



Course Handbook

Foundation Degree in Visual Merchandising & Promotional Design

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Please read this Handbook in conjunction with the University's Student Handbook.

All course materials, **including** lecture notes and other additional materials related to your course and provided to you, whether electronically or in hard copy, as part of your study, are the property of (or licensed to) UCLan and **MUST** not be distributed, sold, published, made available to others or copied other than for your personal study use unless you have gained written permission to do so from the Head of School. This applies to the materials in their entirety and to any part of the materials.

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1. Welcome to the Course

Welcome to your UCLan Higher Education (HE) course at the Hugh Baird University Centre. We offer a friendly and supportive learning environment and the tailored support you need to be successful. Class sizes are small and tutors use varied teaching and learning methods to meet your needs. Our staff are also used to working with people of all ages and recognise that your work and life experience are an asset. As a friendly community of staff and students our aim is to give you an excellent educational experience. I hope you will enjoy this year and find your course challenging, stimulating, enjoyable and rewarding.

This Handbook provides a quick guide to what is offered at the college, what we aim to help you to achieve and what we expect of you. It also provides information about support services and regulations that you need to know.

We want you to achieve your academic and personal potential, to develop networks of friends, new interests and life skills. To achieve this, we want you to:

- **Work hard** - we expect you to attend lectures, seminars and workshops, as students with good attendance will achieve the best degrees overall. Plan your workload and think carefully about how to manage your reading and preparation for written assignments and practical work.
- **Enjoy your time at college** - studying on an HE course is also about having new experiences, making friends, finding new interests, and learning to create a balance between work and social life. Make sure you find time to take advantage of enrichment activities or sports facilities and get involved with student committees. Look after yourself and make sure you know about student wellbeing resources for information and support.
- **Make use of the support that is available to you** - I am sure you will have a great year but don't forget that there are many services available if you need them.

I wish you every success during your time at the Hugh Baird University Centre.

Colette Mawdsley

Assistant Principal Higher Skills

1.1 Rationale, aims and learning outcomes of the course

Firstly, a warm welcome from the Course Team. We hope you will enjoy your time with us and achieve your aims.

The course team consists of the academic and technical staff who contribute to your course. The academic staff take responsibility for the delivery of the content of your modules, but

they also have other many roles including research, overseas development, marketing and publicity, etc.

Your course is also supported by a number of facilitators who induct you into the workshops and the use of technical resources, demonstrate craft and technical processes and/or assist individual students with the production of work. They are a team of well-qualified individuals who assist students across a range of courses.

When we created your course, we began by considering a number of things:

- What knowledge and skills you are likely to have at the beginning of your course
- What knowledge and skills will be expected by the employers when you begin your career
- The range of expertise and professional experience of your tutors
- What standards are required for the various awards that we offer (the UK's 'Framework for Higher Education')
- What is generally expected to form a significant part of the curriculum of a course of this title (the UK's 'National Subject Benchmark' statements)

In the above we were informed by our experience, both as educators and practitioners, and by external reference points. Once we considered these key points, we blocked the responses into a number of modules, each with Aims and Learning Outcomes. You can think of Aims and Learning Outcomes as the 'DNA' that ultimately shapes the form and content of your degree. We've reprinted the aims for your course below and throughout the following sections you'll develop a sense of what the learning rationale of your course is; you'll find the overarching learning outcomes for your course in the programme specification.

On successful completion of the course you will be awarded a Foundation Degree in Visual Merchandising & Promotional Design awarded by the University of Central Lancashire.

Aims of the Programme
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To widen and increase participation in higher education by delivering vocational knowledge and skills needed for employment through work-focussed learning.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To facilitate the acquisition of knowledge, understanding and skills in relation to creative thinking and innovation in Visual Merchandising and Promotional Design.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To provide students with an effective balance between education and practical application by promoting self-development and creative expression, intellectual enquiry and the visual communication of ideas underpinned by the acquisition of transferable, technical and practical skills and knowledge.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To equip students with the skills, knowledge and understanding for versatility and confidence, relevant to the needs of clients and employment in the retail design sector. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To give students a progression route to advance, where appropriate, towards other qualifications, for example, an Honours Degree and Masters qualifications. |

1.2 Expertise of Staff

All staff who deliver on the course have extensive course related industry and/or educational experience and have qualifications up to MA level in related subjects. The staff regularly complete work experience opportunities within their subject areas, which allows them to keep up to date with current industry trends and standards.

Staff profiles can be accessed on the Hugh Baird University Centre website.

1.3 Administration Details

At the Hugh Baird University Centre, all enquiries should be made to: enquiries@hughbaird.ac.uk or via telephone on 0151 353 4444.

Further information can be found on the website at:

www.hughbaird.ac.uk/university-centre

At UCLan, Academic Registry provides a range of services to support the student journey from enrolment to graduation. The Academic Registry is responsible for course administration and supports the University's academic Schools and Faculties. Teams in the Academic Registry provide information and guidance on student records, change of circumstances and academic appeals. Services within Academic Registry operate from **8.45am until 5.15pm Monday to Thursday and until 4.00pm on Fridays**. Contact information can be found at:

https://www.uclan.ac.uk/students/support/course_admin_service.php.

1.4 Communication

In order to access communication from UCLan, the University expects you to use your UCLan email address and check regularly for messages from staff. If you send us email messages from other addresses they risk being filtered out as potential spam and discarded unread.

