



istitutomarangoni



**PREPARATORY COURSE
FOUNDATION IN FASHION**

Version 01

Brief Descriptive Summary

Over the past 80 years Istituto Marangoni has grown and developed alongside the thriving Italian fashion and design industry. Through an exciting curriculum aimed to develop practical, creative, and business and management skills which are subject specific, and relevant to the international fashion industry, Istituto Marangoni undergraduate courses prepare students with the necessary knowledge and know-how in order to enter a professional career in the fields of Fashion Design, Accessories and Footwear Design, Fashion Styling, Fashion Business and Communication, Fashion Promotion, Brand Management, Digital Design, Interior Design and Art.

General Information

1. Certification Attained

Istituto Marangoni certificate

Programme Information

2. Educational Aims and Course Aims

School Education Aims:

- to develop flexible approaches to programme delivery and student support which reflect the needs and expectations of our students;
- to provide a supportive and inclusive learning environment which will enable success for all learners;
- to encourage the development of students' intellectual and imaginative powers, creativity, independence, critical self-awareness, imagination and skills that will enhance global employment opportunities on graduation in all programmes;
- to establish a culture of constant improvement in learning, teaching and assessment that is anticipatory, enabling, supportive, rewarding and fully aligned with the Institutions vision and strategic objectives;
- to provide a learning experience that is informed by research, scholarship, reflective practice and engagement with fashion and design industry and the professions.

Programme Aims:

The Foundation Year encourages participants to investigate the worlds of fashion, through an exploration of all their aspects, from keywords to styles, from illustration to product in the fashion.

This course is for candidates that may not have all the entry requirements to undertake a 3-year undergraduate programme or that are simply unsure as to which area of study best suits their skills or where their true passion lies.

The students will be introduced, while improving their language knowledge and their specific skills in the fashion field, to new working methods that will teach them how to carry out research, develop their ideas, and reflect on their progresses.

Participants will gain the ability to understand, adapt and safely use practical methods and skills for creative production as well as solving complex problems through the application of fashion design and art ideas into solutions for those problems.

The course helps students to build their own portfolio of works with projects that will involve art, styling, business, and fashion contents.

3. Course Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of their course of study students will be able to:

- express visual ideas effectively and communicate information appropriately and accurately using a range of media including ICT;
- understand theoretical conceptualization and knowledge associated with the subject/area of study;
- demonstrate creative thinking skills characterised by experimentation, initiative, creativity, motivation and self - management;
- apply skills of critical analysis to real world situations within a defined range of contexts;
- find, evaluate, synthesise and use information from a variety of sources;
- develop working relationships using teamwork and leadership skills, recognising and respecting different perspectives;
- articulate an awareness of the social and community contexts within their disciplinary field;
- manage their professional development reflecting on progress and taking appropriate action;
- equip students with the knowledge, ability and skills to become independent learners and progress to UG study;
- develop the student's English/Italian language and study skills ability, in line with the requirements of the Istituto Marangoni.

4. Teaching/Learning and Assessment Strategy

Curriculum:

This one-year foundation course prepares participants for entry onto any of the 3-year creative undergraduate programmes. Over the course of the year students are offered exciting new challenges that will improve their critical independent thinking, develop their skills and help them identify where their true passion lies. Participants gain a solid base in Istituto Marangoni training methods and experience the intensive learning approach that is required in order to successfully follow one of the full-time 3-year undergraduate programmes. The overall aim of the programme is to investigate the fashion and art systems covering four main areas: Fashion Styling, Fashion Business, Fashion Design, and Art. The programme explores the world of styling and the visual culture applied to fashion and art. Students are introduced to the lexicon used in communication, providing them with a panoramic view that spans the worlds of cinema, music, and magazines (digital and offline). Particular attention is dedicated to an experimental use of sketchbooks to develop ideas, themes or concepts, which include mixed media for both figurative and abstract imagery. Furthermore, the course then focuses on the area of Fashion Business: students discover how products are managed and how production strategies influence business decisions. Different cultural influences in the industry are highlighted, as well as the influence of Italian 'know-how' and the 'Made in Italy' mark. Specific attention is also given to the fashion design study field, with the main objective of nurturing and developing individual ideas and creative research in design. Additionally, students will be introduced to key aspects of art, as an extremely relevant source of inspiration and partner in the creative process. They will investigate different languages, materials, and artistic practices connected with the art history.

Based on the different study areas covered, participants will be guided in bringing together a creative portfolio of works containing all projects completed during the year covering fashion styling, fashion business, fashion design and art. At the end of the course students will have gained an informed insight into key areas of the fashion design industry, together with an introduction to a broad range of creative and practical skills such as drawing, painting, photomontage, collage, photography, graphics, illustration, fashion and textiles research and design. With the knowledge and preparation gained during the year students will be able to make an informed choice on their future study path, and identify which undergraduate program best suits their skills, passions and abilities.

Programme methods:

The programme is designed to facilitate the development of a student who will be highly employable and will allow them to investigate and develop their strengths.

The programme will present students with a variety of approaches to learning and assessment strategies that will promote intellectual, imaginative, analytical and critical judgement.

It will allow students to develop understanding as well as their presentation and communication skills, which they will be able to demonstrate in a variety of forms.

A combination of different learning and teaching methodologies are employed in order to promote reflective learning and develop generic transferable skills.

Methods include:

- projects to encourage independent learning through investigation, enquiry and problem solving;
- group project to enhance interpersonal and collaborative skills;
- tutorials and group tutorials to facilitate shared experiences and best practice;
- seminars, formal lectures and workshops;
- study, trips, external projects and competitions present the students with another dimension to their learning experience;
- guest speakers provide the students with a full, broader and real prospective to their specialist field of study.

