NORTH WEST SCHOOL OF DESIGN

MASTER THE SKILL OF FASHION

ELECTIVE STREAMS

3-year Fashion Design or
3-year Fashion Communication & Buying

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NORTH WEST
SCHOOL OF DESIGN

WELCOME TO NWSD

North West School of Design (NWSD), founded by awarding winning and highly recognized Fashion Entrepreneur Marlene Oosthuizen, has recently celebrated 27 years of training International and South Africa's top designers and fashion professionals.

NWSD is Accredited by the British Accreditation Council (BAC) as an International Centre.

This achievement was awarded after the school underwent a rigorous evaluation process as well as an inspection by the BAC Inspectors from the UK.

This International Accreditation is just one step in ensuring that the school's approach to teaching and learning is recognised and quality assured providing our students with a better platform to launch their careers in the fashion industry.

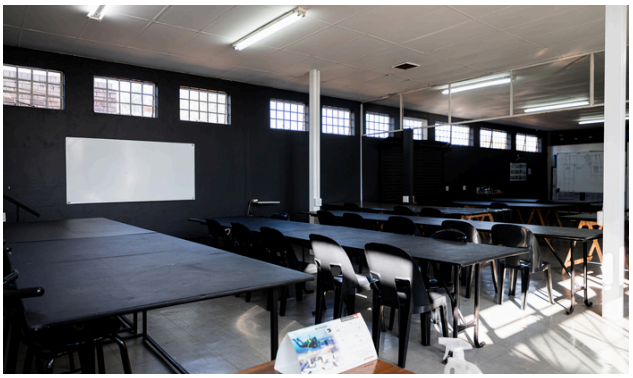
The British Accreditation Council (BAC) provides a comprehensive quality assurance scheme for independent further and higher education in the UK. BAC accreditation is recognised the world over by students, agents, and government officials as the clearest mark of educational quality in the private sector.

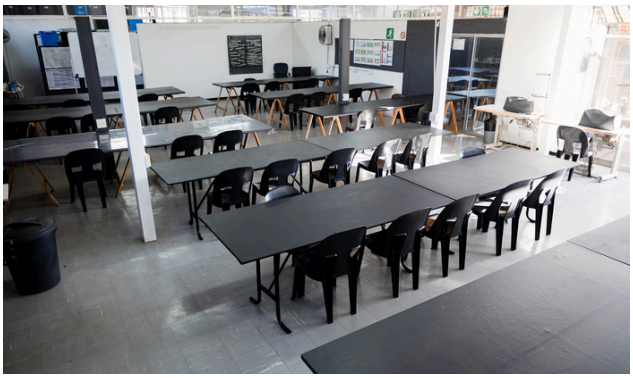
The BAC is a member organisation of the European Association for Quality Assurance (ENQA) in Higher Education. The North West School of Design is situated in the 'City of the People' - Klerksdorp, North West. Together with Rustenburg, Klerksdorp forms the economic heart of the Platinum Province, North West Province.

OUR CAMPUS

The North West School of Design is a prestigious institution, boasting a vibrant campus café and a state-of-the-art clinic managed by a professional nurse. Recently transformed and expanded, the school now offers even more space and a dynamic workforce.

Nestled in Klerksdorp North West, in the charming Leinr Bk building, owned by the visionary Principal, Ms. Marlene Oosthuizen, the campus provides secure parking and exceptional working spaces. Additionally, students can enjoy a trendy thrift store, a cozy reading room, and with a fully equipped photo studio in the pipeline, making it a hub of creativity and innovation.





COURSE INFO

The 3-year course in Fashion Design aims to provide the technical skillsets and practical techniques fashion designers need to conceptualize ideas, create blueprint patterns and, construct apparel by applying finishing techniques to production processes.

It also aims to provide understanding of the core theoretical principles and practices that are integrated into the business of fashion, encouraging an entrepreneurial mindset able to justify the impact of the fashion world in driving international markets and globalization.