At Hugh Baird University Centre, the course leader will set up a course e-mail account that will allow staff to e-mail all students from the group. Additionally, email is checked daily and students should expect a prompt reply to their query.

Student Zone is a new system set up by the College that can be accessed via the College website for staff and students to share information. The course team will up-load relevant course information that will allow the student easy access for example module resources, course handbook, Harvard referencing, copyright information, deadline dates and times and project briefs.

During induction week you will be enrolled into the library and shown how to use College email, the library systems and College IT facilities, including Microsoft Teams. You will also be shown how to access your university systems such as MyUCLan.

2. Structure of the Course

2.1 Overall Structure

Integrated Foundation Entry (Level 3)

FULL TIME

Year 1

Semester 1	Semester 2
AZC017 FDE Introduction to Specialisms (60 Credits)	
AZC018 FDE Specialisms (60 Credits)	

Part Time – over two years

Year 1

Semester 1	Semester 2
AZC017 FDE Introduction to Specialisms (60 Credits)	

Year 2

Semester 1	Semester 2
AZC018 FDE Specialisms (60 Credits)	

Foundation Degree (Levels 4 and 5)**Full time (Year 1)**

Semester 1	Semester 2
DD1000 Design Context 1 (20 credits)	
IN1012 Visual Merchandising (40 credits)	
IN1011 Digital Solutions (20 credits)	
IN1010 Promotional Design (40 credits)	

Full time (Year 2)

Semester 1	Semester 2
DD2000 Design Context 2 (20 credits)	
IN2012 Visual Merchandising and Promotional Design (40 credits)	
IN2013 Professional Practice (20 credits)	
IN2011 Advanced Model Making (20 credits)	
IN2015 Digital Solutions 2 (20 credits)	

Part time (3 years recommended)

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 4	Semester 5	Semester 6
DD1000 Design Context 1 (20 credits)		IN1010 Promotional Design (40 credits)		IN2012 Merchandising and Promotional Design (40 credits)	Visual and
IN1011 Digital Solutions (20 credits)		DD2000 Design Context 2 (20 credits)		IN2013 Professional Practice (20 credits)	
IN1012 Merchandising (40 credits)	Visual	IN2015 Digital Solutions 2 (20 credits)		IN2011 Advanced Model Making (20 credits)	

The course will be delivered in the Hugh Baird University Centre and the Hugh Baird College Balliol Building.

Please note that all modules are mandatory.

The overarching UCLan programme specification is attached to the back of this handbook. Where the modules listed therein may differ slightly from those listed above, this is the result of a validated agreement between the University Centre and UCLan, whereby the modules listed above shall be those on offer at the Hugh Baird University Centre.

2.2 Modules Available

Each module is a self-contained block of learning with defined aims, learning outcomes and assessment. A standard module is worth 20 credits. It equates to the learning activity expected from one sixth of a full-time undergraduate year. Modules may be developed as double or triple modules with credit allocated up to a maximum of 120 credits per module.

2.3 Course Requirements

All modules are compulsory. For entry requirements see programme specification.

As a student undertaking this course, you are bound by the Code of Conduct as specified by **Hugh Baird College and the University Centre** and subject to the UCLan procedure for the consideration of Fitness to Practise.

2.4 Module Registration Options

Discussions about your progression through the course normally take place in February each year. It is an opportunity for you to make plans for your study over the next academic

year. The course team will tell you about the various modules / combinations available and you will both agree on the most appropriate (and legal) course of study for you.

2.5 Study Time

2.5.1 Weekly timetable

A timetable will be available once you have enrolled onto the programme.

Your timetable is likely to consist of:

Integrated Foundation Entry (Level 3)

Year 1 full time:

- Up to 14 hours of taught sessions per week

Year 1 part time

- Up to 7 hours of taught sessions per week

Year 2 part time

- Up to 7 hours of taught sessions per week

Part time students may be in-filled with full time students.

Foundation Degree (Levels 4 and 5)

Year 1 full time:

- Up to 14 hours of taught sessions per week
- **Year 2 full time:**
- Up to 14 hours of taught sessions per week

Year 1 part time

- Up to 7 hours of taught sessions per week

Year 2 part time

- Up to 7 hours of taught sessions per week

Year 3 part time

- Up to 7 hours of taught sessions per week

Part time students may be in-filled with full time students.

Additionally for each year:

- Self-directed study
- Work based learning opportunities
- Enrichment activities, designed to help you meet people from other areas of the College, try out new skills and develop new interests.

2.5.2 Expected hours of study

20 credits is a standard module size and equals 200 notional learning hours.

The normal amount of work involved in achieving a successful outcome to your studies is to study for 10 hours per each credit you need to achieve – this includes attendance at the Hugh Baird University Centre and time spent in private study.

Your modules have been designed for teaching and independent learning to be completed in a set amount of time – each credit studied requires 10 hours of study. So a 20 credit module will require you to commit to 200 learning hours and 40 credit module, 400 learning hours. Full time students study 120 credits so over each year you will study, in total, 1200 hours. The academic calendar identifies 30 study and assessment weeks spread over two semesters of approximately 15 weeks each, so a full time students' learning should average 40 hours per week. If you find that you are regularly exceeding this amount, or regularly finishing your weekly studies in less time, then you should speak to module tutors.

Part-time students study modules in exactly the same way as full-time students, you just study less at any time. If you need advice or guidance about the amount of time you should spend in study, speak to your Course Tutor.

