

Postgraduate Programme Specification

Programme Name

This specification provides a summary of the main features of the programme and learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate where full advantage is taken of all learning opportunities offered. Further details on the learning, teaching and assessment approach for the programme and modules can be accessed on the University website and Virtual Learning Environment, GCU Learn. All programmes of the University are subject to the University's [Quality Assurance](#) processes.

1. GENERAL INFORMATION			
Programme Title	Sustainable Fashion Business		
Final Award	Master of Science in Sustainable Fashion Business (with Professional Practice)		
Awarding Body	Glasgow Caledonian University		
School	GCU London		
Department	GCU London / British School of Fashion SUFAPP		
Mode of Study	Full-time		
Location of Delivery	GCU London; online/distance learning subject to availability		
UCAS Code	NA		
Accreditations (PSRB)			
Period of Approval	From:		To: <input type="text"/>

2. EDUCATIONAL AIMS OF PROGRAMME
<p>The fashion industry faces many challenges, including, and not limited to the climate crisis, ever increasing social inequality, and the continuing impact of the global pandemic. Therefore, fashion businesses operating in a more sustainable and responsible way whilst ensuring a profitable future has become a very complex situation. This programme is a direct response to the challenges faced by the fashion industry, and therefore directly reflects a growing industry priority for circularity and end-of-life strategies across fashion businesses and fashion supply chains.</p> <p>The co-creation, dissemination and industry application of fashion business knowledge are the principal activities of the British School of Fashion, and as with all the British School of Fashion programmes, this programme continues the innovative pattern already set. Designed in collaboration with leading industry experts in the field of fashion and/or sustainability, this programme (which focuses on sustainability within the fashion and fashion-related sectors as the initiator of innovation and solution to challenges faced in the sector), provides the next generation of responsible fashion business leaders with a comprehensive understanding of the complex challenges faced by businesses operating in a responsible way.</p> <p>Structured around three pillars: the development of sustainable business models and practices, analysis and measurement of sustainable impact and the marketing of purpose-led brands, this programme is clearly aligned to current and future industry needs, and is founded upon robust, contemporary academic thinking. The pedagogical approach supports the delivery of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (in particular UN SDG Goal 4 – Quality Education), and with</p>

regards to Strategy for Learning (SfL) / learning and teaching, it specifically 'ensures that all students acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development' throughout all fashion business activities. The teaching, learning and assessment strategies used in this programme are based around the GCU SfL 2030, which aims to "... deliver "Transformative Education" through: excellence in learning, teaching and assessment; inclusive, research-led and enquiry-based pedagogies and practice; and outstanding student support – all set within the guiding framework of the SDGs." Equally, all 8 of GCU's pedagogic principles shapes the content and design of the programme; with a particular focus on principle #5 - supporting students in being responsible citizens and deliver on positive societal challenges. In addition to this, guidance, jointly published by QAA and Advance HE, Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), which reflects changes in understanding about and priorities in sustainable development is used to further support curriculum design. Building directly on these values and principles, the programme also embeds the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME); using them as the basis to inform the teaching of responsible practices.

This globally-focussed and innovative programme is for students who want a career in fashion business, as it brings both practical and theoretical insights together in a bold new approach; equipping students with the necessary specialist knowledge and strategic skills to lead complex fashion businesses through current and future sustainability challenges, as well as rise to strategic opportunities. Students will gain a portfolio of skills and knowledge that will give them a strong grounding in both fashion business practices and the application of innovative thinking in a commercially-responsible context. The programme is particularly suitable for students who have previously studied business at undergraduate level and who wish to develop a deeper understanding of the tools and techniques available to manage, develop and encourage sustainable behaviours in the fashion industry. However, the programme may also appeal to students who come from a non-business/creative background who are simply committed to developing a career in the fashion business arena.

Staff at GCU London and the British School of Fashion are at the forefront of this developing discipline, with academics contributing to key literature, undertaking research directly relevant to fashion ethics, sustainability and innovation, and engaging in consultancy projects with leading international brands and NGO's. Equally, GCU's strong partnerships with major international fashion businesses and NGO's committed to responsible business practices, will provide students with rewarding work-based learning opportunities, such as industry-led workshops and seminars, internships and/or research-based consultancy projects. Industry interaction includes: Guest lectures from key industry specialists (a distinguished range of influential industry figures whose roles as Honorary Professors bring enormous benefit to students through knowledge-sharing and mentoring); and problem-based learning via industry-led workshops / bootcamps and simulations.

