

THE ARTS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE AT BOURNEMOUTH

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

The Programme Specification provides a summary of the main features of the **FdA 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.

<u>Key Course Information</u>	
Final Award	Foundation Degree (FdA)
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	2 years full-time
Level of final award (in FHEQ)	Level 5
<u>Progression route</u>	
Dedicated articulation to:	BA (Hons) Textiles
Subject benchmark statement(s)	Art and Design; Foundation Degree Qualification
UCAS code	W233
Language of study	English
Date of Validation	2007
Date of most recent review	NA
Date programme specification written/revised	April 2007 Revised September 2007 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 course 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 textile designers/makers, 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 courses at The Arts University College 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.

FdA

The FdA is a two year vocationally based course built around a “hands-on” workshop centred approach to the discipline. It allows you to embrace the fundamental skills required within the creative textiles industries and is underpinned with the expected professional and intellectual rigour. You will acquire the knowledge to perform effectively and to seek employment within the textiles field in a range of situations that require you to exercise personal responsibility and the confidence to make decisions. On successful completion of the FdA you may wish to further your involvement and apply to study at BA Hons level.

Course Aims

The course aims to:

- Encourage and develop your knowledge and understanding of a breadth of established techniques, processes, and skills required within contemporary textiles practice.
- Develop the ability to respond conceptually and creatively to set briefs within appropriate contexts.
- Develop and creatively exploit visual and making problem-solving skills through traditional and innovative methods.
- Promote and develop research skills with an awareness and critical understanding of historical, cultural, and contemporary concepts in relationship to textiles practice.
- Provide a vocationally relevant curriculum, including work related learning and /or opportunities for placement, commercial acumen, and related transferable skills for a professional career within this discipline.

- Develop the ability to critically self reflect and independently plan for professional textile practice and/or to articulate to a Level 6 BA Honours course.

Course Outcomes

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

- Demonstrate and be competent in the appropriate established techniques, processes, and skills required within contemporary textiles practice.
- Demonstrate competence and confidence in producing and presenting work for a client brief.
- Demonstrate the ability to apply appropriate knowledge to resolve visual and technical textile problems both innovatively and effectively (including both traditional and contemporary methods e.g. CAD, laser-cutting etc.)
- Research and critically reflect, evaluate and propose a distinct personal viewpoint with an awareness of your positioning within textile practice and contexts.
- Apply the broad spectrum of technical and creative knowledge gained to the work place environment in a professional manner.
- Apply knowledge of contemporary textile practice to your personal career aspirations and plans, be they vocationally oriented or in preparation for articulation to Level 6 study.

Reference Points

UK Quality Code for higher education, including:

- Foundation Degree Benchmark Statement
- 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

The course objectives will be met by deploying a wide variety of teaching and learning methods including workshop/studio practice, lectures, seminars, group critiques, guided reading, tutorials, projects, demonstrations, learning teams, personal planning and reflection, work related learning and independent study. Unit tutors in consultation with the Course Leader will be responsible for co-ordinating the course for individual units of study and for selecting appropriate methods of delivery according to the subject matter and student experience.

The methods employed will, wherever possible, induct you in the disciplines required of a creative practitioner in textiles design and making along with transferable skills (*Managing self, Professional skills and Team working*), and value and credit any relevant previous experience. A key method will be the promotion of work related learning, including work placements; visits to the workshops or studios of relevant practitioners or organisations; guest lectures or workshops led by visiting practitioners; 'live' or simulated project briefs; and the mentoring of individual students or small groups by practising designers and other industry professionals. Your learning and career planning will be consolidated through the encouragement of skills in personal planning, reflection and development.

The study time allocated to each unit in the course incorporates a balance of teaching support and learning. The progressive promotion of student-centred learning reflects the anticipated maturity of students and allows them to direct their learning towards individual goals. The teaching in Level 4 is directed at providing students with the knowledge, concepts and skills to take increasing responsibility for the management of their own learning.

Teaching is directed at supporting individual engagement in learning although there will be opportunities for students to work in teams to enable them to learn the value of peer co-operation. Also, it is anticipated that, due to the vocational and professional orientation of the Foundation Degree and to enable students to benefit from the range of resources and disciplines within the University College, opportunities will exist for students to collaborate in teams with peers in, for example, fashion or costume. It is also envisaged that live project work may benefit from the collaboration of students from both levels of the course.

Guidance and counselling to help you in realising your learning potential will be provided at the start of each term.

Level 4

Units in Level 4 provide you with a sound practical base for the study of the subject, contextualised by parallel study of aspects of contemporary, historical and visual culture. Projects, lectures, seminars, practical demonstrations, visits, case studies, guided reading and tutorials will be used to disseminate information and develop the necessary skills. This will provide you with the opportunity to learn through experimentation and discovery, and develop skills within a personal context. The unit *Personal Planning, Reflection and Development 1* which runs through the first three terms, is specifically designed to provide students, particularly non-traditional entrants, with the study and time management skills necessary for higher education, together with the ability to reflect and build upon their experiences and learning. The practical learning undertaken in Level 4 culminates in the last six weeks of the third term when you undertake the *Placement* unit. In practice, placements can last from the commencement of this unit until the end of the summer vacation period, thereby providing an extended opportunity for you to consolidate and enhance your vocational and professional skills. You are asked to write your 1st Learning Agreement with support from your year tutors regarding your individual interests. Placements for all students are co-ordinated and overseen by the course team and they may also visit students whilst upon placements in order to review progress and to gain host feedback to provide students with evaluative support.