For a 20 credit module, where the taught component is 60 hours, you should spend approximately 140 hours in independent study. Occasionally you may find modules where the contact hours are greater or less than the 60-hour norm. This is because of the nature of the module but you'll find this is compensated for in other modules. However, no matter how the contact hours and independent study hours are split up, no module requires more or less than 10 hours' study per credit and so you should still be spending approximately 40 hours per week in study if you are a full time student (speak to staff if you are not achieving or exceeding this amount).

2.5.3 Attendance Requirements

You are required to attend all timetabled learning activities for each module. Notification of illness or exceptional requests for leave of absence must be made to your module tutor.

No modules or sessions are optional. Please be aware that attendance is closely monitored and may affect decisions taken about you in assessment boards or in the provision of references. There is a 95% attendance target.

Student attendance is recorded electronically and if you are absent for more than 28 days without contact, we reserve the right to inform your grant office or student loan company. If you are unable to attend as a result of illness, accident or serious family problems (or other personal reasons) you must notify your course tutor before the start of class.

Notification of illness or exceptional requests for leave of absence must be made to your Course tutor via email.

If you have not gained the required authorisation for leave of absence, do not respond to communications from the University and if you are absent for four weeks or more, you may be deemed to have withdrawn from the course. If this is the case, then the date of withdrawal will be recorded as the last day of attendance.

3. Approaches to Teaching and Learning

3.1 Learning and Teaching methods

As we created the modules that constitute your course, we considered the following:

Your experience of study must be a holistic one; each module should be fully integrated within the total course of study;

Much of the focus of the teaching, especially during level 4, is aimed at forming the student body into a fully functioning group. It is important that you, as part of your learning, should develop a sense of the needs of others and become equally responsible for all aspects of the group's development. When, as occurs in group work, you rely on the presence and contribution of others for your own progression, a mutual contract is made between all parties and the exploitation of this commitment is essential to both educational and personal development.

3.2 Study Skills

At the Hugh Baird University Centre, study skills will be provided by a variety of staff. The Personal Development Coaches will lead on this and sessions will be arranged for all students. Communication regarding these and any other sessions will be sent out by the Personal Development Coaches.

To access UCLan's Study Skills - 'Ask Your Librarian'

https://www.uclan.ac.uk/students/support/study/it_library_trainer.php

You can book a one to one session with a subject Librarian via Starfish. These sessions will help with questions such as

- "My lecturer says I need a wider variety of sources in my references, what do I do?"
- "I need to find research articles, where do I start?"
- "How do I find the Journal of ...?"
- "How do I use RefWorks?"

3.3 Learning Resources

3.3.1 Learning and Information Services (LIS)

For UCLan resources, the best place to start when exploring the Library resources available to you is;

- Your 'Subject Guide' can be found in the [Library Resources](#)
- Your 'My Library' tab in the [Student Portal](#)
- [Library search](#)

- Your module reading list - this can be found in your electronic module space.

The Hugh Baird University Centre has a full range of printing facilities, media studio, editing suite, dedicated HE study areas for independent study and two well stocked Library Learning Centres. Here you will find an extensive range of resources available to support your studies provided by the Hugh Baird University Centre and your partner university. Your course team works closely with the learning resources department to ensure that your primary learning needs are met. In addition, you will have access to journals and the electronic resources at UCLan. These include e-journals and databases, e-books, images and texts.

For library opening times please visit the Hugh Baird University Centre website.

3.3.2 Electronic Resources

The course MS TEAMS PAGE also houses many resources that are kept up to date by your course team.

3.4 Personal Development Planning

PDP is designed to:

- Enable you to work towards a point you would like to be at on graduation;
- Help you acquire the skills needed for your chosen career;
- Evaluate your strengths and plan to deploy them in a range of situations during study and after graduation.

PDP starts at the beginning of the first year and will vary from course to course, but the aim on all courses is that on graduation you will be well prepared for industry, demonstrating your skills, knowledge and capabilities in a variety of settings.

As a student, it is important that you tie together the modules you are studying concurrently and to trace your progression throughout the three levels of study. One of the purposes of using a journal is to enable you to remember the details of the taught sessions and to reflect on how successful you were in absorbing and applying the content, both then and now, within your working process. But whatever mechanism you prefer it is important that all students should reflect on their progress and identify successful changes to work or learning patterns that will assist you to become a 'better' student.

We aim to train you to take responsibility for your own learning and career development, to be able to evaluate your strengths and weaknesses and conduct a skills audit to develop a critical practice. This covers analysis of your key skills base (use of English, literacy and writing skills, numeracy, communication skills and use of IT) and you will be encouraged to evaluate your strengths and weakness on a continual basis as you progress through different points during the course.

Many of the conversations that you will have with your tutors are intended to cause you to reflect on the work that you have completed; but they also intend you to look forward and build upon this success or perhaps to challenge a working practice that is limiting your development. Within PDP, you should consider how your learning and working processes

should evolve to enable greater creative success and therefore greater personal satisfaction achieved through learning!

