



## DIPLOMA IN FASHION DESIGN



01 JAN - 31 DEC 2026

### Diploma in Fashion Design

**NQF Level: 6**

**SAQA ID: 103087**

**Qualification Code: DIFSHI (Mainstream)  
DIFDFI (4 Year Extended Curriculum Programme)**

**Location: Brickfield Campus (96 Felix Dlamini (Brickfield) Road, Overport, Durban)**

### Description of the Programme

The Diploma in Fashion Design will not only support traditional design, but also strive to educate and equip students with practical skills and applied knowledge to meet the needs of industry and the requirements of employers. The aim of the programme will be to develop graduates who can demonstrate focused knowledge and skills in the fashion/clothing and other related fields. An in-depth specialisation of knowledge, together with practical skills and collaboration with industry experts, will enable graduates to enter a number of career paths, such as pattern technology, design and trend forecasting, retail and merchandising and/or fashion buying, and to apply their learning to particular employment contexts from the outset. A wide and diverse range of activities will take place across a structured programme, with an emphasis on research and creativity, and these will contribute towards the intended outcomes. The study and application of the theoretical and creative components of the programme will actively encourage the students to broaden their knowledge base and commit themselves to the challenges of the future and to contribute to the expansion and development of the South African as well as international fashion/clothing industry as a whole. A student accredited with this qualification will develop a deep and systematic understanding of current thinking, practice, theory and methodology in areas of specialisation. With the introduction of General Education and the exposure to a range of interdisciplinary elective modules, the student will be prepared for the social, personal and global work environment.

The purpose of the Diploma in Fashion Design is:

- to develop graduates who can demonstrate focused knowledge and skills
- to prepare graduates as entrepreneurs and/or employees who can successfully establish a place in the highly competitive and challenging world of the clothing/fashion industry
- to provide the industry with creative and skilled graduates as generalist designers, with broad and well informed views of the total production process in the clothing/fashion industry, as well as in specialist areas in various sectors of the industry toward creating employment and/or self-employment
- To prepare students for further study at Advanced Diploma and Postgraduate level.
- The curriculum has been structured to introduce higher education, to Fashion Design as a discipline and a profession, and to professional work practices. The wide and diverse range of activities across the structured programme will focus on applied research and creativity, which will contribute towards the intended outcomes.

The programme will prepare students for life-long learning and support in both traditional and contemporary fashion design; to promote a spirit of enquiry, reflection and evaluation, to encourage students to be innovative in their approaches to problem solving; to pursue new ideas and apply the knowledge and skills acquired to issues encountered in the workplace and society; and to interact with the industry with a view to identifying opportunities in both the formal and small business sector.

In keeping with the mission of the University and the Faculty, the Diploma in Fashion Design will offer an in-depth interactive and research orientated learning environment to equip students with the practical skills and applied knowledge to meet the needs of the fashion/clothing industry.

The Diploma will provide greater learning opportunities in terms of skill and technology, so that the student can achieve the highest level of design understanding, that meets the social and economic needs of the self and society through entrepreneurship and sustainable development.

## Qualities Required as a Designer

The fashion and textiles industry is highly competitive and depends upon rapid turn-around time. Working conditions are not always favourable and the designer or entrepreneur is constantly placed under pressure to meet deadlines. It is, therefore, important to have the ability to communicate at all levels, deal with criticism, and work in an organized and rational manner. Although this may all seem quite challenging, if the enthusiasm, ambition, and desire to succeed is there, the rewards of recognition will present themselves. Qualities, which will assist students in reaching their goals, are professionalism, self-motivation, commitment, and drive.

## Career Opportunities

The possible career opportunities include being self-employed (as a bespoke designer, freelance pattern technologist, or CAD artist), a commercial designer in a clothing manufacturer, a buyer or merchandiser, trend forecasters, visual merchandisers and/or an academic.

Opportunities exist in performing arts, film, and television companies. One can enjoy recognition at a young age and become a senior designer or reach executive level in a fashion house. In large companies' designers are usually sent to overseas trade shows in the major centres of the world, to study fashion trends or select fabrics and trimmings. To cope with modern design development and advanced technology, the industry requires appropriately trained designers, technologists, and management personnel in ever-increasing numbers. Students are also equipped with entrepreneurial skills to start their own businesses.

### Explanation of Points scale:

SENIOR CERTIFICATE (SC)		
SYMBOL	HIGHER GRADE	STANDARD GRADE
A	8	6
B	7	5
C	6	4
D	5	3
E	4	2
F	3	1
NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE (NSC)		
%	LEVEL	POINTS
90-100	7	8
80-89%	7	7
70-79%	6	6
60-69%	5	5
50-59%	4	4
40-49%	3	3
30-39%	2	2
20-29%	1	1

## MINIMUM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS GENERAL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

A person will only be considered for registration for an instructional programme approved by the Institution's Senate if the person complies with:

- The minimum admission requirements stated in DUT general handbook (refer to DUT website for general handbook).
- Institutional faculty, departmental and/or instructional programme specific rules; and

## MINIMUM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS IN TERMS OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION QUALIFICATIONS SUB-FRAMEWORK (HEQSF)

**G7 rule: For Diploma:**

“a National Senior Certificate (NSC) as certified by the Council for General and Further Education and Training (Umalusi), with a minimum of achievement rating of 3 for English and a minimum achievement rating of 3 in four recognised NSC 20-credit subjects.”