In addition to the standard one-year MSc Sustainable Fashion Business, an optional two-year route is offered with the addition of a trimester of Professional Practice leading to the MSc Sustainable Fashion Business with Professional Practice.

The primary aim of this programme is to bring strategic thinking, sustainability and innovation to the forefront, by providing an analytical and integrative understanding of sustainable fashion business practices. Thus, equipping fashion business students with real-world skills and the essential toolkit to create or develop responsible business strategies; strategies that keep people and planet at the heart of strategic thinking.

Specifically, the educational aims are stated as follows:

- Develop skills to critically analyse sustainability developments and strategies in the fashion business environment from an interdisciplinary and international perspective.
- Develop a critical awareness of the complex ethical issues entailed in managing a fashion business that crosses both international and socio-cultural boundaries.
- Develop skills required to analyse and understand sustainable strategic business practices which impact on financial and operational performance.
- Collaborate and accelerate business innovation towards the SDGs; using the SDGs as a catalyst for the development of sustainable business strategy and practices.
- Develop the ability to research, debate and critically evaluate issues relating to ethics and sustainability in the fashion industry; whilst engaging critically with the contemporary theoretical underpinnings of business and management
- Develop a critical understanding of relevant research and problem solving techniques and methodologies, and apply these to an independent research project relating to an appropriate work based problem
- Develop personal and transferable skills related to independent research, competently communicating alternative approaches; critical thinking, group working, information communication technology (ICT), time management and inter-personal communication.

3. LEARNING OUTCOMES

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills, qualities and other attributes in the following areas:

A: Knowledge and understanding;

A1 Critically understand principles, policies and values relevant to the Principles of Responsible Management (PRME) agenda within a fashion business context

A2 Develop analytical tools and frameworks for measuring sustainability impacts (social and environmental)

A3 Critical awareness of sustainability strategies across key business pillars and their impact on the environment and supply chain

A4 Develop a theoretical and a practical understanding of real-world issues, identifying responsible decision making and ethically driven behaviours from a cross-cultural and diversity perspective

A5 Detailed and critical knowledge of embedding sustainability within the decision-making practices of the fashion business

A6 Develop knowledge, skills and attributes that when implemented, will contribute to improved sustainability credentials of a fashion/fashion-related organisation

B: Practice: Applied knowledge, skills and understanding;

B1 Application of the United Nations SDGs as a catalyst and benchmark for the development of sustainable business practices

B2 Analyse complex organisational problems from the point of view of sustainability using advanced research methodologies and critically evaluate their effectiveness

B3 Demonstrate originality, insight and innovation in tackling and solving problems

B4 Reflect on personal learning and development (critical reflection) in matters relating to sustainability in the fashion and fashion-related industries

B5 Exhibit commercial acumen showing an ability to innovate and demonstrate an awareness of risk

B6 Critically analyse and professionally present data linked to sustainability reporting according to accepted international norms

B7 Select and proficiently apply an appropriate research methodology to the analysis of a complex current sustainability problem, develop and present in a professional manner

C: Generic cognitive skills;

C1 Effective leadership and team working skills, including cross-cultural sensitivity, team-building and project management in group work situations

C2 Numeracy and quantitative skills in interpreting financial and statistical data

C3 Inter-cultural awareness: understanding different perspectives, multi-cultural sensitivity and appreciation and development of a global mindset

C4 Inter-personal and group working skills including questioning and listening, influencing and persuading, advising others and giving feedback

C5 Research skills: information retrieval and collection; data analysis and synthesis.

C6 Ethical decision-making, negotiation and conflict resolution skills: analyse complex organisational sustainability problems and propose adequate solutions

C7 Planning and time-management; organising and planning work; self-management and independent working

D: Communication, numeracy and ICT skills

D1 Communicate effectively to different audiences by collecting and presenting data in a variety of formats, and to a professional standard

D2 Professionalism in the use of a range of oral communications techniques when articulating ideas and concepts

D3 Effective use of communication and digital technologies to present ideas, analyse problems and develop clear and concise conclusions and recommendations

D4 Report and project writing skills

E: Autonomy, accountability and working with others.

E1 Exercise substantial autonomy and initiative over their learning, whilst being able to manage own time and resources effectively

E2 Work effectively in a peer relationship and/or with specialist practitioners; recognising challenges and opportunities associated with team working

E3 Demonstrate leadership and/or initiative

E4 Practise in ways which draw on critical reflection on own and others' roles and responsibilities

E5 Manage complex ethical and professional issues and make informed judgements

4. LEARNING AND TEACHING METHODS

The programme provides a variety of learning and teaching methods. Programme and Module specific guidance will provide detail of the learning and teaching methods specific to each module.