3.5 Preparing for your Career

For UCLan Careers support, you can access what is available at:

<https://www.uclan.ac.uk/careeredge>

For careers support from the Hugh Baird University Centre, please contact the Personal Development Coaches. Your future is important to us, so to make sure that you achieve your full potential whilst at university and beyond, your course has been designed with employability learning integrated into it. This is not extra to your degree, but an important part of it, which will help you to show future employers just how valuable your degree is. These "Employability Essentials" take you on a journey of development that will help you to write your own personal story of your time at university:

- To begin with, you will explore your identity, your likes and dislikes, the things that are important to you and what you want to get out of life.
- Later, you will investigate a range of options including jobs and work experience, postgraduate study and self-employment,
- You will then be ready to learn how to successfully tackle the recruitment process.

It's your future: take charge of it!

4. Student Support

At the Hugh Baird University Centre, the **Health & Wellbeing Officer** offers information and advice to students relating to all aspects of leading a healthy lifestyle both inside and outside College. Information and advice are offered in many areas including:

- Sexual health
- Nutrition
- Stopping smoking
- Healthy living
- Staying safe
- Making a positive contribution
- Personal development
- Financial help
- Enjoying College

You can also access non-academic student support services at UCLan at:

http://www.uclan.ac.uk/students/study/library/the_i.php

4.1 Additional Student Support

You will be assigned a Tutor who will provide additional academic advice and support during the year. Tutors are academic members of staff whose role is to look after a group

of students across a year group for specific courses, they will be the first point of call for many of the questions that you might have during the year. Your Tutor will be able to help you with personal development, providing guidance and direction to enable you to realise your potential, and can refer you to other University support services if appropriate.

You may also be contacted by a Personal Development Coach, whose role it is to identify students that would benefit from additional support to engage in their studies. The Personal Development Coach will work with you, alongside the Tutor and other members of staff to develop solutions to any difficulties you may be experiencing.

4.2 Students with Disabilities

We make every possible effort to support students with disabilities and have a very strong, dedicated team of professionals who are here to help you.

If you have a specific learning difficulty (SpLD), a long-term health condition or mental health condition, you may be eligible to receive Disabled Support Allowance (DSA). Please go to: <https://www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowances-dsas/overview> for more information and to apply.

4.3 Students' Union

The Students' Union is here to 'make life better for students' and we aim to do this every day through our wide range of services, activities and opportunities. You can find out more information on our website: <http://www.uclansu.co.uk/>

As one of the thousands of students who are not studying on the main UCLan campus in Preston, the Students Union is still your union, please check <http://www.uclansu.co.uk/> for full details on what we may be running in your partner institution.

5. Assessment

5.1 Assessment Strategy

Why is assessment relevant to learning?

For assessment to be truly meaningful, you have to perceive its relevancy to your learning. Consequently, we make assessment relevant to your interests, relevant to the industry's standards and relevant to potential future careers.

In previous sections within this document we've tried to give you some insight into how we 'modularised' your learning. The learning process enables you to unpack these and 'use' the contents. We gauge how well you do this by assessment. Assessment forms part of your learning process; it provides feedback information so that you can refine your judgement of your own abilities and progress, and respond accordingly - this is significant in your planning and the self-evaluation that occurs within your PDP activities and your Journals and Logs. Secondly, it provides information that helps us evolve the various modules and, ultimately, the course you are studying.

Each assignment that you undertake commits you to a certain amount of study. To ensure fairness the evidence of this study must be completed by all students to the same deadline. Part of the assessment process is the recognition that meeting deadlines involves realistic planning and setting achievable targets. Thus your tutors will apply deadlines rigorously, as does the University system generally. We recognise that some students achieve better

grades for practical work, whilst other are better at theoretical study. Consequently, we will use a very wide range of assessment methods to ensure that all skills and knowledge are fairly assessed.

To ensure that you have a full and accurate understanding of the purpose and processes of assessment, there will be frequent opportunities to discuss the assessment of each assignment. These discussions will include 'house-keeping' and simple practicalities, as well as making sure you fully understand what you will be expected to do to fulfil the brief. There will also be discussion of more abstract areas, such as 'creativity', 'originality' and 'imagination'. You will have the opportunity to discuss what seemingly subjective assessment criteria such as 'experimentation' actually mean, rather than simply being assessed on them.

There are several desirable attributes within assessment of any course; these are that you:

- Understand the meaning of terms used in assessment;
- Have a clear understanding of exactly how the assessment mechanism works, and the reasons for the arrangements adopted;
- Appreciate that assessment is a means of developing your own critical facilities and self-awareness;
- Know what steps to take to meet assessment criteria and gain maximum benefit from the process;
- Are assessed frequently and that this regular process encourages you to make comparisons between your own judgement and values, and those of others;
- Are aware of the assessment criteria that staff apply to the growing evidence of your learning and that this is clear and open and is discussed freely;
- Partake in the activities of discussion, evaluation and assessment and that you receive feedback that is immediate and frequent, detailed, accurate and fair

What is assessed?

We assess course work – course work is normally a set of creative projects and some essays, set by your tutors to deadlines that are same for all. Course work is marked to an agreed set of criteria and, through moderation, a final mark is achieved.

It is important for you to understand that we don't assess modules; we assess assignments packaged within these modules. By assessing individual assignments, we obtain a mark that indicates how well you did overall on a particular module. At the end of your course, by putting the module marks together we calculate your degree classification. Therefore, the assessment of each assignment contributes to passing your degree.

You must attempt each assessment; even if your work is late or incomplete, we still regard the submission of this as an 'attempt' - it is always better to attempt an assessment that you think you will fail than to submit nothing at all!