### Entry Requirements (Diploma in Fashion Design)

NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE (NSC) (01 January 2009)		SENIOR CERTIFICATE (SC) (PRE 2009)			NATIONAL CERTIFICATE (VOCATIONAL) (NCV)	
NSC DIPLOMA ENTRY Applicants with 20 points or more		SENIOR CERTIFICATE (SC)			(NCV) LEVEL 4	
Compulsory Subjects	NSC Rating Code	Compulsory Subjects	HG	SG	Compulsory Subjects	Mark
English	3	English	D	E	with at least 50% in <b>THREE</b> fundamental modules, including English	50%
And <b>THREE</b> 20 credit subjects (not more than <b>ONE</b> language)	3				at least 60% in <b>THREE</b> compulsory vocational modules	60%
In addition: <b>ONE</b> recognized NSC 20 credit subjects as per G7 rule as stated above	3					

#### Selection Criteria

Candidates must display a keen interest in the fashion design profession. A knowledge and understanding of the requirements of the profession and

any experience therein will be advantageous. Selection into the programme is based on academic merit, and a ranking system will apply based on the outcome of the admission assessments. **A minimum of 20 or more points is required for entrance to the programme.** In addition, Mathematical Literacy and Visual Arts OR Engineering Graphics and Design are recommended but are not a prerequisite.

#### Additional Entry Requirements:

In addition to compliance with the provisions of the General Rules pertaining to admission and registration (Rule G3 and G7 refer), short listed candidates must successfully complete a departmental entrance test and submit a portfolio of a minimum of 10 recent and relevant fashion/art related work for evaluation during an in-depth interview. This portfolio could include garments made up yourself, fashion drawings, art sketches, self-embellished garments, etc. The entrance test includes a range of drawing, design, writing and basic discipline specific numeracy exercises. Based on the results of the entrance test, portfolio submission and interview, the student will qualify for entrance in the 3-year 'Diploma in Fashion Design'.

#### Please note:

Portfolios should not be sent to the Department or the Central Applications Office (CAO) as these will not be considered or returned; and portfolios and/or photographs in electronic format will not be accepted or considered.

OR

### Admission Requirement based upon Work Experience, Age and Maturity

#### For admission to entry level DIPLOMA and certificate studies:

A person may, subject to such requirements as the Senate may determine, be admitted to the Institution even if such a person is not in a possession of a National Senior Certificate, Senior Certificate, or an equivalent certificate, provided that: (a) The person shall have reached the age of 23 in the first year of registration and shall have at least:

three years' appropriate work experience; and/or

Capacity for the proposed instructional programme, which shall be assessed at the discretion of the respective Head of Department by a Senate approved admission assessment comprising of a DUT Standardised Assessment Test for Access and Placement (SATAP), Academic Literacies (AI) & English for

Academic Purposes (EAP) and/or an appropriate subject or programme specific written assessment designed and marked by the relevant Department; and

(b) The relevant Faculty Board shall be satisfied that the person's standard of communication skills, ability to study successfully and/or work experience are such that the person, in the opinion of the relevant Faculty Board, should be able to complete the proposed instructional programme successfully. If required, the communication skills and study skills should be tested; and

(c) The person's application for admission in terms of work experience, age and maturity is approved prior to registration. Applicants intending to gain admission through work experience, age and maturity must submit their applications at least four months before commencement of the academic year inclusive of the date of scheduling writing a requisite eligibility assessment.

Applicants intending to gain admission through work experience, age and maturity must submit their applications at least four months before commencement of the academic year.

### Tuition Fees and other relates items

To assist you with your planning, the **2025** fees have been indicated. An increase for next year can be expected to accommodate the inflation rate.