Graduates entering the industry have a variety of career options available and gain valuable exposure through real-world work integrated learning experiences throughout the three years. The course encourages specialization within the discipline and provides access to further lifelong learning opportunities.

The course consists of four full-year modules. In each year, the first three modules focus on the conceptual underpinnings, while the fourth module culminates the years learning into the Work Integrated Learning Module which focuses on the full cycle of production in the fashion world.

The first year of the course is compulsory for all students and forms the foundation of the course. The course provides students with the opportunity to choose a career trajectory path and focus on the specialist set of skills and knowledgebase needed for either of these streams in their second year.

Students can enter the industry as fashion designers with the practical and technical skillsets to design and produce patterns and construct garments that are grounded in research and trend analysis. While the Fashion Communication and Buying electives focus on providing students with an expanded array of career opportunities within the business of fashion.

At the commencement of the second year, students choose between the two discipline streams, namely:

1. Fashion Design
2. Fashion Communications & Buying

Students can replace the Apparel Construction module with Fashion Buying and Public Relations units, enabling the opportunity to focus on the discipline.

FASHION DESIGN

For students with a passion for the creative, practical, and technical aspects of garment creation, Fashion Design offers a comprehensive pathway. This elective focuses on hands-on skills such as design, garment construction, pattern engineering, illustration, product development, and business management.

YEAR 1 - FASHION DESIGN

Module 1: Business of Fashion	Module 2: Designing of Fashion	Module 3: Production of Fashion	Module 4: Work-Integrated Learning
This module aims to provide students with an understanding of operational knowledge and skills needed to function effectively in the business of fashion.	This module aims to provide students with the research and artistic elements used to influence design ideas and illustrate design concepts.	This module aims to provide students with the technical and practical skillsets required to produce the conceptual ideas and design illustrations into garments or apparel.	The Work Integrated Learning module serves as a real work-world project-based learning experience and is integral to demonstrate and evidence the student's ability to achieve the outcomes at the end of each year.
Unit 1: Business Management • Fashion Entrepreneurship • Competitive advantage Careers in Fashion ***Unit 2: Fashion Buying*** • Intro to Fashion Buying • Reporting Trends ***Unit 3: Marketing*** • Introduction to Marketing • Branding • Introduction to Costings • Networking	***Unit 1: Design & Illustrations*** • Garment Illustrations • Design Principles • Theory of Fashion ***Unit 2: History of Fashion*** • 20th Century Designers • Introduction to Renaissance ***Unit 3: Textiles*** • Introduction to textiles	***Unit 1: Pattern Construction*** • Pattern Planning and Theory • Basic Pattern Manipulation X!Act Design Block System ***Unit 2: Computer Aided Design*** • Introduction to CAD ***Unit 3: Apparel Construction*** • Factory Organisation • Machine Technology • Sewing Techniques • Quality Control • Fusing and Pressing ***Unit 4: Finishing Techniques*** • Accessory Making	• ***Digital Advertising Show*** • ***Platinum Fashion Festival***

YEAR 2 - FASHION DESIGN

Module 1: Business of Fashion	Module 2: Designing of Fashion	Module 3: Production of Fashion	Module 4: Work-Integrated Learning
This module aims to provide students with an understanding of operational knowledge and skills needed to function effectively in the business of fashion.	This module aims to provide students with the research and artistic elements used to influence design ideas and illustrate design concepts.	This module aims to provide students with the technical and practical skillsets required to produce the conceptual ideas and design illustrations into garments or apparel.	The Work Integrated Learning module serves as a real work-world project-based learning experience and is integral to demonstrate and evidence the student's ability to achieve the outcomes at the end of each year.
Unit 1: Business Management • Business Start Up • Bookkeeping of Fashion Introduction to HR ***Unit 2.1: Public Relations*** • Fashion Public Relations Fashion • Journalism • Events Management • Research and Market Survey • Brand Strategies ***Unit 3: Marketing Marketing Strategy*** • Advertising and Promotions • Consumer Relations • Costing	***Unit 1: Design & Illustrations*** • Digital Storyboards • Sketching and Rendering Concept to Collection ***Unit 2: History of Fashion*** • Renaissance to Now Wardrobe for Film ***Unit 3: Textiles*** • Textiles for Production • Fabric Care	***Unit 1: Pattern Construction*** • Knits & Swimwear Drapes, Twists & Cowls • Advanced Skirts, trousers, collars & sleeves • Maternity, Children, Men's ***Unit 2: Computer Aided Design*** • Garment Pattern Making ***Unit 3: Apparel Construction*** • Quality Control Swimwear • Lingerie ***Unit 4: Finishing Techniques*** • Structural Design: Techniques & Prototyping • Hat making • Technical Fabrics	• ***Digital Advertising Show*** • ***Platinum Fashion Festival***

