

BA (Hons)

Textiles



ARTS UNIVERSITY BOURNEMOUTH

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

Whilst every endeavour has been made to provide the course described in the Course 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.

ARTS UNIVERSITY 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 they pass the course.

Further detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching and learning methods of each unit may be found in the Unit Descriptors, which forms part of this Handbook.

<u>Key Course Information</u>	
Final Award	BA (Hons)
Course Title	Textiles
Award Title	BA (Hons) Textiles
Teaching institution	Arts University Bournemouth
Awarding Institution	Arts University Bournemouth
Offered in the School of:	Design and Architecture
Professional accreditation	None
Length of course / mode of study	3 years full-time
Level of final award (in FHEQ)	Level 6
Subject benchmark statement	Art and Design
UCAS code	W236
Language of study	English
External Examiner for course	Kate Farley Norwich University of Arts
<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	2017
Date programme specification written/revised	September 2022

Course Description

British textile design has a worldwide reputation for originality, creativity and innovation. At the Arts University 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 of the future to drive forward this dynamic and diverse industry.

Textiles at the Arts University Bournemouth will provide you with the opportunity to become a textile creative within an exciting and innovative global industry. Here emphasis is placed upon individual creative reflective practice, investigation into

processes and techniques exploring both visual and theoretical principles in the investigation of colour, texture, pattern, surface, and construction. This includes experimentation with drawing, design, dye, print, stitch, CAD, fabric construction and manipulation, producing and developing tactile materials found within the discipline of textiles.

Our intensive, creative yet industry focussed course will support your emerging aspirations by providing you with a breadth of technical skills and the knowledge required to produce professional portfolios of work. 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 personal practice, which will enable you to position yourself at the forefront of the creative textile industries globally. We will, therefore, support you in your experimental and commercial engagement within this field, through the exploration of both usual and unusual materials, the expected and unexpected processes.

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, and practical, ethical and sustainability issues are 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 this rapidly changing profession 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, demonstrating versatile and complex approaches to textile applications, and are confident communicators of creative intent. The emphasis placed upon commercial acumen, enterprise and self-reliance during your professional studies will aid your ability to make plans for your future careers. You will build a portfolio reflecting the depth and complexity of your ability to solve design problems, with some of your ideas challenging the boundaries of this exciting discipline.

The course will also prepare you for extended study 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 reliant on these skillsets both nationally and internationally.

Course Aims

The course aims to:

- Develop, extend, and apply an in-depth knowledge and 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, and processes such as dye, print, fabric manipulation, stitch, CAD embroidery and digital developments for tactile materials, surfaces and 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, production and application (e.g. sustainability, environmental effects, and ethical practices).
- 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 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 (hard and soft), artefacts and textile constructions.

Throughout your journey 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 and continuously changing industry both nationally and internationally.

The course will allow you to confirm and define your particular creative intentions, extend the scope and depth of your interests 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. We aim to encourage creative maturity and conceptual awareness of industry practices.

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 appropriate and related professional career choices.
- Apply critical self-reflection and independent research to the development and management of your textiles practice and transferable skillsets.
- 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)
- AUB Regulatory Framework and Undergraduate Assessment Regulations

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.

There may also be occasions where digital delivery is appropriate. Where this is the case, this might include on-line lectures, seminars, presentations, and one to one tutorials. It is important that you engage with on-line course delivery in the same way that you would if you were on campus.

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 your 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 professional orientation of the degree and to enable you to benefit from the range of resources and disciplines within the University, opportunities will exist for you to collaborate in teams with peers in, for example, fashion or architecture. 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 *Learn How to Learn*

Units in Level 4 provide you with a sound practical base for the study of the subject, contextualised by the 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 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.

Industry experience in the third term is specifically designed to provide you with the study and time management skills necessary for higher education and employment, together with the ability to reflect and build upon your experiences and learning. The practical learning undertaken in Level 4 culminates in the last six weeks of the third term when you undertake a Placement or Live Brief experience. In practice, placements can last from the start 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 you while you are on your placement in order to review progress and to gain host input to provide students with evaluative feedback. Provision is made for those unable to take part in a Placement back at the AUB campus.

Level 5 *Learn How to Break the Rules*

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. We initiate your learning with units centred on risk taking, experimentation and live/collaborative briefs. Learning Agreements are again used in Level 5 - *Contemporary & Live Practice*. And then 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 and enhanced preparation for Level 6 BA (Hons) Textiles.

Level 6 Learn How to Show-Off

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

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

Teaching is directed at supporting individual engagement in learning although there will be opportunities to work in teams/collaborations that value peer co-operation.

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 creative goals 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 making'.

The Guest Speaker Programme of current designers, makers, agents and textile professionals will continue to invigorate, enlighten and inform your studio practice and career plans. Transferable and employment skills will also be incorporated through this programme with support from the employability officer underpinning units *Specialist Professional Practice* and *Design Futures*. Live projects and placement opportunities are also an important aspect of learning on the degree and are encouraged throughout if timing alongside the curriculum is appropriate and can be negotiated.

