthetic possibilities of the discipline.
- Build and apply an awareness and critical understanding of the historical, cultural, ethical and contemporary issues and concerns of textile design (e.g. sustainability, environmental effects, ethical practices and production consequences).
- Promote personal development and understanding of creative practice, in relation to employability and appropriate professional career skills (e.g. engage with contemporary textile professionals and practitioners; use research skills to investigate current industry and practice based processes).

- Develop independent thinking and intellectual abilities through research, self-reflection and professional engagement (e.g. through self-initiated textile projects).
- Develop the ability to describe and communicate the ideas, development and thinking behind your creative practice to multiple audiences (e.g. work collaboratively with peers, tutors and clients in the development of your own and others' practice).

The overarching aim of the course is to produce an autonomous creative professional textiles practitioner, who can innovate within the discipline at the highest level. Their individual creative practice will continue to explore visual and design led principles through to the development of tactile materials, surfaces, artefacts and textile constructions.

Graduates will attain a level of autonomy needed for contemporary and professional textiles practice. You will be able to enter the workplace as a competent and inspired textile designer/maker, capable of independent critical reflection with relevant professional knowledge ready to apply to a broad creative industry both nationally and internationally.

The course will allow you to confirm and define your particular creative concerns, extend your scope and depth of your enquiry and promote your ability to respond to challenging textiles opportunities. The programme adopts a student-centred approach that fosters the ability to critically reflect on and contextualise your work without shifting the designer/maker focus of your learning by encouraging creative maturity and conceptual awareness of industry practices.

The Level 6 will provide you with the critical and analytical skills required to forward the role of textile designer/maker and outcomes within your specific focus – textiles for fashion, for interiors and for design crafts.

The course provision will offer the vocational focussed student the opportunity to take greater responsibility for their career development by being able to locate and articulate their practice within contemporary discourse.

Students will attain an awareness of the broader issues and concerns facing the textiles industries today, such as sustainability; environmental issues, ethical practices and production consequences.

Discipline focussed research is integral to the ethos of the course and offers a foundation of knowledge to support the depth of enquiry required at postgraduate level.

### **Course Outcomes**

By the end of the course you will be able to:

- Deploy a critical and systematic understanding of techniques, processes, and skills required for contemporary textiles practice.
- Apply developed and effective visualisation, making and problem-solving skills through the research and production of both traditional and innovative textile works.
- Deploy a critical and reflective understanding of historical, cultural ethical and contemporary debates in relation to your own practice.
- Locate and communicate your practice in relation to employability and appropriate professional career skills.
- Apply critical self-reflection and independent research to the development and management of your textiles practice.
- Describe and communicate effectively, the ideas, development and concepts underpinning your creative practice to multiple audiences.

## **Reference Points**

UK Quality Code for higher education, including:

- Subject Benchmark Statement: Art and Design
- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)
- QAA Code of Practice

AUCB Undergraduate Curriculum Framework  
University College Learning and Teaching Strategy

## **Learning, Teaching and Assessment**

### **Learning and Teaching Strategies**

Honours study combines independent learning and taught sessions.

The course objectives will be met by deploying a wide variety of teaching and learning methods including workshop projects, studio projects, lectures, seminars, group critiques, guided reading and tutorials.

The methods employed will, whenever possible, lead you into the disciplines required of a creative textiles practitioner and promote the transferable skills of self-management and self-reliance.

The course is structured progressively to provide increased opportunities for autonomous learning.

The progressive promotion of student-centred learning reflects maturity as a student and allows learning towards individual goals.

Teaching is directed at supporting individual engagement in learning although there will be opportunities to work in teams/collaborations to enable learning of the value of peer cooperation.

The integration of theory and practice is promoted and reinforced through a team teaching approach. Lectures, seminars and tutorials may be delivered by team members, as appropriate, in the creative environment of the studio.

