

TOOL 9 - SELF-DIRECTED LEARNING

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Self-Directed Learning brief is to provide learners with the opportunity to conduct independent and/or interdisciplinary development or research work that has scientific relevance and is informed by social, cultural and environmental approaches. Furthermore, the aim is to combine knowledge of fashion design and digital technologies with collaborative and transferable skills through theoretical, experimental or experiential approaches for materials, design and function.

This work will provide an opportunity for students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in relation to their course learning outcomes. They will be expected to negotiate a project brief that will allow for deep learning and engage in self-evaluation and self-reflection. The focus of self-directed learning is using their skills to show evidence of autonomous practice, organisation, self-discipline and effective communication.

THE BRIEF

The Self-directed Learning project aims to give you the tools required for a deep level of study which will involve transformative learning and understanding ideas for yourself, applying knowledge to new situations and learning more than is required from you to develop your thinking.

You will complete a learning contract outlining how you intend to develop and deliver your project, this will be developed in negotiation with your tutor. The nature of the outcome and the format for presentation must be agreed with your tutor prior to submission. The project proposal must evidence that you have taken the learning outcomes into consideration and that your work will allow you to effectively meet these learning outcomes.

You will be expected to formulate a clear research question as the starting point for your investigation and to show evidence of engagement with primary and secondary research. You will also need to carefully evaluate the feasibility of your proposal in terms of time and access to resources.

Your project should evidence originality in the nature of the primary material, technical experimentation or the application of challenging theoretical perspectives. Projects that call on an engagement with inter-disciplinary methods to explore ecological and socio-cultural issues are encouraged.

AUDIENCE

This project brief is intended for students in the final year of postgraduate study and may be used as a template for a final master's project.

TIME DURATION

A final master's self-directed project should last no less than 3 months, and no more than 6 months. The estimated student work time should stay within 675 and 900 hours.

PROJECT OUTCOME

The outcome of the project can be one of the following:

- a dissertation, a report, a written assignment or case study of 17,000 words OR
- a practice-based piece of work supported by a 10,000 word evaluative commentary OR
- a substantial body of creative work, 2D, 3D or digital and a supporting evaluative commentary of 5,000 words

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The work must demonstrate the maturity and critical skills of the graduate in the areas of fashion-tech design in relation to:

- Deeper knowledge related to an underdeveloped topic and its potential applications, or a major contribution to the advancement of knowledge with respect to a specific research area;
- Critical analysis of collected research material according to scientific principles and international standards of scientific knowledge (i.e. databases, scientific articles, conference proceedings, etc.);
- Co-operation with companies or other organisations to practice the previously acquired skills in a professional setting, while additionally enabling learners to create contact with future employers or clients;
- Synthesis of the outcomes to generate original, innovative and well-argued concepts, products or product-service systems combining wearables, smart textiles and digital manufacturing;
- Assessment and evaluation of the effects of the development work, which will be of direct value to the industry or education, along with self-reflection on the need for further knowledge.