

RESPONSE TO PEER REVIEW REPORT

Department of Fashion & Textiles Academic Year 2008/09

The Department welcomes the Peer Review Group Report and wishes to thank the panel for their considered insight into both the industry and educational needs.

Also the Department wishes to thank the QA/QI Officer and all others, including students and graduates who had a major input into the review process.

The self assessment process was deemed very useful by all staff as a way of reflecting on what we have been doing and how we intend to progress.

The department is now embedded in the process of change and critical evaluation and some initiatives have already been acted on, e.g. the Business of Fashion and Textiles' undergraduate cross department lectures given by full-time staff during the second term.

The P.R.G. report highlighted the talent, commitment, energy and enthusiasm within the Department. They also commended the creativity and technical excellence as significant strengths, as well as noting that F & T department is regarded as a 'flagship' for NCAD, gaining publicity and creating a positive public image for the College.

The department acknowledge the PRG's recommendation which will enhance and progress the BDes courses currently in operation. The BDes has a recognised highly successful standard and it is from this that the success of any MA's will be built up in line with Department and college-wide.

Recommendations that will be prioritised for investigation are:

- 5.1(f) Although there is only 1 textile degree, the 3 pathways have historically been specialist areas. The department will be looking at how methodology and pedagogy affect the provision and practice of these disciplines within textiles.
- 5.1(p) The Department is eager to explore all areas of postgraduate development that could include mandatory industry placements, incubator support and niche areas of research.
- 5.2(b) Links with industry are strong, but will be further enhanced for the benefit of the current courses and in relation to future postgraduate provision.

We acknowledge the above key issues as the most important drivers for the future. The other recommendations indicative of the process of change will be addressed in an ongoing quality improvement evaluation.

However, college strategic issues such as space, shared facilities and the Bologna agreement, coupled with the current financial constraints will require management and college-wide negotiation.

Dr. Helen McAllister (Head of Fashion & Textiles designate) will be joining the Acting Head (Angela Woods) and the course team in June to formulate the Q.I.P. timeframe and this will enable the Department to prioritise the immediate and longer term issues to be addressed.

Finally, we would like to thank the contribution made by the PRG which will help the staff to professionally evaluate the provisions offered by the department.

31st March 2009