Level 6 of the BA (Hons) Textiles allows you to confirm your particular creative concerns and to extend the scope and depth of your enquiry. You will be encouraged to formulate and identify your particular skills and potential. Risk and ambition within the field will be crucial to your individual development. Intellectual and academic integrity will be further encouraged, both through written content and 'thinking through practice'.

A Guest Speaker Programme of current designers, makers, agents and textile professionals will invigorate, enlighten and inform you to allow for parallels and plans to be formulated. Transferable and employment skills will also be incorporated through this programme and within the units *Specialist Professional Practice* and *Professional Preparation for Design Futures*. Professionals from the University College's Enterprise Pavilion will also be invited to present opportunities to the student body. Live projects and placement opportunities have already been made available to the FdA Textile students.

In Level 6 you must take the major responsibility for your study. Teaching support reflects the expectations upon you as a mature learner, through tutorial support that complements the autonomous nature of your study.

Negotiated Learning Agreements are the principle means of defining learning goals and monitoring progress and achievements. Level 6 studies provide the opportunity for you to extend your interests and abilities and demonstrate your capacity for sustained independent and professional work.

### **Assessment**

Each unit is assessed separately, and the assessment forms part of the unit. Assessment both provides a measure of your achievement, and also gives you regular feedback on how your learning is developing.

For every unit of your course you will be provided with a Unit Handbook, which will state what you are expected to learn within the unit; the work that you have to submit; and how it will be assessed. The Unit Handbook will also give the deadline for presenting your work for assessment.

You will receive a final mark for each unit in the form of a percentage, which will be recorded on your formal record of achievement (transcript). The HE Grading Matrix will help you to understand the marking process, and this can be found as an Appendix to this Handbook.

On successful completion of your Honours degree course, you will be awarded a degree classification based on your unit marks. The final classification is determined using all unit marks at Levels 6. For further information on progression, awards and classifications, please visit [www.regulations.ac.uk](http://www.regulations.ac.uk)

### **Course Structure**

All students are registered for the award of BA (Hons).

For the award of a BA (Hons) you must have achieved a minimum of 120 credits at Level 6 (Honours level). This qualification will be awarded upon successful completion of your course.

A BA without Honours may be awarded if you have achieved a minimum of 60 credits at Level 6.

### **Course Content**

In Level 6 you will be increasingly encouraged to manage your own learning and will have a mature appreciation of the uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of knowledge within textiles. You will develop an understanding of the systematic relationships between research, design, making and production. Some of this knowledge will be informed by, or at the forefront of the discipline. Research and learning is related to the professional context of textiles and you are encouraged to consider your professional potential beyond graduation.

This course, through the encouragement of both designing and making skills, is unique to the South West region. Opportunities for collaboration are encouraged within Level 6 study. This will enable you, the student, to emulate how linking disciplines may work together, and you will gain an insight into relating industries. Team working and other transferable skills will also be enhanced through these collaborations in preparation for the graduating student to put these skills into practice both professionally and academically.

### **Course Units**

#### **Level 6 – Option 1**

Specialist Professional Practice	TEX610	30 credits
Investigative Study	TEX600	15 credits
Extended Major Project	TEX603	60 credits
Professional Preparation for Design Futures	TEX612	15 credits

#### **Level 6 – Option 2**

Specialist Professional Practice	TEX610	30 credits
Extended Investigative Study	TEX601	30 credits
Major Project	TEX602	45 credits
Professional Preparation for Design Futures	TEX612	15 credits

## **Level 6 study options**

The University College offers two options of study at Level 6:

### **Option 1**

An *Extended Major Project* of 60 credits and an *Investigative Study* weighted 15 credits (4000 words<sup>\*</sup>)

### **Option 2**

A *Major Project* of 45 credits, and an *Extended Investigative Study* of 30 credits (8000 words<sup>\*</sup>).

If you are following Option 1, you are expected to spend approximately 600 hours on your *Extended Major Project* and 150 hours on your *Investigative Study*. Your creative practice is therefore the focus of the year, and you should ensure that you develop a Learning Agreement, which reflects the scope of project, which is required.

