Get ready for BA(Hons) Fashion Textiles

I hope that you are looking forward to starting at UWE Bristol. As your Programme Leader, I'd like to welcome you onto **BA(Hons) Fashion Textiles** and say how muchwe are looking forward to working with you.

Please read all the information below as it will help you to prepare for starting with us.

If you are entering direct to the 2nd Year // Level 5 – please read the L5 Entry Summer Project

If you are entering direct into the 3rd Year // Level 6 – please read the L6 Entry Summer Project

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions – we hope you enjoy the project!

All the best,

Deb Southerland
Programme Leader BA Hons Fashion Textiles

Before you start

We are looking forward to welcoming you in the Fashion Textiles Studio on Monday 14 September for Starting Block and the beginning of your programme.

Starting Block will help you settle into university and the Programme and help you get to know your teaching team and course mates. We will help you find your way around, get used to our systems, and organise your inductions into the main Studio and Workshop areas you'll be working in. Look out for further emails and explore the Starting Block website for more details.

Your timetable will be available to you via MYUWE (login required) once you have started the enrolment process. Your main Studio Teaching days will be Mondays and Tuesdays, and you will have Inductions and taught Workshops on other days during the week. Please visit the 'Understanding your teaching timetable' website to find out when your timetable will be published.

Preparing and arrival
You can find everything you need to know about enrolment, Starting Block and the start of teaching, on our Preparing and Arrival webpage. Take a look at our website to familiarise yourself with our facilities and services such as the library, study skills, academic support, health and wellbeing support and much more.

Enrolment
Once you have satisfied all admissions requirements, we'll send you your login details for our IT systems to enable you to activate your university email account. Once your account has been activated, you'll gain access to the MYUWE platform where you can enrol. Note that your login details

for MYUWE are different to those used for the UWE Welcome website. Enrolment for September programmes will only be open from August onwards. You can find guidance and further information on our Enrolment website.

ID card - upload your photo now
We can only print your ID card if you have added your photo to MYUWE. To avoid delays, upload your photo as soon as you receive login details. For help, go to our student card guidance.

Engage with your programme.

Start your learning – Please complete these tasks which we will review when you start in September.

Task 1: The T-Shirt brief // One of the first things we do with all new Students in Starting Block is organise a Photoshoot with the Outcomes of this Summer project. It's a great way for you to get to know each other and to celebrate the very different responses we get to the Brief.

From its origins as men's underwear to its complex role in modern fashion, the T- Shirt is one of the most universally worn items of clothing. Cheap, utilitarian, and comfortable, the T-Shirt has become an essential basic wardrobe item worn by people of all social classes and ages.

The 1960s saw it go from street fashion to haute couture in the collections of such designers as Pierre Balmain and Christian Dior, and then to a political tool in the 1970's and 80's through the work of Designers such as Vivienne Westwood and Katherine Hamnet. Fast forward to the 2020's and the T-Shirt is widely used as an example in the narrative about Fashion's impact on the environment.

No matter which way you look at it – the simple but iconic T-Shirt is a vehicle for individual, social and cultural communication.

For this task we would like you to re-work, transform and add-value an existing T- Shirt*. You might want to completely re-imagine its basic shape using your Pattern Cutting skills, or to combine it with other materials / garments / garment parts to develop a new silhouette. You might choose to reinvent its surface through embellishment, print and surface design – or you might be inspired by the use of text, objects, cut outs or even by its life cycle as a consumer object – it is completely up to you.

We encourage you to be inventive, playful and creative. Your designs could be subtle interventions, radical propositions or magnificent spectacles.....

We will review all the Summer work in the first week.

The following articles have been selected to inspire you and provide context.

- The Surprising History of the White T-shirt
- A brief history of the political t-shirt
- The Future of Fashion Is Circular: Why the 2020s Will Be About Making New Clothes Out of Old Ones

***Please do not buy a new T-Shirt for this project – use one you already own or source second hand from a charity shop.**

Task 2 // Garment Drawing Brief - Develop a body of 30 drawings ofgarments.

