

Postgraduate  
PGCert/PGDip/MA [full-time and part-time]

# Bath Spa University Design: Investigating Fashion Design





The MA Design programme has four routes: Brand Development; Ceramics; Fashion and Textiles; Investigating Fashion Design. The programme shares common principles in terms of its philosophy and research, particularly with regard to research methodologies, but acknowledges the diversity of individual design disciplines that collectively contribute so much to the cultural and economic life of 21st century society.

Investigating Fashion Design is concerned with the study, analysis and written critique of historical and contemporary dress in a museum environment.

Researchers on this course will engage with the wealth of fashionable dress resources held in the internationally renowned Fashion Museum, Bath. The course aims to enable students to work independently with the collection, whilst attending supporting lecture and seminar programmes. These will develop an understanding of fashion and its contexts through objects, and museum based study. Students will work with curators and museum professionals as well as academics and designers in order to fuse theory and practice and to develop innovative approaches to the study, display and dissemination of fashionable dress. Additionally, students are encouraged to present their research in a public arena and are offered the opportunity to study for a Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Learning.

# Snapshot



## Awards

- MA Design: Investigating Fashion Design.
- Postgraduate Diploma (PG Dip) Design: Investigating Fashion Design.
- Postgraduate Certificate (PG Cert) Design: Investigating Fashion Design.

## Course length

- MA full-time: three trimesters (one calendar year).
- MA part-time: six trimesters (two calendar years).
- PG Dip full-time: two trimesters (one academic year).
- PG Dip part-time: four trimesters.
- PG Cert full-time: one trimester.
- PG Cert part-time: two trimesters.

## Course location

- The Fashion Museum in Bath.
- Bath School of Art and Design, Sion Hill, Bath.

## Key features

- access to a world renowned collection of fashionable dress.
- conduct and present original research to a wide audience.
- publish your research project.
- understand key issues relating to teaching in a higher education environment.

## Applications

Application forms are available on the website and for any admissions enquiries please contact:

T: +44 (0)1225 875609

E: [admissions@bathspa.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@bathspa.ac.uk)

## Enquiries

For all enquiries about the course, please contact:

Dr Jo Turney, Course Director.

T: +44 (0)1225 875552

E: [j.turney@bathspa.ac.uk](mailto:j.turney@bathspa.ac.uk)

# The Course

## Course structure and content

The course is offered in both full and part-time modes. It is normally one year (3 trimesters) in duration in full-time mode or 6 trimesters in part-time mode. The first two trimesters comprise taught sessions and assessed projects, while the Master's Project in the final part of the course is by negotiated project only. Completion of the first 2 modules on the course lead to the award of the Postgraduate Certificate, and completion of the first 4 modules leads to the award of the Postgraduate Diploma. Subsequent completion of the MA double module leads to the award of MA Design: Investigating Fashion Design.

## Teaching methods and resources

The course is offered in conjunction with the Fashion Museum in Bath and incorporates a lecture and seminar programme. The provision of teaching and learning opportunities within the museum affords students access to a working museum environment, where they will gain hands-on experience of data collection and collation, garment handling, dressing and photography. Students will have access to the whole museum collection. Combined with a rigorous academic taught programme, students will also benefit from the teaching and learning offered within the Bath School of Art and Design. Group visits to other national collections will constitute part of the course.

Specialist facilities at the University include computer studios with over 70 Macs, as well as flatbed and transparency scanners. There is a recently re-equipped digital media studio. All students have access to workshops in photography, sound and video, etching and litho, as well as the specialist Art and Design library.

# Modules

## Research Methodologies

Part one introduces generic research methodologies with part two considering subject specific material, analysis and evaluation techniques.

## Material Evidence 1

The module, split into two inter-related segments, aims to introduce students to professional practice in museums and learning and teaching environments. This will largely consist of independent study supported by Blackboard.

## Fashion History and Theory

This element of the course is intended to introduce students to the key issues arising from fashionable dress from the past in the present. Consisting of a taught lecture and seminar programme, students will be encouraged to discuss a variety of topics pertinent to an analysis of both historical and contemporary dress.

## Material Evidence 2

The module is split into two parts which address practical and ethical issues arising from working in the public sector. The first element addresses the use of learning technology in Higher Education: to include PowerPoint presentations, image location, virtual learning environments such as Minerva and Blackboard, photography and video work. The second element investigates the roles and responsibilities of the Higher Education Lecturer: which will address the ethics and duties of the post.

## Master's Project

The Master's Project double module offers students the opportunity to investigate an area of the museum collection in detail culminating in a 20,000 word thesis.



## Tutors

**Dr Jo Turney**, Senior Lecturer, Dept. of Research, Critical and Postgraduate Studies. Interests include knitting, the interrelationship between fashion and textiles, and fashion and the everyday.

**Rosemary Harden**, Curator, Fashion Museum, Bath

Visiting tutors will also constitute the teaching staff.

## Employability

The course aims to encourage the engagement of students in professional activities, developing skills suitable for the following careers:

- Dress Historian
- Academic in a Further or Higher Education institution
- Fashion writer
- Archives and Museums

## Entry requirements

Admission is normally based on a good undergraduate degree in a design or media discipline together with an interview. Applicants with a good honours degree in a related discipline and/or with relevant work experience will also be considered. To help applicants – especially those from overseas – to decide if this course is appropriate for them, it is advisable to contact the Course Director prior to application.

## Assessment methods

All course work is assessed by project and written submission. There are no written examinations. On successful completion of the course students should be able to:

- discuss and analyse fashionable dress in context;
- critically investigate and research theoretical and object based approaches to fashion, textiles and dress;
- articulate and demonstrate an understanding of the purpose and workings of the contemporary museum and collections;
- undertake significant object based research demonstrating appropriate methodologies;
- communicate innovative approaches to the study of fashion, textiles and dress;
- use a variety of technology and media;
- write and communicate research projects effectively;
- produce a research project suitable for publication, presentation or exhibition.

## Fees

The following fees are provisional for 2011/12 and may be subject to change. Fees are revised each year and the latest fee information can be found at [www.bathspa.ac.uk/services/finance/students/](http://www.bathspa.ac.uk/services/finance/students/)

### UK/EU students

£4,410 for the full-time MA or £735 per module plus £1,470 for the dissertation.

### Overseas students

£9,690 for the full-time MA.

### Channel Island and Isle of Man students

As UK/EU students plus a one-off registration fee of £625 paid at the start of the course.

Fees are paid in total at the beginning of each academic year, or in instalments by standing order throughout the duration of the course. Please note that students contract to pay the fees for their full course when they register, and fees are not normally refundable. Students failing to complete their course must continue to honour any instalment plan, even in the event of a subsequent withdrawal.



## Notes

We advise you to obtain a copy of our postgraduate prospectus for full details of Bath Spa University and its programmes of study.

The contents of this leaflet are correct at the time of going to press. We will try to publicise any changes to it.

Please check the continued availability of the course and its modules before you apply by telephoning Student Services on +44 (0)1225 875875.

The operation of each course or module depends upon recruiting viable numbers. We may not be able to provide a course or module if insufficient numbers enrol. Our offer to you and your acceptance of a place here will be subject to this express condition.

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courtesy of Bath  
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