Bachelor of Fashion Design
Frequently asked questions

Questions about the degree

What will I learn in the degree?
The degree covers all the necessary knowledge and skills required to work as a fashion designer. This includes design, illustration, construction practices, textile design, fabric science, colour, professional practice, and global business. See the course brochure for more information.

How long is the degree?
The degree is three years full-time. A full-time load is between four and six subjects per semester depending on the credit points of individual subjects. A full-time load is equivalent to 40 credit points. This means you will be attending classes for between 16 and 20 hours per week and you will be required to spend 20 to 24 hours per week outside of class completing study requirements.

Where is it delivered?
The Bachelor of Fashion Design is delivered at the newly renovated purpose built studios at Sydney TAFE, Fashion Design Studio, located at Ultimo.

How many people are in the class?
Class sizes are small to allow for personalised education. Class sizes are usually between 15 and 18 students, but will not exceed 20.

If I do not complete the whole course can I come out with any qualification?
The course has an exit point at the end of year two. If you leave after completing two years of full-time study in the level 100 and level 200 subjects you may be awarded the Associate Degree of Fashion Design. Please note that this is an exit point only.

Can I study part-time?
While not developed as a part-time program, students may elect to take more time to complete their study. Students wishing to reduce their study load should negotiate with the Course Co-ordinator to ensure your choice of subjects allows for smooth transition. You will also need to consider the need to complete your studies within the maximum time frame, currently 10 years.

How many hours a week do I need to attend college?
In the first year of your course, you will need to attend college 20 hours per week. In second year, you will complete 17 hours per week class time, and 16 hours per week in third year. In most cases, you can expect to spend a maximum of four days at college.

How many hours do I need to spend outside of class completing my work?
The average subject load is 10 hours per week including in class and out of class work. If the subject is 4 hours in class it is expected you will spend 6 hours out of class completing your work. If the subject is 5 hours (in class) you will be required to spend another 5 hours out of class.

Why are some subjects shorter in hours than others?
The course includes 5 and 10 credit point subjects. 5 credit point subjects are specific in their focus and are smaller in scope than 10 credit point subjects. Some subjects have increased hours due to their technical requirements and the need for increased tuition and guidance.

Will I get credit for the study I have already completed?
Graduates of the Certificate IV in Design, the Diploma of Fashion or the Advanced Diploma of Fashion Design may be eligible for credit. Graduates of the Diploma or Advanced Diploma of Applied Fashion Design and Technology may also be eligible for credit (subject to approval).

Will I get credit if I have completed some study with another education provider?
You may gain credit toward the Bachelor of Fashion Design if you have completed study in another bachelor degree, but as programs vary you will need to provide evidence of your standard of achievement both in the terms of qualification transcripts and a portfolio of work.
Financial questions

How much does the degree cost?
For domestic students, the course is charged per subject. 10 credit point subjects are $2000 each, while 5 credit point subjects are $1000 each. The average full-time load is $8000 but if you are exempt from some subjects prices will vary. The usual Bachelor degree cost is $48,000 (current for 2015). For international students, the course cost is $64,800 (current for 2015).

Do I have to pay for the subject if I fail it?
Yes. If you fail a subject and you need to repeat the subject you will have to pay for that subject again. If you withdraw from the subject prior to census you will not be charged but if you withdraw after census you will be charged.

Can I get HECS/FEE-HELP?
In 2015, TAFE degree students are eligible for FEE-HELP. For current information on FEE-HELP, visit http://studyassist.gov.au/sites/studyassist/helppayingmyfees/fee-help/pages/fee-help-

Will I get a concession card?
Students undertaking the Bachelor of Fashion Design will be eligible for a student concession card as it is a recognised full-time course.

What other costs might I incur?
Students will have to purchase text books if they are required for a subject (not all subjects have text books and some texts apply to more than one subject), and will also have to purchase the materials for their individual garment designs as the materials are selected by the student and the student works within their own budgetary requirements.

Students will however, be supplied with learning materials such as pattern blocks, calico and pre-cut samples as well as some basic art related materials. There is also no fee for the hiring of models or the fashion parade.

Accessing further information and applying for admission

Information requests
If you would like to be sent information contact us at: Sydney.degree@tafensw.edu.au or phone 1300 360 601.

Application form
The application form can be found on the TAFE NSW Higher Education website and is accessible from sydneytafe.edu.au/degrees

Application dates
Applications for TAFE NSW Degrees opened on 25 August, 2014. First round applications close on 5 December, 2014. There is the opportunity for students to submit a late application up until the commencement of delivery but these are dependent on availability of places.

How do I submit my application?
The preferred application method is by applying online directly or emailing your application to Sydney.degree@tafensw.edu.au

Your portfolio and 500 word essay should be attached to your application. You may submit your portfolio as a PDF, Zip file or direct us to a URL if your work is online. The portfolio should be no larger than 10MB.

If you would like to post your application this should be sent to:
Sydney TAFE, Fashion Design Studio
PO Box 707
Ultimo NSW 2007

Note: students must NOT send original art work as we cannot guarantee return of work.