YEAR 3 - FASHION DESIGN

Module 1: Business of Fashion	Module 2: Designing of Fashion	Module 3: Production of Fashion	Module 4: Work-Integrated Learning
This module aims to provide students with an understanding of operational knowledge and skills needed to function effectively in the business of fashion.	This module aims to provide students with the research and artistic elements used to influence design ideas and illustrate design concepts.	This module aims to provide students with the technical and practical skillsets required to produce the conceptual ideas and design illustrations into garments or apparel.	The Work Integrated Learning module serves as a real work-world project-based learning experience and is integral to demonstrate and evidence the student's ability to achieve the outcomes at the end of each year.
Unit 1: Business Management • Business Plan • Business Pitch ***Unit 2.1: Public Relations*** • Fashion Public Relations • Fashion Journalism • Fashion Events Management • Social Media Strategy • Fashion Photography ***Unit 3: International Marketing*** • Globalisation • Sustainable Fashion • Target Market • Product Development • Costing & Pricing	***Unit 1: Design & Illustrations*** • Digital Illustrations • Line Sheets	***Unit 1: Pattern Construction*** • Tailoring (Men & Women) • Dress Stand Patterns • Pattern Grading • Production Patterns ***Unit 2: Computer Aided Design*** • Marking & Grading ***Unit 3: Apparel Construction*** • Bridal Gown • Men's Tailoring • Men's Wear • Production Systems • Tech Packs • Cutting Room	• ***Digital Advertising Show*** • ***Work Placement Learning*** • ***Platinum Fashion Festival***

FASHION COMMUNICATION & BUYING

For those drawn to the business, management, and communication aspects of the fashion world, the Fashion Communication & Buying elective is ideal. It equips students with the expertise to excel in roles like Fashion Buyer, Fashion Journalist, Merchandiser, Trend Forecaster, Fashion Publicist, and more. This path is perfect for those aiming to lead in the retail, financial, and promotional sectors of fashion.

YEAR 1 - FASHION COMMUNICATION & BUYING

Module 1: Business of Fashion	Module 2: Designing of Fashion	Module 3: Production of Fashion	Module 4: Work-Integrated Learning
This module aims to provide students with an understanding of operational knowledge and skills needed to function effectively in the business of fashion.	This module aims to provide students with the research and artistic elements used to influence design ideas and illustrate design concepts.	This module aims to provide students with the technical and practical skillsets required to produce the conceptual ideas and design illustrations into garments or apparel.	The Work Integrated Learning module serves as a real work-world project-based learning experience and is integral to demonstrate and evidence the student's ability to achieve the outcomes at the end of each year.
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YEAR 2 - FASHION COMMUNICATION & BUYING

Module 1: Business of Fashion	Module 2: Designing of Fashion	Module 3: Production of Fashion	Module 4: Work-Integrated Learning
This module aims to provide students with an understanding of operational knowledge and skills needed to function effectively in the business of fashion.	This module aims to provide students with the research and artistic elements used to influence design ideas and illustrate design concepts.	This module aims to provide students with the technical and practical skillsets required to produce the conceptual ideas and design illustrations into garments or apparel.	The Work Integrated Learning module serves as a real work-world project-based learning experience and is integral to demonstrate and evidence the student's ability to achieve the outcomes at the end of each year.
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YEAR 3 - FASHION COMMUNICATIONS & BUYING