The assessment strategy is created out of the information agreed at validation and contained within the module descriptors. Many modules have two or more assignments but it is entirely normal for a module to be only composed of one assignment. In the Module Handbook (occasionally called Module Information Pack), all the assignments for that module are usually included. Read them as soon as you receive it because this will help you understand what we expect of you and how the module will develop; it will also help you to time-manage your workload for the semester or year.

In feedback your tutors will explain what qualities in your work defined the grade you were awarded, and what you could improve on in future assessment that will assist you to improve your grades.

The nature of your course requires that a number of different learning methods be used and assessed. These can be summarised as follows:

Lecture/Seminar Work - The majority of the modules that you study are practical. However, even within practical modules it is still often appropriate to deliver some lectures and seminars. It is normal to assess the knowledge that you have gained from these lectures at various points throughout the year. However, rather than always expecting you to present theoretical learning for assessment in the form of essays, we often prefer you to introduce this knowledge in your practical work or to create seminar presentations, which you may think of as solo or group presentations. To assess the results of lectures and seminars we apply criteria based upon the following:

- Consideration of information and personal views, interpretation and analysis
- Involvement of the use of resources to extend understanding through self-study
- Development of abilities to originate, research and prepare concepts or ideas
- Fluency in communicating creative issues, concepts or ideas

Group Work - It is more appropriate to assess group work in some courses more than others, but where group work is assessed we sub-divide its assessment into 2 different approaches: Firstly, when we assess your understanding of some aspect of theory within group work, we may need to isolate your contribution and measure this contribution to the group's presentation separately from other students. We may use your supporting documentation, discussions, viva voces and workshop sessions to help us to monitor your contribution. Secondly, it is common in practical work to assess your groups' response to a particular task holistically. In these instances, it is not always possible or relevant to isolate each individual's contribution (however we may adjust this grade for one or more individuals if we feel there has been an unequal contribution to the group from certain members). To assess group work we apply criteria based upon the following:

- Your understanding of personal responsibility
- Your ability to integrate and play an active part
- Your participation in complex organisational and creative decision making
- Your management and monitoring of the group's progress
- Your participation in joint presentations of proposals/solutions

In addition to the above, assessment criteria may also include:

- * Active involvement in learning
- * Positive use of resources
- * Relationships with people - working in teams or groups
- * Management of study including self-study

The specifics of the assessment criteria for each assignment will be explained to you prior to starting the assignment, but if you are in any doubt **speak to your module tutor immediately!**

Why do you assess written work in practice-based courses?

To ensure that your course is the equal of all other subjects it is not only essential to test your embedded knowledge through the creation of creative work, but to test your intellectual understanding and higher levels skills of research, reflection and communication. Essays and other written works are the simplest way of testing the skills of:

1. The collection of appropriate knowledge (research) from primary and secondary sources
2. The organisation of this knowledge in a coherent and logical way (structure)
3. The ability of you as the writer to make the material 'alive' and engaging to the reader (communication)
4. The correct use of academic conventions, such as referencing and language and grammar (accuracy)

Please remember that, unless you are told otherwise, we expect **all** written work submitted for assessment to be word-processed, printed on white A4 paper, using a plain font of either 11 or 12 points. Citations and references should be made in Harvard format. Where a specific word count is listed:

- i) Between 'two stated figures', i.e., between 2,000 and 2,500 work, you should not submit work where the word count is outside of these limits
- ii) That is 'a single figure', i.e. 1,500 words, you should submit work that is within 10% of this figure (in the case of 1,500 words you should submit no less than 1,350 and no more than 1,650 words).

The words on the title page, in the bibliography and in appendices are not included in the word count.

How can I be certain that my work has been assessed accurately and fairly?

To ensure standards are maintained our assessment procedures are rigorous and regularly reviewed. For example:

1. All work that accounts for 25% or more of a module will be assessed by at least 2 staff members from your College; all work that receives a fail grade (below 40%) will also be assessed by at least 2 of your College tutors;
2. Samples of work from each module will be further moderated by UCLan staff
3. If, because of the particular nature of your work or because of prior commitment, 2 staff members cannot present at 'ephemeral' assessment (presentations), then we will ask you to record your work on video so that this becomes available to another staff member;
4. Our assessment processes are monitored by academics from other Universities, just as we are asked to 'externally examine' similar courses to yours in other institutions. Your course's External Examiner may view the work you submit for assignments at any time but normally at the end of the academic year; they will certainly discuss your modules with staff and look at a range of samples of the work of students on all modules within your course.

5.2 Notification of Assignments and Examination Arrangements

All assessed work must be submitted according to the Course's assessment plan (issued by your course tutor). Authorisation of the late submissions requires written permission from your university. Extenuating Circumstances may be applied for in cases where factors outside your control will adversely affect your performance on the course. If you are unable to submit work within 10 days of the due submission date (due to verifiable circumstances) you may be able to submit an application in accordance with your university's Extenuating Circumstances procedures.

5.3 Referencing

Your work must be referenced using the Harvard system where specified. Sessions and a presentation from Library Learning Centre staff will be delivered so that you are clear about this system. Further information will be provided on the UCLan website.

You are required to sign a declaration indicating that individual work submitted for an assessment is your own.

5.4 Confidential Material

It is not expected that students will need to access confidential material for this programme. Students have an ethical and legal responsibility to respect confidentiality and maintain the anonymity of individuals and organisations within their assignments. All students will be required to adhere to the Ethics in research Policy, which can be located on the College's MyDay webpage.