If you are following Option 2, you are expected to spend approximately 450 hours on your *Major Project* and 300 hours on your *Extended Investigative Study*. Obviously this is a more balanced pattern of study, and you should ensure that your proposed area of research will provide the necessary breadth and depth to sustain a coherent academic argument, which demonstrates critical analysis and understanding.

The different options are designed to permit a degree of flexibility in how you demonstrate Honours level outcomes in your discipline. However, both offer the opportunity to work at an advanced level within the discipline, and to show your appreciation of the context of your work. The outcomes below apply to the composite 75 credits; you should ensure that your two projects enable you to achieve these, as well as the specific unit outcomes.

### **Outcomes for project work at Level 6:**

- Demonstrate the ability rigorously to apply specialist knowledge, understanding and creativity
- Demonstrate an enhanced level of discipline and ability in time-management and organisation.
- Demonstrate your awareness of the ethical, social and cultural issues appropriate to the concept of a responsible professional practitioner
- Demonstrate an awareness of the principles of sustainability, especially as they pertain to the discipline
- Demonstrate independent judgement in analysis and investigation and the ability to draw together ideas within a particular area of study
- Demonstrate the ability to plan, research, formulate and deliver sophisticated work which interprets, analyses and re-presents ideas to a specific audience
- Demonstrate the ability to reference appropriate historical, cultural, critical and contextual concepts through your work
- Demonstrate advanced visual communication skills
- Demonstrate advanced written communication skills
- Demonstrate advanced problem-solving, and an ability to apply knowledge to new situations
- Identify and adopt research methodologies appropriate to your research, and be able to evaluate the integrity of sources
- Demonstrate professional autonomy in the development of your ideas, and their realisation

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<sup>\*</sup> Please note that all word counts should be considered as a norm, but +/- 10% is acceptable.

**Course Diagram:**

This schematic diagram shows the proposed start/end dates for each unit with assessment periods. Further information on the structure of each unit will be included in unit handbooks.

**Level 6 option 1**

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Induction week	TEX610 Specialist professional practice (30 credits)											TEX603 Extended major project (60 credits)															Assessment	HE Exam Boards			
	TEX600 Investigative study (15 credits)											TEX612 Professional Preparation for Design Futures (15 credits)																			

**Level 6 option 2**

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Induction week	TEX610 specialist professional practice (30 credits)											TEX602 Major project (45 credits)															Assessment	HE Exam Boards			
	TEX601 Extended investigative study (30 credits)											TEX612 Professional Preparation for Design Futures. (15 credits)																			

## **Resources**

### **IT Equipment**

#### **University College Resources:**

##### **Library**

The course is supported by a Subject Librarian who liaises closely with the team to ensure that the Library resources are relevant and meet student and staff research needs. The Subject Librarian can offer advice on research skills, as well as individual support for students in the use of Library resources

The Library holds an excellent range of specialist learning materials including journals, books, CDs, DVDs, newspapers. It has subscriptions to a wide range of specialist electronic resources focusing on art, design, media and performance, including 37,000 e-books and 3,000 e-journals.

Colour and black and white photocopying facilities are available as well as viewing rooms for watching DVDs, videos and off air recordings from television. Students have access to iMacs and PCs and the Library is wi-fi enabled. The open plan design and high quality resources make the Library a popular space for work and study. The Library scores consistently high in both the in-house and national student surveys which are carried out annually.

##### **Information technology**

The University College provides a comprehensive range of IT resources, utilising Apple Macintosh, Windows Personal Computers and specialist resources for its art, design, media and performance disciplines. The University College uses industry standard software from Microsoft, Adobe, Macromedia, Apple, Quark and leading software suppliers, and is continually investing in its technology and resources.

IT resources are also available to you via the Library, plus through a number of bookable IT suites and dedicated base room provision. To enable access to learning resources, wireless internet access is also available.