These may be garments in yours or your friends / families wardrobes, or garments in museums / galleries. They can be whole garments, or garment details such as interesting pockets, collars, cuffs or shapes. They might have interesting print or embellishment on them, or may be knitted or made from unusual materials.

Experiment with the way that you communicate the fabrics, textures, drape, technical details and construction of the garment. Try out different media and drawing styles and try to capture

as much information as you can. You can use any media you like - pens and pencils, to collage, tape, inks, watercolours, collage, markers – etc, and your drawings can be anything from loose and playful sketches through to resolved technical drawings it's up to you …

You can use any size sketchbook for this, but we recommend nothing smaller than A4.

Task 3 // Read and Listen around your subject

A key skill which is required to achieve a high level of success within your chosen programme is the ability to think critically about key issues and practices affecting Fashion and our interactions with it. To help you to enhance these skills and be ready to engage with your studies, you should start to read and research around your subject before you arrive. Explore the Library web pages to see the wide range of resources available to you once you become a UWE Bristol student.

Here is a core text for you to read, to be inspired by and to start to understand the scope of your subject:
Fashion : A Philosophy, Lars Svendsen, Reaktion 2006

Listen to some of these British Fashion Council Podcasts a series of conversations with Designers and the broader creative Community who play a vital role in the Fashion industry's Creativity and Culture around the Globe.

Take a look at the website links below which contain content that we discuss on the programme:

https://www.businessoffashion.com/
http://showstudio.com/
https://www.nowness.com/
https://nowfashion.com/ http://vestoj.com/

If you have the opportunity to visit any of these Exhibitions – please do! They are taking place all over the UK and there should be something happening near you ! Fashion and textile exhibitions to visit in 2026 - UKFT

Have another look at the Programme presentation and information on the Fashion Textiles New Students Padlet . You can also follow our Instagram.

Be Prepared

Access support

Check the information on our Disability web pages so you know what you need to do. If you need any urgent additional mobility or other support to fully access all activities during your studies, contact me as your programme leader.

Get equipped

The University has computers on all our campuses for you to use during your studies. These provide access to our core digital learning tools and any specialist software required for your course. You may have scheduled sessions in computer labs or other specialist facilities, and you will be able to use open-access PCs for self-study.

UWE Bristol licenses many specialist software packages for use on personal laptops for the duration of your course. If you're struggling to meet the financial demands of your course, please contact the Student Money Service team for advice and guidance.

See the UWE website for detailed information on choosing your IT equipment including recommended specifications.

For this programme we recommend the **Enhanced or Intensive Specification for Laptops**.

Specialist applications used on the course include: **Adobe Software**. These applications work on **Windows and Mac** devices but not on tablets or Chromebooks.

For your Studio work
Before you start the programme you will need the following tools and materials.

Drawing equipment	**Pattern cutting equipment from Morplan**
A4 and A3 sketchbooks	Pattern Master
Notebook	Fabric shears (good quality)
Variety of drawing pencils and sharpener	Paper scissors (good quality)
Fine liner pens with different nib thicknesses	Tracing wheel
Paper scissors and scalpel	Pins
Coloured Drawing Pencils	Measuring tape
Eraser	Awl
Watercolour set	Tailors Chalk
Masking tape	Skirt curve
Pritt stick	Unpicker
Gouache paints	Colour felt tip pens (fine) = marking out when making pattern alterations; Red, Green, Blue.
Indian ink and selection of coloured inks	Notchers - used to take small nicks out of pattern both paper and card.
Selection of brushes	
30CM Steel ruler	
Charcoal	
Graphite sticks	

International students

The Global Student Support Team offer information and advice to ensure you receive all the support you need to get the best from your time at UWE Bristol. They are here to help you to settle in when you first arrive at UWE Bristol and organise social events to help you to adapt to your new environment.

Who to contact if you have questions

For any questions about the programme, please contact me: **Deb Southerland** via email at deborah.southerland@uwe.ac.uk

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Please note: this information has been provided on the assumption that you will meet the conditions of your offer and be eligible to take up your place.

Entry: September 2026 Last updated: Spring 2026