Level 5

In Level 5 the learning and teaching methods provide you with increased opportunities for student-centred learning. The Level 5 units anticipate that you will be able to apply the knowledge, concepts and skills addressed in Level 4 to exploit fully the range of opportunities for your personal creative development. Learning Agreements are further utilised in Level 5 - *Contemporary Textiles for Professional Practice*. And similarly the unit *Professional Project* will also use a Learning Agreement to define the scope of your study. The introduction of Learning Agreements at this level is important in giving you increased responsibility for your learning and enhanced preparation for the professional world and for your potential articulation to Level 6 BA Hons Textiles Top-Up.

Assessment

Each unit is assessed separately, and the assessment forms part of the unit. Assessment 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 FdA course, you will be awarded a classification based on your unit marks. The final classification is determined using unit marks at Level 5. If you progress to Honours level study, your degree calculation will be based on your percentage marks at Level 6 only. For further information on progression, awards and classifications, please visit <http://intranet.aucb.ac.uk/academicregulations>

Course Structure

All students are registered for the award of the Foundation Degree (FdA); however exit awards are available if you leave the course early, having successfully completed a stage. If you successfully complete a level of the course, you will automatically be entitled to progress to the next level.

For the award of a Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE), you must have achieved a minimum of 120 credits at Level 4. This qualification may be awarded if you leave the University College following successful completion of the first year of your course. (Note that part-time students do not complete Level 4 until part-way through their second year of study.)

For the award of the Foundation Degree (FdA), you must have achieved a minimum of 240 credits of which a minimum of 120 must be at Level 5. This qualification will be awarded upon successful completion of your course.

Course Content

Level 4 (year 1) of the course provides you with the creative, practical and fundamental skills that you will build upon during the foundation degree in order to help you develop your knowledge as a textile designer /maker. It introduces you to the required visual language and textile techniques and processes through the units *Textile Visual Studies*, *Creative Beginnings and Introduction to Textile Techniques* and *Textile Design, Making and Application*.

Embedded within these units, there will be a strong emphasis placed upon drawing and the development of design skills through 2D, 3D, and basic CAD processes in order for you to realise your ideas within a textile context. Colour, fabric manipulation and an introduction to practical process based workshops such as print, stitch, dye techniques, construction etc. will play a key role in allowing you to develop your work confidently, whilst solving problems and making creative design decisions with a very “hands on” approach. Trends and forecasting will also be introduced at this stage in order for those of you who may wish in the future to align yourself with the design led markets of textiles for interiors and fashion. This basic grounding will provide you with an insight into contemporary design and making practice through referencing a range of disciplines from illustration, fine art, interiors and how it impacts upon the textile industries.

The importance of textile practice and concepts are addressed through the *Textiles Contexts and Visual Culture 1* unit. This unit allows your practical studio and workshop based projects, and your written assignments, to reinforce your learning and critical understanding of the wider textile discipline. You will be exposed to various lectures in order to expand and build upon your historical, cultural and social knowledge and form personal opinions of such an exciting subject area. You may be influenced in your design and making by the topics raised at this point e.g. eco textiles, techno textiles, consumerism, and consumption, sustainability, and ethical concerns within the industry, etc.

Part way through this level you will also be encouraged to begin thinking through your career options, reflecting upon the directions in which your learning is taking you, and developing your personal work plans with the *Personal Planning, Reflection and Development 1* unit. You will be given opportunities to discuss your ideas and plans of future career paths with a range of practising textile designers, makers, freelancers, and course tutors.

The work related focus of the course invites visiting practitioners and designers in to enhance the curriculum. We boast of our guest speaker programme which we believe helps to inspire and to focus your career plan decision making in order to secure a relevant work placement at the end of Level 4. We are constantly updating our Industry contacts and will endeavour to place you with a suitable host. The *Placement* unit will be negotiated between yourself, the course team and the relevant host through a Learning Agreement. This draws together your achievements on the course so far and gives you live opportunities to apply your learning in the work place or through simulated work experience at the University College.

Course Units

Level 4

Unit	Code	Credit
Personal Planning, Reflection & Development 1	TEX407	15
Textile Visual Studies	TEX412	22.5
Creative Beginnings & Introduction to Textile Techniques	TEX410	22.5
Textile Design, Making & Application	TEX413	30
Textiles Contexts & Visual Culture 1	TEX411	15
Placement	TEX405	15

Level 5

Personal Planning, Reflection & Development 2	TEX507	15
Innovation for Textile Practice	TEX511	15
Contemporary Textiles for Professional Practice	TEX510	30
Textiles Contexts & Visual Culture 2 / OR	TEX513	15
Work Related Learning	TEX505	15
Professional Project	TEX512	45

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 4

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	TEX410 Creative beginning and introduction to textile techniques (22.5 credits)												Assessment	TEX413 Textile design making and application (30 credits)											Assessment	TEX405 Placement (15 credits)					
	TEX412 Textile visual studies (22.5 credits)										Assessment	TEX411 Textiles contexts and visual culture 1 (15 credits)																			
	TEX407 Personal planning reflection and development 1 (15 credits)																							Assessment	Assessment						Assessment
HE Exam Boards																															

Level 5

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	TEX511 Innovation for textile practice (15 credits)					TEX510 Contemporary textiles for professional practice (30 credits)						TEX512 Professional project (45 credits)																																	
													Assessm ent	TEX505 Work related learning or TEX513 Textiles contexts and visual culture 2 (15 credits)															Assessm ent																
	TEX507 Personal planning reflection and development 2 (15 credits)																														Assessm ent														
HE Exam Boards																																													

Resources

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 provides sessions on researching and using information, 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

Museum of Design in Plastic (MoDiP)

MoDiP is a registered museum of 20th and 21st 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).

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 ‘Quickscan’ 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