Module 1: Business of Fashion	Module 2: Designing of Fashion	Module 3: Production of Fashion	Module 4: Work-Integrated Learning
This module aims to provide students with an understanding of operational knowledge and skills needed to function effectively in the business of fashion.	This module aims to provide students with the research and artistic elements used to influence design ideas and illustrate design concepts.	N/A	The Work Integrated Learning module serves as a real work-world project-based learning experience and is integral to demonstrate and evidence the student's ability to achieve the outcomes at the end of each year.
Unit 1: Business Management • Business Plan • Business Pitch ***Unit 2: Fashion Buying*** • Fashion Buying • CAD Markers & Grading • Quality Control • Tech Packs • Cutting Room ***Unit 2.1: Public Relations*** • Fashion Public Relations • Fashion Journalism • Fashion Events Management • Social Media Strategy • Fashion Photography ***Unit 3: International Marketing*** • Globalisation • Sustainable Fashion • Target Market • Product Development • Costing & Pricing	***Unit 1: Design & Illustrations*** • Digital Storyboards • Sketching and Rendering Concept to Collection ***Unit 2: History of Fashion*** • Renaissance to Now Wardrobe for Film ***Unit 3: Textiles*** • Textiles for Production • Fabric Care	N/A	• ***Digital Advertising Show*** • ***Work Placement Learning*** • ***Platinum Fashion Festival***

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The NWSD course is comprehensive and intense, and applicants are required to have the following as a minimum criteria:

1. Be 18 years or older
2. Have a National Senior Certificate (NSC) or equivalent
3. Successfully complete the online application test

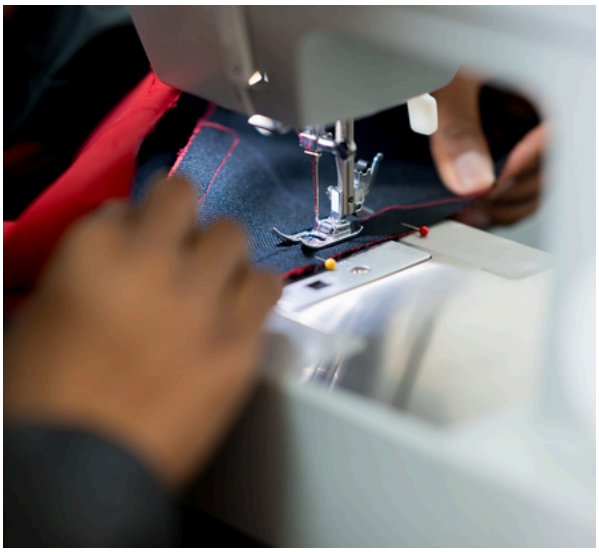
We welcome applications from students who do not hold a matriculation certificate. Such students will be provisionally enrolled in our one-year foundational program. Upon successful completion of this program, they will be eligible for admission into the second and third years of our comprehensive three-year course to complete their studies.

YOUR FUTURE IN FASHION

Fashion Design Students:

For the more practical, creative and technical aspects of designing, like being involved in the design and manufacture of garments. This elective field will prepare you in design, construction, illustration, pattern engineering, product development and business management.

Careers to follow with this qualification: Fashion Designer, Retail Designer, Couture Designer, Costume Designer, Patternmaker, Patterngrader, CAD Specialist, Fashion Illustrator, Graphic Designer for Clothing, Production Manager/Specialist, Tailor, Quality Controller, Clothing Technologist, Procurement, Specialist, Lecturer, Productivity Specialist.



