

Programme Specification

BA (Hons) Textiles

Please note that the former Arts University College at Bournemouth (AUCB) became the Arts University Bournemouth (AUB) on 13 December 2012. All references in this document to AUCB, the University College or the Arts University College should be taken to refer to AUB, the University or the Arts University.



This Programme Specification is designed for prospective students, current students, graduates, academic staff and potential employers. It provides a summary of the main features of the programme and the intended learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

Whilst every endeavour has been made to provide the course described in the Programme Specification, the University reserves the right to make such changes as may be appropriate for reasons of operational efficiency or due to circumstances beyond its control. Any changes are made in accordance with the University's academic standards and quality procedures.

This document is available in alternative formats on request.

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.

<u>Key Course Information</u>

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	3 years full-time
Level of final award (in FHEQ)	Level 6
Subject benchmark statement(s)	Art and Design
UCAS code	W236
Language of study	English
External Examiner for course	Joanne Harris Senior Lecturer University of Huddersfield
<i>Please note that it is not appropriate for students to contact external examiners directly</i>	
Date of Validation	2012
Date of most recent review	N/A
Date programme specification written/revised	September 2012

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 industry focussed 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 a textile designer/maker, and the demands placed upon them, will be paramount. Awareness of the rapidly changing professional arena is supported through 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 therefore 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 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.

The course will also prepare you for extended involvement with the subject at Masters Level, or to train in the teaching profession. 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.

Course Aims

The course aims to:

- Develop, extend, 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).
- Develop, 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.
- Develop, 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 and through engagement with live briefs and placement opportunities).
- 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. Your individual creative practice will explore visual and design led principles through to the development of tactile materials, surfaces, artefacts and textile constructions.

Through the journey on which you embark, you 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 course 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.

You 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)
- Code of Practice

AUCB Undergraduate Regulatory 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 you to direct your learning towards individual goals. The teaching in Level 4 is directed at providing you 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 you to work in teams to enable you to learn the value of peer co-operation. Also, it is anticipated that, due to the vocational and professional orientation of the Degree and to enable you to benefit from the range of resources and disciplines within the University College, opportunities will exist for you 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 all 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. This crucially will allow you to build upon your extensive workshop and studio experiences right through into level 6, deepening your knowledge and honing your skills to a professional standard.

The unit *Professional Preparation 1 & Placement* which commences in term 1 and runs to the experience in term 3, is specifically designed to provide you, 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. 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 first 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 Level 6 BA Hons Textiles.

Level 6

Level 6 is structured progressively to provide increased opportunities for autonomous learning/self-management and self-reliance.

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'.

The Guest Speaker Programme of current designers, makers, agents and textile professionals will continue to 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 are also an important aspect of learning upon the degree.

At 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 once in Levels 5 and 6. 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). Each component of assessment is graded using a notched marking scale, whereby only certain marks are used within each grade. The only marks available within any ten-point band are *2, *5 and *8 (eg 42, 45, 48). These marks correspond to a low, mid, and high level of achievement within each grade band.

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 5 and 6 using two different algorithms, which are detailed in your *Quick Guide to the regulations*. If the two algorithms produce different results, you will be awarded the higher class of degree. For further information on progression, awards and classifications, please visit <http://intranet.aucb.ac.uk/registry/academicregulations.aspx>

Course Structure

All students are registered for the award of BA (Hons); however exit awards are available if you leave the course early, having successfully completed one or two levels. 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.

For the award of a Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE), you must have achieved a minimum of 240 credits of which a minimum of 120 must be at Level 5. This qualification may be awarded if you leave the University College following successful completion of the second year of your course.

For the award of a BA (Hons) you must have achieved a minimum of 360 credits of which a minimum of 240 must be at Level 5 or above, of which a minimum of 120 credits must be at Level 6. This qualification will be awarded upon successful completion of your course.

A BA without Honours may be awarded if you have achieved 300 credits, at least 180 of which are at Level 5 or above, and at least 60 of which are at Level 6.

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 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 *Professional Preparation 1 & Placement 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 *Professional Preparations1 & 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.

In Level 5 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. You will be encouraged to innovate with the fundamental skills already developed and to apply this to your Learning Agreements in - *Contemporary Textiles for Professional Practice*. The emphasis within this unit will be to engage in live briefs and collaborations therefore commencing a dialogue with the broad creative industry. Latterly in level 5 the unit *Professional Project* will also utilise a Learning Agreement to define the scope of your study and to confirm the direction in which you wish to develop. *Textiles Contexts and Visual Culture 2* unit will further exercise your theoretical knowledge of the discipline and prepare you for Level 6 study.

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 Levels 5 & 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 you to put these skills into practice both professionally and academically.

Course Units

Unit code	Unit Title	Credit Weighting
Level 4		
TXT450	Textile Visual Studies	20
TXT451	Creative Beginning and Introduction to Textile Techniques	20
TXT452	Textiles Contexts and Visual Culture 1	20
TXT453	Textile Design Making and Application	40
TXT454	Professional Preparation 1 and Placement	20
Level 5		
TXT550	Innovation for Textile Practice	20
TXT551	Contemporary Textiles for Professional Practice	20
TXT552	Professional Project	40
TXT553	Professional Preparation 2	20
TXT554	Textiles Contexts and Visual Culture 2	20
Level 6		
TXT650	Specialist Professional Practice	20
TXT651	Investigative Study	20
TXT652	Major Project	60
TXT653	Professional Preparation for Design Futures	20

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																														
Autumn term											Spring term										Summer term									
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
Induction week	TXT451 Creative Beginning and Introduction to Textile Techniques (20 credits)										Assessment	TXT453 Textile Design Making and Application (40 credits)										Assessment	(Placement time)					Assessment		
	TXT450 Textile Visual Studies (20 credits)											Assessment	TXT452 Textiles Contexts and Visual Culture 1 (20 credits)																Assessment	
	TXT454 Professional Preparation 1 and Placement (20 credits)																													

Level 5																														
Autumn term											Spring term										Summer term									
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
	TXT550 Innovation for Textile Practice (20 credits)					Assessment	TXT551 Contemporary Textiles for Professional Practice (20 credits)					Assessment	TXT552 Professional Project (40 credits)										Assessment	(Placement time)					Assessment	
																					Assessment									
																						TXT554 Textiles Contexts and Visual Culture 2 (20 credits)								
TXT553 Professional Preparation 2 (20 credits)																														

Level 6																														
Autumn term											Spring term										Summer term									
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
TXT650 Specialist Professional Practice (20 credits)											Assessment	TXT652 Major Project (60 credits)																		Assessment
TXT651 Investigative Study (20 credits)											Assessment	TXT653 Professional Preparation for Design Futures (20 credits)																		Assessment

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. As part of the AUCB's Information Literacy Framework, the Subject Librarian provides sessions on researching and using information, as well as individual support for students in the use of Library resources. There is also another member of staff part of whose role is to assist students with any additional needs.

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

The Library is wi-fi enabled and facilities include viewing rooms, a presentation space, a silent reading room, photocopiers, iMacs and PCs. The open plan design and high quality resources make the Library a popular space for work and study. The Library consistently receives high scores 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 Officer 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) tutors, who are part of the Learning Support team, will review the exercise and contact you if your work indicates that you would benefit from additional support. An 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, your 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. Your student representatives can keep you informed about progress against the action plan.

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
- Quick guide to the regulations
- Unit Handbooks
- HE Student Regulations – <http://intranet.aucb.ac.uk/registry/academicregulations.aspx>
- AUCB Student Guide