**Please Note:** DUT cannot be held liable for the fees in this brochure, as the **2026** fees are not yet final.

First Year Curriculum (Diploma in Fashion Design)				
Name of the Module	Module Code	HEQSF Level	SAQA Credits	2025 Fees
<b>Semester One</b>				
Pattern Technology I	PTTC101	5	12	R5110.00
Garment Technology I	GRMT101	5	12	R5110.00
Creative Design I	CRDS101	5	12	R5110.00
Theory of Clothing I	TCTH101	5	8	R3410.00
Cornerstone 101	CSTN101	5	12	R3910.00
English for the Arts	EGLA101	5	12	R3610.00
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>R26260.00</b>
<b>Semester Two</b>				
Garment Design and Development I	GDSD101	5	12	R5110.00
Drawing and Illustration I	DRIL101	5	8	R3410.00
Entrepreneurial Studies I	EPRN101	5	8	R3410.00
2- & 3-Dimensional Studies I	23DS101	5	8	R3410.00
Textiles I	TXTL101	5	8	R3410.00
<b>Institutional Gen Ed: Select ONE Module from the List Below</b>				
Law for Life (Social) <b>OR</b>	LWLF101	5	8	R2430.00
Cultural Diversity	CLDV101			R2430.00
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>R23610.00</b>
<b>Total Credits for Semester One &amp; Two</b>			<b>120</b>	
<b>Second Year Curriculum</b>				
<b>Semester One</b>				
Pattern Technology II	PTTC201	6	12	R5110.00
Garment Technology II	GRMT201	6	12	R5110.00
Creative Design II	CRDS201	6	12	R5110.00
Theory of Clothing II	TCTH201	6	8	R3410.00
Computer Aided Design IIA (Adobe)	CADA201	6	8	R3410.00
<b>Faculty Gen Ed: Language: Select ONE Module from the List Below</b>				
Introduction to French <b>OR</b>	FRCH101			R3800.00
Introduction to Portuguese <b>OR</b>	PTGS101	5	12	
Introduction to Mandarin <b>OR</b>	MRDN101			
Introduction to IsiZulu	IZUL101			
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>R25950.00</b>
<b>Semester Two</b>				
Garment Design and Development II	GDSD201	6	12	R5110.00
Drawing and Illustration II	DRIL201	6	8	R3410.00
Business Studies II	BSNS201	6	8	R3410.00
2- & 3-Dimensional Studies II	23DS201	6	12	R5110.00
Computer Aided Design IIB (Lectra)	CADB201	6	8	R3410.00
<b>Institutional Gen Ed: Select ONE Module from the List Below</b>				
Values in the Workplace (Personal) <b>OR</b>	VWKP101	6	8	R2600.00

Interpersonal Communication and Self (Personal)	ICMS101			R2260.00
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>R25310.00</b>
<b>Total Credits for Semester One &amp; Two</b>			<b>120</b>	
<b>Third Year Curriculum</b>				
<b>Semester One</b>				
Pattern Technology III	PTTC301	7	12	R5110.00
Garment Technology III	GRMT301	7	12	R5110.00
Creative Design & Drawing III	CDDR301	7	12	R5110.00
Theory of Clothing III	TCTH301	6	8	R3410.00
2- & 3-Dimensional Studies III	23DS301	6	12	R5110.00
<b>Faculty Gen Ed: Select ONE Module from the List Below:</b>				
Media and Visual Literacy <b>OR</b>	MVLT101	6	12	R3610.00
Critical thinking	CRTH101			R3610.00
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>R31070.00</b>
<b>Semester Two</b>				
Portfolio and Range Development III	PFRD301	7	28	R14530.00
Business Management III (Project-based learning)	BSNM301	6	8	R3410.00
Computer Aided Design III (Lectra and Sync)	CADS301	6	8	R3410.00
<b>Institutional Gen Ed: Select ONE Module from the List Below:</b>				
The Global Environment <b>OR</b>	GENV101	6	8	R2450.00
The Entrepreneurial Edge	TENE101			R2600.00
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>R26400.00</b>
<b>Total Credits for Semester One &amp; Two</b>			<b>120</b>	

The programme fees cover the following items:

- Art Kit valued at +/- R1000
- Portfolio Case and toolbox
- Fabric needed for selected projects
- Paper/card needed for selected creative design projects
- Textbooks
- A Memory sticks

Students are required to purchase their own Garment and Pattern Technology equipment, stationery, and fabric

## Application

Applicants who wish to enrol for the programme must apply through the CAO system by no later than 30 September of the previous year.

**CAO Online Application visit:** <http://www.cao.ac.za>

### CAO Contact Details

Private Bag X06  
Dalbridge  
4014

Tel: (031) 268 4444

Fax: (031) 268 4422

**CAO Code: DU-B-DIF**

**Closing Date for Applications: 30 September 2025**

### For Further Information

Contact the Department of Fashion and Textiles Durban University of Technology

96 Felix Dlamini (Brickfield) Road Overport  
Durban  
4091  
Tel: (031) 373 3750  
Fax: (031) 086 673 4355  
Email: Fashiondept@dut.ac.za

**Financial Aid:**

For Financial Aid application for a DUT programme please apply online at [www.nsfas.org.za](http://www.nsfas.org.za) or call the NSFAS call centre on 0860 067 327.

For an explanation on how to fill out the application form, please go to [www.nsfas.org.za](http://www.nsfas.org.za) or contact the call centre on the number above.

**Please note** that completing a form does not guarantee Financial Aid. For further assistance, please consult the Department of Financial Aid and Scholarships on (031)3732931/2557/2054.

*This leaflet is for information purposes only and is not binding on the Durban University of Technology.*