Fashion Communication & Buying Students:

For those who are interested in the retail and management, financial, administrative and communicating side of fashion, and who want to get to such a position where all the big decisions lay on your shoulders, should follow this elective field, which will prepare you for careers in Fashion Buying, Fashion Journalism, Fashion Editing, Merchandising, Fashion Blogger, Trend Forecaster, Fashion Photographer, Fashion Agent, Fashion Marketing specialist, Fashion Events coordinator, Retail / Boutique management, and Fashion Publicist

FULLTIME FEE STRUCTURE

Course Fee	1st Year 2026	2nd Year 2027	3rd Year 2028
Tuition Fees Examination Fee Kit Fees (Resource Levy, Design kit, Book kit, Manual Kit, Sew Kit, Textiles Kit)	R51 000-00 R2 500-00 R6 500-00 R2 000-00	R53 000-00 R2 500-00 R6 500-00 R2 000-00	R55 000-00 R2 500-00 R4 500-00 R2 000-00
TOTAL	R62 000-00	R64 000-00	R64 000-00

Payment Options	1st Year 2026	2nd Year 2027	3rd Year 2028
Option 1: Advanced Payment Payable at the beginning of the year by February 4, 2026 **Early Bird Payment** Advance Payments done by November 30, 2025: **R59 000-00**	R62 000-00	R64 000-00	R64 000-00
Option 2: Termly Payment Payable at the start of each term Jan/February, April, July, October	R15 900-00 X4 Instalments = R63 600-00	R16 500-00 X4 Instalments = R66 000-00	R16 500-00 X4 Instalments = R66 000-00
Option 3: Monthly Payable at the beginning of each month.	R5 420-00 X12 Instalments = R65 040-00	R5 600-00 X12 Instalments = R67 200-00	R5 600-00 X12 Instalments = R67 200-00

The total annual course fee is payable in either 4 termly instalments or 12 monthly instalments.
Please note that these instalments are the payment plan towards the total course fee and these monthly payments therefore do not coincide with monthly attendance of classes.

Registration fees serve as an administration fee and is therefore NON-REFUNDABLE

Students will receive a Registration Confirmation letter and student number once the Registration fee is paid and all signed contracts have been issued to NWSD.

THE ABOVE FEES EXCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:			
	1st Year 2027	**2nd Year 2028**	**3rd Year 2029**
Registration Fee	R5 600-00	N/A	N/A
PFF Fashion Show Ticket Fee Each student receives 10 tickets which they can sell or give to family and friends.	R2000-00 October 2027	TBA	TBA
PFF Fashion Show Participation fee	R300-00 September 2027	R 1 200-00 September 2028	R2 000-00 September 2029
Stationary, Sewing Machine, & Laptop	Refer to requisition list for specifications	Refer to requisition list for specifications	Refer to requisition list for specifications
Bridal Challenge Fabric	N/A	N/A	R1000 to R2000 June 2029
Swimsuit Project	N/A	R200 to R350 February 2027	N/A
Lingerie Project	N/A	R200 to R400 January 2028	N/A
Tailoring Project	N/A	N/A	R1000 to R2000 February 2029
Men's Wear Project	N/A	R400 to R500 March 2028	R400 to R500 March 2029
Circular Skirt Project	R250 to R450 March 2027	N/A	N/A
Hat Making Project	N/A	R200 to R400 June 2028	N/A
Corset Project	R200-00 to R300-00 June 2027	N/A	N/A
Storyboard Project	R200 to R300 February 2027	N/A	N/A
Fashion Show Collection Fabric The final amount needed cannot be estimated as this is dependent on the collection and fabric choices within the collection.	R300 to R3000 August 2027	R3 000 to R6 000 August 2028	R1 000 to R8 000 August 2029

PLEASE NOTE

- NWSD will gladly assist you in obtaining Special discounted prices for machines and laptops.
- Students who are unable to receive funding for sewing projects will be assisted by the principal, by assigning a client who will then be responsible for the purchasing of fabric for the relevant project. The student will then produce the garment for the client under strict guidance from the principal to ensure the client receives a high-quality garment.
- NWSD will supply fabric for the following projects: 3rd year 3D Design; 3rd year Zero Waste Project; 1st year 1st Garment Project; 1st Year sewing samples
- Lecturing schedules and submission deadlines for sewing projects will not be rescheduled for students who do not have fabric in time for such schedules. Therefore, it is important to diarize and note the dates for when this fabric is needed.