5.5 Cheating, plagiarism, collusion or re-presentation

The Hugh Baird University Centre uses an online Assessment Tool called Turnitin. Students are required to self-submit their own assignment on Turnitin and will be given access to the Originality Reports arising from each submission. In operating Turnitin, Schools must take steps to ensure that the University's requirement for all summative assessment to be marked anonymously is not undermined and therefore Turnitin reports should either be anonymised or considered separately from marking. Turnitin may also be used to assist with plagiarism detection and collusion, where there is suspicion about individual piece(s) of work.

5.6 How do I know my assessed work has been marked fairly?

Assessment is an integral part of the course. Module staff work closely together to design assessments, agree the marking criteria and approve final versions of assessments to

ensure that these are appropriate. The criteria for assessment will be communicated to you clearly during the module teaching.

All module staff engage in development and training in assessment, marking and feedback. Once the assessments have been completed the module team will discuss the assessment methods and marking criteria, prior to starting to mark, so that there is a common understanding of what is expected of students. All assessed modules have moderation built into the marking process. Moderation involves sampling students' assessed work to make sure that the learning outcomes and agreed marking criteria have been interpreted and applied in the same way. This ensures that you and your fellow students are treated equitably and that the academic standards are applied consistently. During the marking process the module leader will co-ordinate moderation to ensure that at least 10% of assessed work (or a minimum of three pieces) has been reviewed by other markers and any concerns about consistency or accuracy addressed with the whole module team. Your work may or may not be part of this sample, but the processes for developing assessments and marking criteria as well as moderation mean that you can be confident that teaching staff are marking assessments to the same criteria. Module teams may then use feedback from moderation to improve clarity about the nature and purpose of future assessment, or to make changes if required.

Modules are also moderated externally. The module leader will arrange for the external examiner to receive a sample of work for review and comment. External examiners cannot change individual grades but can act as 'critical friends' and confirm that marking standards are in line with other, similar courses in the sector. If, on reviewing the sample, external examiners feel that the marking criteria have not been applied consistently the work of the whole cohort will be reviewed.

6. Classification of Awards

The University of Central Lancashire publishes the principles underpinning the way in which awards and results are decided in their [Academic Regulations](#). Decisions about the overall classification of awards are made by Assessment Boards through the application of the academic and relevant course regulations.

7. Appendices

7.1 Programme Specification(s)

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL LANCASHIRE

Programme Specification

This Programme Specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

Sources of information on the programme can be found in Section 17

1. Awarding Institution / Body	University of Central Lancashire
2. Teaching Institution and Location of Delivery	Hugh Baird College
3. University School/Centre	School of Arts & Media
4. External Accreditation	None
5. Title of Final Award	Foundation Degree Arts in Visual Merchandising & Promotional Design
6. Modes of Attendance offered	Full Time, Part Time
7a) UCAS Code	N242
7b) JACS and HECOS Code	
8. Relevant Subject Benchmarking Group(s)	QAA Benchmark Statement 'Art and Design' 2017/2019
9. Other external influences	N/A
10. Date of production/revision of this form	September 2023
11. Aims of the Programme	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To widen and increase participation in higher education by delivering vocational knowledge and skills needed for employment through work-focussed learning. • To facilitate the acquisition of knowledge, understanding and skills in relation to creative thinking and innovation in Visual Merchandising and Promotional Design. • To provide students with an effective balance between education and practical application by promoting self-development and creative expression, intellectual enquiry and the visual communication of ideas underpinned by the acquisition of transferable, technical and practical skills and knowledge. • To equip students with the skills, knowledge and understanding for versatility and confidence, relevant to the needs of clients and employment in the retail design sector. 	

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- To give students a progression route to advance, where appropriate, towards other qualifications, for example, an Honours Degree and Masters qualifications.

