

**Glasgow School of Art Course Specification  
Course Title: Fashion Design Studio 1A Grounding**



Image: Zoe Ward

*Please note that this course specification is correct on the date of publication but may be subject to amendment prior to the start of the 2026-27 Academic Year.*

Course Code	HECOS Code	Academic Session
UFAD101A		2026-27

Course Title	Fashion Design Studio 1A Grounding
Course Contact	Julia Maclean-Evans

Credits	40
SCQF Level	7
When Taught	Stage 1, Semester 1

Associated Programmes	BA (Hons) Fashion Design
Lead School	School of Design
Other Schools	N/A
Date of Approval	Programme Approval February 2024

### Course Introduction

This course introduces fundamental characteristics, knowledge and skills associated with study in Fashion Design. It supports students with the transition to GSA's subject-specialist learning environment and art school life, fostering and grounding a sense of community within the Stage one Fashion Design cohort.

The course is delivered via a project-based curriculum. It uses a variety of learning approaches to provide a primer for the fundamental stages of the fashion design process, including research methods, drawing and colour, idea development, 2D and 3D ways of making, material awareness, and form and proportion in relation to the body.

Students are encouraged to be explorative by acquiring fundamental practical fashion design skills and valuing the iterative and evaluative approach of testing design ideas and methods. The course introduces playful ways of working to instil a willingness 'to have a go' and to push beyond what students may already know or perceive fashion design to be.

### Course Aims

The aims of this course are to:

1. introduce fundamental research methods for fashion design practice
2. encourage curiosity, explorative approaches, and risk-taking within the subject of fashion design
3. introduce fundamental practical and critical skills required within fashion design
4. foster fundamental independent study and collaborative working skills
5. introduce themes of ethical, societal or environmental challenges
6. develop basic presentation skills to communicate creative ideas visually and verbally in a coherent form

### Course Intended Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course students will be able to:

1. use basic primary and secondary research methods
2. experiment to generate creative responses with familiar and unfamiliar processes and materials relevant for fashion design
3. apply fundamental practical skills and creative processes to generate ideas and project work
4. manage project work within prescribed resources using tutor and peer interaction and feedback to reflect and inform learning
5. recognise ethical, societal or environmental challenges in relation to fashion design
6. demonstrate basic presentation methods and skills to communicate research, development and outputs to peers and tutors

### Indicative Content

The course will introduce students to:

- fundamental primary and secondary research methods
- experimental ways of producing creative ideas and project work
- practical skills associated with fashion design
- skills to manage project requirements, resources and to evaluate feedback
- methods to document, collate and communicate project work verbally and visually
- GSA's learning environments and communities, studio-based projects and practices, peer learning and reflective thinking

### Description of Learning and Teaching Methods

This studio course is designed as a project-based course. Project briefs encourage an independent, tutor-supported approach to directed and self-directed study.

A range of learning and teaching methods are used to support students to engage in an explorative and individual approach to learning. As an indication these include:

- briefings
- inductions and demonstrations
- technical workshops
- studio activities
- individual and group tutorials
- talks, lectures, seminars, and study visits
- group critiques and reviews, peer review, and presentations
- presentations and writing
- reflection and self-evaluation

Skills, including digital, material and technical resources, are introduced through inductions, demonstrations, and workshops.

Independent learning skills will be developed and supported through guided activities and digital online learning resources available on Canvas.

A variety of teaching and learning approaches, including in person, blended and online learning and delivery, are employed to support student engagement with the curriculum and the achievement of the intended learning outcomes.

Indicative Contact Hours	Notional Learning Hours
40	400 hours

#### Description of Formative Assessment and Feedback Methods

Students are supported in their learning through a range of activities with staff and peers, such as workshops, reviews and tutorials offering ongoing formative feedback as they progress through the course.

Formative feedback supports students in developing and refining their project work towards submission for summative assessment.

Formative feedback offers students the opportunity to present the progress of their project work to staff and or peers, receiving feedback to support the development and refinement of their project work towards submission for summative assessment.

#### Description of Summative Assessment Arrangements

Summative assessment is designed to support students to review, collate, and communicate work produced in response to project briefs and learning and teaching activities associated with the course.

Submissions will be assessed and moderated in line with the Code of Assessment, which outlines reassessment opportunities where a student has not passed the course.

Description of Summative Assessment Method	Weight %	Submission week
Students are required to submit a body of work produced in response to project brief/s and learning and teaching activities, which is assessed holistically against the intended learning outcomes for this course.	100%	Semester 1 Week 13

#### Exchange/Study Abroad

Can this course be taken by Exchange/Study Abroad students?	No
Are all the students on the course taught wholly by distance learning?	No
Does this course represent a work placement or a year of study abroad?	No
Is this course collaborative with any other institutions?	No
If yes, then please provide the names of the other teaching institutions	

#### Reading and Online Resources

The course indicative reading and online resource list is accessible via [Resource Lists](#). This list will be reviewed and updated annually to reflect course content and subject developments.