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 studies.

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 independence and professional work on graduation.

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, we will inform you of what you are expected to learn; what you have to submit; how your work will be assessed; and the deadline for presenting your work for assessment.

A minimum of one unit at Level 4 will be assessed on a pass/fail basis, with written feedback but no numerical grade. All other units will be given a percentage mark.

The final mark for each unit will be recorded on your formal record of achievement (transcript). With the exception of the pass/fail unit, 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 (e.g. 62, 65, 68). These marks correspond to a low, mid, and high level of achievement within each grade band.

All learning outcomes must be passed to successfully complete the unit.

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.

If you have joined Level 6 through either the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) route or having completed a Foundation Degree (FdA), the final classification is determined using only your unit marks at Level 6.

For further information on assessment, progression, awards and classifications, please visit <https://aub.ac.uk/regulations>

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 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 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.

Core Values and Skills

In developing courses, the University wanted to create a curriculum that reflected its values and ethos. It should prepare you for the future not only in enabling you to have a successful career, but we also want to empower you with the knowledge, skills and passion to have a positive impact on the world and be an agent for change. We have drawn from the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>) which have informed our values of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion as well as our Graduate Attributes.

Equalities Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

“We are better for our diversity. We are enriched by the depth of respect we have for each other and the strength of our relationships with our people, our places and the planet. Through our commitment to working with those who are different to us, or challenge us, we grow stronger together, creating new synergies, global connections and sustainable futures.” (AUB Strategy 2030)

As an organisation we have moral, social and legal obligations to fulfil in terms of EDI, and in doing so our commitment is to put EDI at the heart of every area of activity. It is not covered as a separate, stand-alone section, rather it forms an integral part of the curriculum, throughout your study here.

Graduate Attributes (GA)

Over recent years, there has been an increasing pace of change, technological, social, environmental. This has been further impacted by the world-wide pandemic effecting significant change in the global economy and the employment market.

In this context, the University has recognised the importance of developing AUB graduates who have the attributes to be able to build their career, adapting to different circumstances and embracing changes. A suite of attributes have been defined that we feel are particularly appropriate to the creative courses that we deliver and to AUB’s core values; during your course, both curricular and extra-curricular activities will give you the opportunity to prepare for your working career.

Course Content

Level 4 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 *Creative Beginnings* 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 digital design processes in order for you to realise your ideas within a textile context. 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 also addressed through the year linked to your practical experiences. Workshop based projects, and your written assignments will 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 on this 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 and 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. We will negotiate 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.

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 and Live 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 Contextual Studies 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 and 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.

Specialist Resources:

The course offers studios working in a way that mirrors industry. Students work together in a high-energy environment, with industry-standard facilities and excellent tools and equipment. Each year has their own studio and each student has their own dedicated workspace in which to design, prepare and make. We have in addition a dedicated digital hub with UV, sublimation and Mymake printing machines, a print room with hand silk screen facilities and laser-cutter, a stitch room with CAD embroidery machinery and software and a dye room with dye vats, dark room and sonic welder plus a digital loom. As a course, we also take the opportunity to make full use of the specialist 3D workshop for any hard material investigations.

Course Units

Unit code	Unit Title	Credit Weighting
Level 4		
TXT487	Creative Beginnings	40
TXT488	Textiles Design, Making and Application	40
TXT489	Professional Preparation and Placement	40
Level 5		
TXT561	Innovation	20
TXT562	Professional Preparation 2	20
TXT563	Contemporary and Live Practice	20
TXT564	Professional Project	40
TXT565	Textiles Contextual Studies 2	20
Level 6		
TXT661	Specialist Professional Practice	20
TXT662	Investigative Study	20
TXT663	Major Project	60
TXT664	Design Futures	20

Course Diagram

This diagram shows the proposed start/end dates for each unit and shows teaching weeks only; holiday periods are not included.

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
	Autumn Term										Spring Term										Summer Term									
Induction week	TXT487 Creative Beginnings Weeks 1-10 (40 credits)										TXT488 Textile, Design, Making and Application Weeks 11-20 (40 credits)										TXT489 Professional Preparation and Placement Weeks 21-30 (40 credits)									

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
	Autumn Term										Spring Term										Summer Term									
	TXT561 Innovation (weeks 1-6) (20 credits)					A	TXT563 Contemporary and Live Practice (weeks 7-12) (20 credits)					A	TXT564 Professional Project (weeks 13-28) (40 credits)										A							
											TXT565 Textiles Contextual Studies 2 (week 17-30) (20 credits)										A									
TXT562 Professional Preparation 2 (week 1-20) (20 credits)																				A										

A = Assessment point

Level 6																																
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		
	Autumn Term										Spring Term												Summer Term									
	TXT661 Specialist Professional Practice (weeks 1-11) (20 credits)										TXT663 Major Project (weeks 11-30) (60 credits)																A					
	TXT662 Investigative Study (weeks 1-14) (20 credits)													TXT664 Design Futures (weeks 14-30) (20 credits)														A				

A = Assessment point