8. Learning Outcomes, Teaching, Learning and Assessment Methods	
A. Knowledge and Understanding	
A1.	Produce written work that demonstrates both historic and contemporary design knowledge relating to Visual Merchandising practice.
A2.	Apply research methodologies to demonstrate a wider awareness of socio economic and historical influences in visual merchandising and promotional design to underpin discussion and design thinking.
A3.	Discuss and explain the underpinning design principles and practical techniques and how these implemented and communication via design concepts.
A4.	Interpret knowledge of materials, lighting, costings and health and safety to secure realistic retail design proposals.
A5.	Discuss information and digital media technologies with an awareness of their usage and application within the retail design industry
Teaching and Learning Methods	
<p>Across all modules and at all levels, teaching and learning are synthesised from a variety of learning activities and opportunities. Knowledge and Understanding at level 4 is characterised by a knowledge of the history and background of practice and practitioners. At level 5 knowledge and learning is characterised by a knowledge of contemporary issues in relation to design. Learning situations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lectures • Group Discussions • Practical tutor – led workshops • Group tutorials and verbal feedback • One – to – one tutorials • Study visits • Live projects • Workshops • Technical Introductions <p>Attainment of knowledge is further developed through directed study and practical exercises. Understanding is reinforced through tutorial work using a range of design briefs to extend the student's personal practice.</p>	
Assessment methods	
<p>Assessment will focus on the application of knowledge and theory. Evidence of the development of the core contextual themes will be assessed summative in DD1000 and DD2000. Evidence of development of other knowledge and understanding will be assessed summative through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written assessments • Research, development and final project work • Student portfolio of work • Presentation 	
B. Subject-specific skills	
B1.	Develop and apply a range of 2D and 3D communication skills through traditional Media to communicate design ideas.
B2.	Apply a range of practical and conceptual skills necessary for the realisation of successful/innovative retail design solutions.
B3.	Use digitised work as a platform for the development and manipulation of technical and creative multi-media imagery.
B4.	Apply the use of small scale and large scale prototype models in order to realise scale, form, shape and volume and communicate design intentions.
Teaching and Learning Methods	
Subject specific learning occurs within:	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops • Practical work • Lecture/demonstrations • Study trips • Exhibitions • Self-reflection and peer group evaluation • Live / competition projects
<p>Assessment methods</p> <p>Assessment of these skills will focus on the development of techniques and development of the student's own work, particularly their ability to interpret a design brief, the level of creativity demonstrated and the range of techniques utilised as part of the portfolio of work.</p> <p>The following activities are used for assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research, development and final project work • Practical - three dimensional work • Presentations • Final design proposals
<p>C. Thinking Skills</p> <p>C1. Develop idea generation and creative thinking skills to problem solve appropriate challenges faced in designing commercial retail visual merchandising and promotional design solutions</p> <p>C2. Apply thinking through drawing to problem solve and utilise spatial awareness to ensure design ideas are accessible and functional.</p> <p>C3. Objectively differentiate and evaluate through both verbal and written/illustrative means in respect to the application of contemporary design practice.</p> <p>C4. Compare, analyse and critically review design solutions in reference to the design process.</p>
<p>Teaching and Learning Methods</p> <p>Thinking skills within this course are the intellectual qualities related to cognitive ability through the acquisition of critical and contextual knowledge. The application of these qualities occurs in all teaching and learning situations and at this level these are focussed upon the application of ideas from one or more contexts using specialist vocabulary and critical language. It is expected that students should demonstrate a critical understanding of the content and ideas that exist within a wide range of works.</p>
<p>Assessment methods</p> <p>Students will be given the opportunity to experiment and to develop confidence during creative tasks, whilst also being introduced to industry practice.</p> <p>Practical teaching will encourage an independent approach with workshops and development of practical, technical and design skills.</p> <p>The following activities are used for assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical work • Written assessments • Presentations • Final design solutions
<p>D. Other skills relevant to employability and personal development</p> <p>D1. Collect, record and discuss a range of information that will allow reflection on historical, contemporary, digital and design practice to aid in the production of future projects.</p> <p>D2. Apply personal management techniques to effectively progress through project work and build awareness of employability skills.</p> <p>D3. Produce a CV and creative digital portfolio that illustrates a range of skills in preparation for further study or employment.</p>

- D4. Apply independence and personal reflection in the form of producing industry ready project briefs that meets the requirements stated by the client and accompanying reflective blogs where appropriate.
- D5 Work on live briefs that mirror the demands of the retail design sector

Teaching and Learning Methods

The outcomes within this category relate to practical and theoretical learning as effective and relevant as possible, as such students are expected to fully participate in all learning events and to be effective group members.

Students will be given the opportunity to experiment and to develop confidence ensuring creative and imaginative tasks, whilst also being introduced to industry practice and discipline.

Practical teaching will encourage an independent approach with workshops and development of practical, technical and design skills.

Assessment methods

Assessment will focus on the standard of practical and written work and the development of wider skills. Development will be evidenced through reference to personal development logs/journals, peer responses and tutor comments.

The following activities are used for assessment:

- Essays
- Presentations
- Live projects
- Design projects /assignments
- Personal development portfolio

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13. Programme Structures*				14. Awards and Credits*
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit rating	
Level 5	IN2011	Advanced Model Making	20	FdA Visual Merchandising & Promotional Design Requires 240 credits including a minimum of 120 at Level 5.
	DD2000	Design Context 2	20	
	IN2012	Visual Merchandising and Promotional Design	40	
	IN2015	Digital Solutions 2	20	
	IN2013	Professional Practice	20	
Level 4	IN1012	Visual Merchandising	40	Foundation Certificate in Visual Merchandising and Promotional Design Requires 120 credits at Level 4 or above.
	IN1010	Promotional Design	40	
	DD1000	Design Context 1	20	
	IN1011	Digital Solutions 1	20	
Level 3	AZC017	FDE Introduction to Specialisms	60	Requires completion of 120 credits at Level 3. Successful completion of the course leads to a guaranteed progression onto Year 1 of the FdA course. Students who exit after the Foundation Entry Year will receive a transcript of their modules and grades.
	AZC018	FDE Specialisms		
15. Personal Development Planning				
<p>To prepare and train students to take responsibility for their own learning and career development and to be able to evaluate personal strengths and weaknesses and a general key skill base: for example, the use of English, literacy and writing skills, numeracy communication and the use of IT. Students will identify areas for improvement on a continuous basis as they progress through the two years.</p> <p>Additional practical workshop sessions and the use of mentors and peer assessment will allow students to develop their practical skills.</p> <p>Study skills support sessions on a one to one or group basis will also be offered to develop student's academic awareness and application.</p>				

Student's personal aspirations will form the basis of project work whilst working towards completion of the qualification. Collaboration with existing HE provision such as the FdA make up and photography course with allow for additional project briefs focusing on Work Based Learning.

Personal development planning is the result of negotiation with the year tutor at formative feedback stages. At summative feedback stages students reflect on how they have responded to strengths and weaknesses previously identified. The process aims to develop the student's design awareness and, ultimately personal design philosophy.

