
UAL Level 3 Diploma/Extended Diploma in Fashion Business & Retail Year 1 2026/27

During the summer holiday before you start your course, we would like you to think about the things that influence you as a Fashion Business & Retail Student.

One of the most exciting things about working within a creative discipline is that **you** are the catalyst for the work that you produce. Over the duration of your course we will be asking you to interrogate your own ideas, vision and ambition and to translate this into a visual, academic journal.

Your summer task is to really consider 'who you are' at the start of this creative journey and to collect a range of resources to share that vision with peers and tutors when you start on the course.

We would like you to complete the following tasks and provide evidence of these being completed on your first day of term.

Task 1

When you start at HCA, you will be allocated your own space within the 'Identity Wall' in the Fashion Business & Retail studio. Throughout the year, you will use this space to visually communicate your interests, influences, aesthetic and developing creative identity.

The collection you begin over the summer will provide the starting point for your display and will continue to evolve as your ideas and creative practice develop. Later in the year, it will form part of one of your units of study.

Over the summer, begin collecting anything that inspires you or reflects your creative interests. Don't limit yourself to fashion. Consider colour, packaging, typography, interiors, architecture, travel, photography, music, nature, magazines, fabric swatches, found objects, cultural events or anything else that catches your attention.

There is no expectation to spend money on this project. Some of the most interesting collections come from everyday observations rather than purchases. A receipt, train ticket, interesting piece of packaging, fabric offcut, pressed leaf, photograph you've taken, found object or sketches can be more valuable than something bought in a shop.

As your collection will be displayed within your allocated space on the Identity Wall, please consider how your items can be presented. Wherever possible, choose items that can be pinned, attached or displayed for an extended period of time. If you collect something larger or difficult to display, consider whether a sketch or printed image could represent it instead.

Your display is not expected to be complete when you arrive in September. This is simply the starting point. Throughout the year, you will continue to build and refine it as your ideas, interests and creative identity evolve.

Curator's Challenge

As part of your collection, include one item that you don't think anyone else on the course will bring.

It could be something you have found, made, collected or discovered over the summer. It doesn't need to relate directly to fashion. Choose something that has captured your curiosity, tells a story or encourages conversation.

We hope that you enjoy a great summer break and we look forward to seeing you at the start of term, ready to experiment, take risks, learn and enjoy!