The ITCS section (Information Technology and Communication Services) provides a helpdesk facility for IT enquiries and fault notification. The Helpdesk is open from 8.30am until 5pm from Monday to Friday Email: [itcshelpdesk@aucb.ac.uk](mailto:itcshelpdesk@aucb.ac.uk)

##### **Museum of Design in Plastic (MoDiP)**

MoDiP is a registered museum of 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century design and popular culture with a focus on plastics. Its collection is unique within the UK and has been developed to support teaching and learning at the Arts University College at Bournemouth.

There are many ways in which MoDiP can play a part in your studies:

- as a source of inspiration – large numbers of items may be viewed, handled and explored in depth, drawn, photographed and filmed
- as the focus of a brief for products and projects relating to course work
- as an exhibition venue – your work can be displayed in relation to the collections and exhibitions and events may be mounted in the museum space

The Museum is in a purpose built space within the Library, designed with wheelchair access in mind, and has the same opening hours as the rest of the University College for the viewing of exhibitions. Objects not on display can be borrowed and taken to the studio. To see what is available, go to the [Plastics Network](http://www.plasticsnetwork.org) website ([www.plasticsnetwork.org](http://www.plasticsnetwork.org)).

## **The Gallery**

The gallery is a major resource for contemporary visual art at the Arts University College at Bournemouth and has received regional and national recognition. There are regular gallery events, including collections on loan from galleries and museums, as well as individual exhibitions by some of today's leading artists, photographers, designers and critical writers.

It also functions as a learning resource and is integrated into the teaching, learning, and research practice undertaken at the University College.

**text + work** is the ethos which underpins the exhibition programme at the Arts University College at Bournemouth. The **text + work** concept promotes and provides a forum for challenging dialogue between innovative contemporary art, design, and media practice and its theoretical context.

There are **text + work** gallery events, critical texts, shared and networked exhibitions and a **text + work** website.

## **Student Support**

### **Academic Guidance**

Academic staff are responsible for providing you with feedback on your work and your general academic progress, and for providing academic support and guidance through the course. This is provided through "critiques" and written feedback, as well as guidance on practical work and informal discussion about your concerns. These sessions may be individual or, in the case of collaborative work, in small groups.

Academic tutorials are scheduled to allow you to discuss in depth matters relating to creative or theoretical work, or the course in general. You will be entitled to at least one formal recorded academic tutorial per term with a nominated member of the course team.

Support and advice is also provided on an informal basis throughout the course, through discussions between staff and students.

### **Career Education, Information and Guidance**

You will be prepared for employment, and given the opportunity to learn about the various career options available to you, through a wide range of projects which may include live briefs or external competitions. Academic staff remain very familiar with the discipline, and will often still work in the field, and are also able to advise on specific opportunities.

The Careers Service within the University College offers impartial, confidential advice, support and guidance, to help you explore and develop your career ideas and manage your future career successfully. The Service offers individual career guidance interviews, as well as advice on job seeking strategies, CVs and interview skills, self-employment / freelancing, and further study opportunities.

The Senior Careers Adviser holds regular lunchtime lectures, which cover a range of popular careers topics, including Postgraduate study and funding, Career planning, Networking and self-marketing, and Teaching as a career. Full details and dates of forthcoming lectures are available on the Careers intranet pages and on the Student Services notice boards.

The Careers Service also offers specialist events, working in partnership with local employers, AUCB alumni, and external agencies to bring together a range of art, design, media and performance expertise.

## **Learning Support**

### **Support for students with disabilities (including dyslexia)**

The Arts University College at Bournemouth is firmly committed to a policy of equal opportunities for all students and positively welcomes applications from people with disabilities and/or additional needs. Throughout all aspects of University College life, we actively encourage and support the participation

of students with disabilities. We aim to support disabled students by offering needs assessments and support plans which enable you to achieve your personal goals.