Students are encouraged to set up and to participate in web based activity such as blogging with the aim of developing their philosophies and sharing thoughts with others.

16. Admissions criteria *

(including agreed tariffs for entry with advanced standing)

**Correct as at date of approval. For latest information, please consult the University's website.*

For students entering via the optional Foundation Entry route, the following admission criteria will apply: -

Portfolio and successful individual interview.

In lieu of a portfolio, applicants may complete a project as an alternative demonstration of ability.

UK and EU Entry: Equivalent international qualifications will be considered towards meeting the general entry requirements. Additionally, EU students, for whom English is not the first language, will be required to evidence an IELTS score of 6.0 or equivalent. Equivalences include:

- TOEFL written examination score of 550 plus a test of written English (at 4)
- TOEFL Computer Equivalent score of 230
- Proficiency in English (Cambridge) at Grade 4 or above

For students entering directly onto the Foundation Degree, the following admission criteria will apply: -

UK applicants must attend an interview with portfolio. Once your application has been processed you will be sent a letter stating the date that you are required to attend, and what will be required of you. If it is not possible for you to attend on the date proposed, please contact us to rearrange a date or agree alternative arrangements.

All successful candidates must have achieved the following:

- A minimum of 64 UCAS tariff points
- Relevant Level 3 qualification
- Foundation Entry Design / Art and Design
- Access qualification in a related field
- Portfolio that is art or design based

Students are also accepted who have appropriate non-standard entry qualifications and/or relevant experience. Please contact the Course Leader for more information.

Mature students who do not fall into one of the above categories will be invited to attend an informal interview at which their previous learning, industrial experience, needs and aspirations can be thoroughly explored. If it is felt that they are in a position to benefit from the course, they will be offered a place. If it is decided that they are not yet ready to enter the first year, they will be counselled as to the most suitable means of preparing for future entry.

Direct entry to the second year is possible for suitably qualified applicants. Applicants will be asked to attend an interview with a member of the Admissions Team, normally the Course Leader where an assessment will be made as to whether all or some of the modules can be exempted.

- **In lieu of a portfolio, applicants may complete a project as an alternative demonstration of ability.**

European Applicants:

European applicants may not be able to attend an interview in the UK. Once their application has been processed, they should submit an e-portfolio, CD or DVD of their recent work; this will be followed by a telephone interview.

UK and EU Entry: Equivalent international qualifications will be considered towards meeting the general entry requirements. Additionally, EU students, for whom English is not the first language, will be required to evidence an IELTS score of 6.0 or equivalent. Equivalences include:

- TOEFL written examination score of 550 plus a test of written English (at 4)
- TOEFL Computer Equivalent score of 230
- Proficiency in English (Cambridge) at Grade C or above

17. Key sources of information about the programme

- www.hughbaird.ac.uk

- **Hugh Baird College**

- www.ucas.com

- **Student course handbook**

- www.uclan.ac.uk

- www.hughbaird.ac.uk

18. Curriculum Skills Map

Please tick in the relevant boxes where individual Programme Learning Outcomes are being assessed

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Core (C), Compulsory (COMP) or Option (O)	Programme Learning Outcomes																	
				Knowledge and understanding					Subject-specific Skills				Thinking Skills				Other skills relevant to employability and personal development				
				A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	B1	B2	B3	B4	C1	C2	C3	C4	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5
LEVEL 5	IN2011	Advanced Model Making	COMP		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	
	IN2012	Visual Merchandising & Promotional Design	COMP		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
	DD2000	Design Context 2	COMP	✓											✓		✓				
	IN2015	Digital Solutions 2	COMP					✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
	IN2013	Professional Practice	COMP		✓													✓	✓	✓	✓
LEVEL 4	IN1012	Visual Merchandising	COMP			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓					✓		✓	✓
	DD1000	Design Context 1	COMP	✓													✓				
	IN1011	Digital Solutions	COMP					✓	✓		✓		✓								
	IN1010	Promotional Design	COMP			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓				✓				

19. LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR EXIT AWARDS:

Learning outcomes for the award of: Foundation Certificate in Visual Merchandising & Promotional Design

- A1. Produce written work that demonstrates both historic and contemporary design knowledge relating to Interior Design Practice.
- A3. Discuss and explain the underpinning design principles and practical techniques and how these implemented and communication via design concepts.
- A4. Interpret knowledge of materials, lighting, costings and health and safety to secure realistic retail design proposals.
- A5. Discuss information and digital media technologies with an awareness of their usage and application within the retail design industry
- B1. Develop and apply a range of 2D and 3D communication skills through traditional
Media to communicate design ideas.
- B3. Demonstrate the use of digitised work as a platform for the development and manipulation of technical and creative multi-media imagery.
- C1. Develop idea generation and creative thinking skills to problem solve appropriate
Challenges faced in designing commercial retail visual merchandising and promotional design solutions historical, contemporary, and digital and design practice to aid in the production of future projects.
- D1. Collect, record and discuss a range of information that will allow reflection on
historical, contemporary, digital and design practice to aid in the production of future projects.
- D2. Apply personal management techniques to effectively progress through project work and build awareness of employability skills.
- D4. Apply independence and personal reflection in the form of producing industry ready project briefs that meets the requirements stated by the client and accompanying reflective blogs where appropriate.
- D5. Work on live briefs that mirror the demands of the retail design sector