CERTIFICATION

Please refer to our Legal Status on our website.
At the end of the learning journey, students receive a NWSD Certified Official Graduation Statement which includes the NWSD stamp, the BAC logo, student information as well as the first date of registration, completion date, and the graduation date.

Graduates also receive a Certified Transcript detailing the modules and subjects completed.
NWSD has successfully, delivered highly qualified and skilled graduates to the fashion industry – with household designer names as alumni for the past 27 years.

NWSD is highly recognised within the fashion industry as a leader in the training of fashion entrepreneurs and the BAC international accreditation confirms this achievement.

HOW TO APPLY

Visitors are welcomed any academic day of the year for assistance with the application and registration process.

If you need help with your application, please feel free to:
- Go to the Contact us page
- Send an email to our Admissions Office, admissions@nwsd.co.za
- Phone us: +27 (0)18 462 5149

Here are the steps to take when applying to study at NWSD:

STEP 1: Get the Prospectus
- Once you have worked through our course offerings and legal status and have established which course you would like to apply for, make sure to go through the course prospectus so that you are more familiar with our admissions criteria, class schedule, subject structures and examination procedures.
- At this stage it is not required to choose between the Fashion Design or the Fashion Communication & Buying streams. All 3 year - fulltime students register for the Fashion Design course, and it is then after your first year of study that you can decide to move over to the Fashion Communication & Buying stream. This is to ensure that your decision is made only once you are more familiar with the fashion industry and that you will have a better understanding of the differences between the streams.
- If at this stage you are not sure about any aspect of the course Prospectus, please email us (admissions@nwsd.co.za) , or give us a call (+27(0) 18 462 5149) to clarify.

STEP 2: Apply for Registration
- To complete our online registration, go to this link (www.nwsd.co.za) and complete the registration form and the online application test.
- Our Admission Office will contact you telephonically via WhatsApp and email with your test results and if successful, an acceptance letter.

STEP 3: Payment of Registration fee
- Once your application has been approved, it is vital that you pay your registration fee so to secure your seat, which is only guaranteed once you received your NWSD student number.
- The student number and registration confirmation letter will only be issued once the registration fee has been paid.
- We reserve 35 seats for students in our 1st year group. Ensure that you apply ASAP so that your application can be processed, as you can only pay your registration fee once you have been accepted in writing.

STEP 4: Registration Contract
- After submitting the exam and paying the registration fee, our Admissions Officer will send you the following documents, of which you need to read through and sign:

- Registration Contract
- Internet Contract
- Student Supply List
- Code of Conduct
- Fashion Show Contract

- Once the above documents have been signed, kindly send them back to the Admissions Officer so that the student file can be created.
- Your signed documents should be sent back to the Admissions Officer with the following documents:

- Certified copy of Applicants ID
- Certified copy of Parent/Bursar/Guardian ID (i.e., person responsible for fees)
- Certified proof of residential address
- Two passport / ID Photos of the Applicant
- Study Permit for International Applicants

CLASS STRUCTURE AND ATTENDANCE

The course consists mostly of practical work and is designed for contact mode learning and therefore it is vital that students attend learning sessions. Each year consists of 4 terms and term breaks are estimated in accordance with provincial school term-breaks.

- 2027 Classes start on Wednesday, 3 February 2027
- Classes are Monday to Thursday – 08h30 to 16h00
- Fridays: 8h30 to 13h00
- Morning sessions are from 08h30 to 13h30
- Self-directed sessions are from 13h30 to 16h00
- All the above sessions will be attended as essential lecturing sessions and are compulsory class hours.
- Attendance registers are kept at all sessions.

STUDENTS WILL RECEIVE THE 2026 YEAR PLAN AND CLASS SCHEDULES WITH TERM ALLOCATIONS

STUDENT ACCOMMODATION

The North West School of Design does not house students, although we have contacts of available accommodation near the college.

The admissions officer or the institute administrator will gladly assist registered students with finding accommodation on request.

CONTACT US

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