The Learning Support team provides academic support for students with specific learning difficulties including dyslexia. We ask all new Home students to complete a 'Quicksan' screening programme when they join the University College. This screening is designed to check your learning style (the way you learn best) and whether you might have signs of dyslexia. If appropriate, you will be referred to an educational psychologist for a full assessment.

Students with a specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia are able to access individual tutorials aimed at improving your independent study skills, and are supported in applying for the Disabled Students' Allowance, which can provide specialist equipment and, if appropriate, personal support. The Senior Disability Officer and Wellbeing Officer provide ongoing support and advice for students with all other types of disability, including mental health difficulties, physical disabilities, medical conditions and sensory impairments.

### **Support for students for whom English is a second language**

If English is not your first language you will be invited to complete a brief written exercise during the initial weeks of your course, so that your current academic language skills can be assessed. Our English for Academic Purposes (EAP) tutor, who is part of the Learning Support team, will review the exercise and contact you if your work indicates that you would benefit from additional support. The EAP tutor will work with you to draw up an Individual Learning Plan, which will set out a structured approach to developing your independent academic and study skills. This may include helping you to develop strategies for interpreting assignment briefs, working on the structure of your written work, or developing your proof-reading skills, for example. The plan will be reviewed each term and will be shared with your course tutor so that they are aware of the work you are doing to improve your study skills. If necessary, the EAP tutor will refer you to a local language school so that you can improve your generic English language levels.

### **Pastoral support and guidance**

Support and advice on non-academic matters is provided through trained and qualified professional staff within Student Services. We have a team of professionally qualified male and female counsellors, with appointments available during weekdays and evenings. Students accessing the service are offered various levels of support ranging from regular weekly sessions, occasional support or just a "one off" consultation. In most cases, you can expect to be seen for a session within two days of making initial contact with the service. If the situation is very urgent and you are very emotionally distressed, we also have a crisis support service and you will be seen by one of our counsellors almost immediately.

Pastoral support is also available from the AUCB Chaplaincy. The Chaplaincy at the Arts University College at Bournemouth is shared with Bournemouth University and is an inclusive Chaplaincy, which welcomes people of all faiths and none. The Quiet Room and the Islamic Prayer Room are in regular use by staff and students, and meetings with ministers of any faith can be arranged.

Advice and support with practical issues such as funding, accommodation or childcare is available from the Student Advice, Funds and Accommodation Office within Student Services.

### **Methods for Evaluating and Improving the Quality and Standards of Teaching and Learning**

The course is subject to the University College's rigorous quality assurance procedures which involve subject specialist and internal peer review of the course at periodic intervals, normally of 5 years. This process ensures that the course engages with the national Subject Benchmarks and references the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications.

In addition all courses undertake an Annual Course Review which takes account of relevant information such as:

- External Examiners' Reports
- Key statistics including data on application, retention and achievement
- Results of the National Student Survey

- Results of the in-house Student Perception Survey
- Feedback from Student Representatives
- Feedback from relevant employer groups, including the course Industry Liaison Group

All courses develop an action plan arising out of this exercise which is monitored by the Course and Faculty Boards of Study.

Staff development priorities for the course team as a whole are identified through the Annual Course Review process, and for individuals through the Staff Performance Review process.

### **Indicators of Quality and Standards**

The Arts University College at Bournemouth was granted taught degree awarding powers by the Privy Council in 2008 following an intensive period of scrutiny by experienced academics from across the higher education sector.

The University College was audited by the QAA in May 2011 and received a judgement of 'Confidence' in the management of the academic standards of its awards, and its management of the quality of learning opportunities. This is the best available outcome, and confirms that our quality assurance mechanisms are robust, meaning that we can have full confidence in the standard of course outcomes, and the quality of the educational experience we deliver.

Please note that this specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course.

More detailed information is available in the following documents:

- Online course information
- Unit Handbooks
- HE Student Regulations – <http://intranet.aucb.ac.uk/academicregulations>
- AUCB Student Guide