Across the programme the learning and teaching methods and approaches may include the following:

- Lectures
- Seminars
- Practical classes
- Placements
- Simulation experiences
- Groupwork
- Flipped classroom approaches
- Online learning

The above approaches may be delivered either in person or online as appropriate and determined at module level by the Module Leader.

5. ASSESSMENT METHODS

The programme provides a variety of formative and summative assessment methods. Programme and Module specific guidance will provide detail of the assessment methods specific to each module.

Across the programme the assessment methods may include the following:

- Written coursework (essays, reports, case studies, dissertation, literature review)
- Oral coursework (presentations, structured conversations)
- Practical Assessment (Placement, VIVA, Laboratory work)
- Group work
- Blogs and Wikis
- Portfolio Presentations
- Formal Examinations and Class Tests

The above assessments may be delivered either in person and online as appropriate and determined at module level by the Module Leader.

6. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Specific entry requirements for this programme can be found on the prospectus and study pages on the GCU website at this location: www.gcu.ac.uk/study

The Course webpage specific to this Programme is:

All students entering the programme are required to adhere to the [GCU Code of Student Conduct](#).

7. PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND AVAILABLE AND FINAL EXIT AWARDS¹

The following modules are delivered as part of this programme: **Modules as example for TriA Entry SUFAPP**

Module Code	Module Title	Core or Optional	SCQF Level	Credit Size	Coursework %	Examination %	Practical %
TriA.1	SUFABU/SUFAPP						
MMW226467	International Marketing Concepts for Ethical and Sustainable Practice*	Core	11	15			
MMN22001	Career Planning and Professional Development	Core	11	15			
New module Proposal 936	Circular Fashion Systems*	Core	11	15			
MMN430180	Ethics, Sustainability and Governance*	Core	11	15			
TriB.1	SUFABU/SUFAPP						
MMN225006	Introduction to Research Methods	Core	11	15			
New module Proposal 918	Fashion Business Models and Performance Optimisation*	Core	11	15			
New module Proposal 933	Responsible Business Measurements and Accountability*	Core	11	15			
New module Proposal 935	Sustainable fashion supply chain management*	Core	11	15			
TriC.1	SUFAPP						
	Holiday Trimester / Resit Period	NA	NA	NA			
TriA.2	SUFAPP						
MMN225007	Research Project	Core	11	60			
TriB.2	SUFAPP						
MMW226498	Professional Practice: Work Experience*	Optional	11	60			
MMW226494	Professional Practice: Consultancy Project*	Optional	11	60			
MMW226500	Professional Practice: Entrepreneurial Bootcamp*	Optional	11	60			
MMW226495	Professional Practice: Intercultural Competence*	Optional	11	60			
MMW226497	Professional Practice: Research Project*	Optional	11	60			

¹ Periodically, programmes and modules may be subject to change or cancellation. Further information on this can be found on the GCU website here: www.gcu.ac.uk/currentstudents/essentials/policiesandprocedures/changesandcancellationtoprogrammes

Students undertaking the programme on a full-time basis commencing in September of each year will undertake the modules in the order presented above. This may be subject to variation for students commencing the programme at other times of year (e.g. January) and/or undertaking the programme on a part-time or distance learning mode of delivery.

The following final and early Exit Awards are available from this programme²:

Master of Science in Master of Science in Sustainable Fashion Business - *achieved upon successful completion of 240 credits which must include the modules asterisked above and one of the Professional Practice modules marked with **

8. ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS

Students should expect to complete their programme of study under the GCU Assessment Regulations that were in place at the commencement of their studies on that programme, unless proposed changes to University Regulations are advantageous to students. These can be found at:
www.gcu.ac.uk/aboutgcu/supportservices/qualityassuranceandenhancement/regulationsandpolicies

In addition to the GCU Assessment Regulations noted above, this programme is subject to Programme Specific Regulations in line with the following approved Exceptions:

Case No:

Details:

² Please refer to the [GCU Qualifications Framework](#) for the minimum credits required for each level of award and the Programme Handbook for requirements on any specified or prohibited module combinations for each award.

VERSION CONTROL (to be completed in line with AQPP processes) Any changes to the PSP must be recorded below by the programme team to ensure accuracy of the programme of study being offered.			
<i>Version Number</i>	<i>Changes/Updates</i>	<i>Date Changes/Updates made</i>	<i>Date Effective From</i>
1.0			