

Glasgow School of Art Course Specification

Course Title:

Fashion Design Studio 2: Origination and Experimentation



Image: Franz Maggs

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 Academic Year.

Course Code	HECOS Code	Academic Session
		2026-27

Course Title	Fashion Design Studio 2: Origination and Experimentation
Course Contact	Prof. Jimmy Stephen-Cran

Credits	40
SCQF Level	11
When Taught	Stage 2, Semester 2

Associated Programmes	MDes Fashion Design
Lead School	School of Design
Other Schools	N/A
Date of Approval	PACAAG April 2026

Course Introduction

This course takes a practice-based approach to support students in originating, developing, and delivering a self-directed project brief. The course emphasises independent and experimental learning supported by tutorials and group critiques, where students can discuss their approach to research, ideas development, and making.

The course fosters a space for students to reflect their interests, skills, and experience into the self-directed project, as well as the learning built in their first Stage of study on the programme.

The learning and teaching approaches support a wide range of investigative methods so that students can generate a substantial body of research and exploratory design development, including testing initial 3D ideas for a silhouette or surface-led collection.

The course encourages students to engage with conceptual and practical considerations, environmental impacts, ethics, and broader socio-economic or cultural contexts to situate their work as reflective practitioners.

Course Aims

The aims of this course are to:

1. enable students to evaluate broader socio-economic, historical, or cultural contexts and how these might inform their fashion practice.
2. support students in developing the beginnings of their specialist collection interests by investigating experimental 2D and 3D approaches to idea development.
3. enable students to work and communicate constructively with others in a variety of educational and professional situations to gain and consider different perspectives of their areas of interest.

4. enable students to begin to test and articulate some of the conceptual and practical considerations associated with their areas of interest.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes

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

1. identify and characterise some of the socio-economic, historical, or cultural contexts relating to their fashion interests and develop an informed response to them within their practice.
2. complete a fashion design project which embeds in-depth analysis of primary and secondary references and employs practical and technical skills to develop and resolve advanced ideas.
3. work constructively with others in a variety of learning activities and debate different viewpoints and positions.
4. apply a significant range of skills and processes associated with the design discipline to critically reflect on and inform their design process and perspective.

Indicative Content

This course will introduce students to:

- primary and secondary research and investigation
- silhouette and surface experimentation
- responsible design considerations
- 2D and 3D experimentation
- technical investigation
- fabric and form experimentation
- final collection development and proposal

Description of Learning and Teaching Methods

This course is designed as a project-based course. Project briefs encourage an independent, tutor-supported approach that emphasises individual and in-depth 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. These can include:

- briefings
- inductions and demonstrations
- technical workshops
- studio activities
- tutorials
- talks, seminars, and study visits

- group critiques and reviews, peer review, peer learning, and presentations
- presentations and writing
- reflection and self-evaluation
- live projects

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.

Indicative Contact Hours	Notional Learning Hours
40	400

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.

Students learn to manage a project from initial concept through to completion. This includes:

- Establishing project timelines
- Setting milestones for research, sampling, toile development, and prototyping

This structured approach helps prevent last-minute stress and supports the development of professional working habits.

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
	100	Semester 2 Week 13

<p>Students are required to submit a body of work produced in response to set project brief/s and learning and teaching activities. Summative assessment formats can take the shape of (multimedia) presentations, contributions to group work, and artefactual or other practical responses. All submissions are assessed holistically against the intended learning outcomes for this course.</p>		
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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 On-line Resources	
<p>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. Tutors and peers will provide further recommendations appropriate to student's chosen area of research and focus.</p>	