

TEXTILES

Student profile

Yasmine Wymer, from Norwich
BA (Hons) Textiles



The course has created an ambition in me

Before I came to NUCA I wasn't really fussed about the future. Now I'm really driven to go on and do something with my life. I want to work freelance or for a design company in the fashion industry.

I'm from Norwich and feel really lucky to have such a well known arts institution on my doorstep. It specialises in the arts, which means everyone is on the same wavelength. You'll bump into people in the corridors and have the same interests.

I specialise in weave but am free to use other techniques that allow me to develop it in different ways. Recently I weaved a fabric, scanned it and zoomed in through Photoshop to find interesting textures, then digitally printed it and put it through the laser cutter.

You need to be independent and manage your time properly. It took a while for me to adjust but I had some support, especially from students in other years which was reassuring and self-motivational.

See a film about Yasmine at: www.nuca.ac.uk/itunes

Textiles

THE COURSE

The BA(Hons) Textiles course balances its focus between the development of your creativity as a designer and the strengthening of your technical skills in a range of practices.

The course develops you into an industry-ready practitioner able to turn your hand to print (screen and digital), weave, knit, stitch, computer-aided design and drawing. Throughout the course's duration you may choose to specialise in one of these techniques or maintain a broad range of approaches, having enjoyed the freedom to progress in any area of textile practice.

You are challenged to create a body of practical work in response to set projects that engage you with real-world textiles practices. You are encouraged to be innovative with your design ideas and explore a range of contexts in which to develop your personal approach to textiles.

Lectures, seminars and tutorials with a range of exciting visiting lecturers provide constant sources of inspiration. Recent lecturers have included Sarah Angold (Sarah Angold Studio), Ptolemy Mann (woven textile artist), Christopher Pearson (Christopher Pearson Studio) and Zoe Miller (designer, Cockpit Arts). Regular tutorial feedback and peer group debates give you an opportunity to reflect on your own ideas and consider the direction of your creative development.

Throughout the degree course the emphasis remains on developing an approach and a skillset that are firm foundations for employment in the creative industries. Through this approach you are encouraged to find your own individual direction in textiles design and creation.

HOW THE COURSE IS TAUGHT

Year One

Intensive induction workshops in printed textiles, knit, weave and stitch introduce you to a range of practical textile processes and strengthen your technical abilities. Alongside these practical activities you attend a series of drawing workshops which support your visual research and development. The course encourages students to cultivate their creativity through experimentation with combinations of processes and you tackle a diverse range of projects aimed at developing your conceptual skills. On an ongoing basis you are challenged to evaluate and reflect on your personal development by lecturers who are practising creatives in the field of textiles.

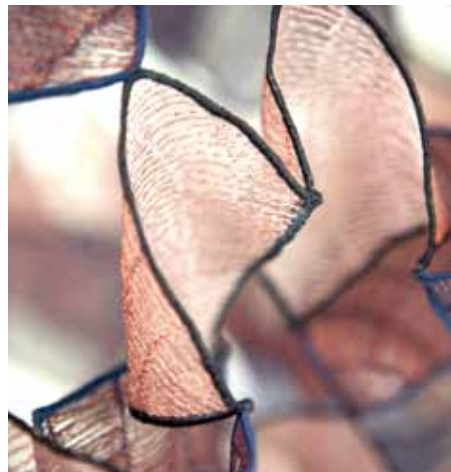
Year Two

Projects include competition entries and live project briefs as you are encouraged to develop a greater level of independence in your studies. While emphasis remains on developing the skills you acquired in Year One you now put more consideration into the context for your work.

Continued tutorial support is reinforced through guest lectures from artists and designers working within textile related fields. Provision is made in the course structure for you to engage in a work placement to provide valuable contextualisation of your work, insight into potential career paths and experience of business development and marketing. You will also have an opportunity to travel to Paris and New York visiting international trade shows and design studios.

Year Three

A major project or series of projects developing your ideas to much greater depth than before leads you to refine and consolidate your practice with supporting elements of academic writing. While tutorial support continues you enjoy your independence in exploring your specific interests. Your final work reflects the depth and rigour of your practice and your experiences throughout the planning, development and production of your final work prepares you for potential employment or further study.



From top:
Screen printing workshop; Work by
Andrew Budds.

Opposite page, clockwise from top:
Guest lecture by Sachio Yoshioka;
Student study space; Digital print
facility; Work by Gemma Ormrod.

Textiles

RESOURCES

All students have their own dedicated workspaces in which to work on their projects as well as meeting for group crit sessions. The course facilities include workshops equipped with a range of equipment including a digital fabric printer, a laser cutting machine, digital embroidery machines, domestic sewing machines, a range of knitting machines, a rug tufting gun, a range of weaving looms and screenprinting and dyeing facilities. These workshops are manned by a team of dedicated full-time technicians and students in all years have access to this equipment for the duration of their study, whatever their specialisation.

YOUR FUTURE

This course enables you to develop your practical textiles skills across a broad range of traditional and new textiles processes. You are encouraged to strengthen your own technical skills, develop your own practice and ideas and obtain real-world experience in readiness for entering textiles and related industries.

Work placements have included Rob Ryan (Ryan Town London), Tissues D'Helene (Chelsea Harbour), Rodger La Borde and

Zandra Rhodes. Graduates have also gone on to work for companies such as DKNY and Cath Kidston or set up their own businesses as designers and makers.

The course continues to develop a national reputation, most recently evident in the award of three major prizes in the national Bradford Textile Society competition, including the President's Prize for outstanding work. Students are selected from the course to exhibit work at the New Designers Fair in London every year, providing a national showcase to potential employers, retailers and commissioners.

Students who successfully complete their undergraduate studies are also able to progress to a range of MA courses at NUCA, in particular MA Textile Design.

COURSE INFORMATION

This course is available at BA (Hons) Degree.
 UCAS Code: N39
 Course Code: W230
 Contact: textiles@nuca.ac.uk
For further information visit:
www.nuca.ac.uk/batextiles

Alumnus profile

Sam Wingate
Designer, Maker at Mr Wingate in London
Graduating Year: 2005



NUCA gave me confidence to enter the market

I opened my studio in London soon after graduating. It took some time to build up business and initially I worked in several part-time jobs including assisting artists, teaching craft to prisoners and working as a technician at London College of Fashion.

I design and produce a range of hand printed textiles based around illustration and printing. I run all aspects of the company. My product range continues

to have success and my work has been featured in magazines such as the Observer's Sunday Magazine, Grazia and Living Etc.

I have just begun supplying my hand printed cushions to Selfridges. I would like to grow my business. I have ambitions to open up a small production unit, where my products can continue being hand printed and produced in the UK.