Students will have the opportunity to demonstrate their achievement of the intended learning outcomes through a variety of tests appropriate to their field of study.

Course Specific Assessment Criteria:

The methods of assessment used give breadth and depth, which allow for both the formative and summative assessment of every student at each stage of the programme.

Assessment methods to support learning:

The programme uses a balanced assessment system, both summative and formative as an integral part of gathering information on student learning. Different forms of assessment can, and where appropriate should, be used to test different types of skills and learning.

Formative Assessment:

Formative assessment informs both teachers and students about student understanding at a point when timely adjustments can be made. In formative assessment students could be involved in the assessment process. These formative assessment situations will also give students an opportunity to learn to critique the work of others. Some of the instructional strategies that will be used formatively include the following:

- criteria and goal setting: asking students to participate in establishing what should be included in criteria for success;
- self and peer assessment: With peer evaluation, students see each other as resources for understanding and checking for quality work against previously established criteria;
- student record keeping: helps students better understand their own learning as evidenced by their classroom work. This process of students keeping ongoing records of their work not only engages students, it also helps them, beyond a “grade,” to see where they started and the progress they are making toward the learning goal.

Summative Assessments:

These assessments are a means of gauging student learning, at a particular point in time, relative to established marking criteria. Summative assessments can occur during as well as at the end of each unit and concentrate on specific evidence of student work, examples as follows:

Portfolio Assessment is used to assess a variety of projects that have been developed throughout the unit.

Practical Coursework allows the students to demonstrate their understanding and application of practical areas of study.

Written Reports are required in some study areas, where a clear and structured brief is provided and the students are asked to submit work to be marked independently and anonymously by staff.

Formal Examinations are required in some study areas

Presentations are used in some subjects to allow the student to develop their professional communication and presentation skills. Student Projects are used when the student is required to submit work to be marked independently and anonymously.

5. Course structure

Semester	Subject
S1	Language
S1	S1 Global Culture & Contextual Studies
S1	Visual Design Culture
S1	Fine Arts Studies
S1	Product Workshop
S1	Fashion Design Workshop
S1	Language Skills S1
S2	Language
S2	Italian Culture & Contextual Studies
S2	Art&Styling Project Workshop
S2	Language Skills S2
S2	Design Methods
S2	Creative Production
S2	Fashion Business Workshop

6. Personal Development Planning
PDP/Individual Development Tutorial

The Director of Education and the Academic Service support the personal development of students. One-to-one appointments may be made by phone, through the receptionists or by email. Students can expect to be seen almost immediately to discuss any issues they may have.

7. Course Specific Admission Requirements

Admission is based on the reasonable expectation that the student will be able to fulfil the objectives of the programme and achieve the standard required for the award.

Admission requirements are listed below:

- High school diploma or equivalent.

When considering the suitability of an applicant for a place on the programme the Admissions team will usually take the following factors into account:

- Signed personal statement.

(Admission requirements are subject to change in order to comply with entry requirement regulations).

8. Programme Leader Responsibilities

They will have responsibility for implementing the strategic direction of the courses within their programme and for co-ordinating the academic administration necessary for its successful day-to-day operation.

Programme Leader's Responsibilities:

- chairing the Programme Committee, and arranging for such meetings of the Committee as considered appropriate;
- acting as the Chief Executive Officer to the programme. As such he/she will be responsible, within the agreed policies of the Programme Committee, and Academic Boards, for the efficient operation of the programme as approved by the Institute;
- supporting and encouraging their teaching team including PDP;
- advise the Programme Committee on its proper responsibility for the continuing development of the programme;
- liaise on behalf of the Programme Committee with all staff as appropriate;
- be empowered to take on behalf of the Programme Committee any reasonable action with respect to the proper functioning of the programme;
- recommend areas for curriculum development;
- co-ordinate the assessment schedule for the Unit and ensure that it is communicated to students and the Director of Education;
- liaise with Student Support Officers to ensure that appropriate study support is available;
- recommend the appropriate level of resources required for the Unit and liaise with the teaching team;
- undertake training and professional development and contribute to the training of others;
- actively participate and organise Peer Support systems;
- monitor & respond to the student voice including regular meetings with the student Rep.;
- monitor Unit and course feedback and the student voice;
- organise all areas of assessment procedures, facilitate monitoring, joint marking, internal verification;
- maintaining the quality of academic standards by supporting the rules and regulations concerning exam procedures and conduct of the student and teaching team.

9. Student Support Strategy

Istituto Marangoni administers policies to enhance the student experience, in an academic, practical and pastoral way:

- Programme Leaders: the first point of call to acquaint students with regulations and issues arising on the programme;
- Student Support Officers for student referral where appropriate;
- programme and student handbooks;
- induction programmes for facilities including: Library, IT, online resources (where available) school facilities and media services;
- student group representatives (student voice).

Student Support Officers

A dedicated Student Support Officer is available for all students on the programme.

For academic counselling, Student Support Officers will liaise with tutors and programme leaders to offer practical advice to resolve specific academic difficulties.

A written record of these tutorials will be kept in the student's file for reference and to assist in the monitoring of student progress.

For matters of pastoral care the Student Support Officers will help in:

- finding their way around;
- managing their time;
- dealing with stress;
- getting the best from their course;
- understanding and applying the school's rules;
- anything else the officers can advise on.

One-to-one appointments may be made by phone, through the receptionists or by email. Where possible students can expect to be seen almost immediately, or contacted to arrange a suitable time.

10. Student Evaluation

Student feedback is essential to the programme development and student comments are used to enhance both the successful management of the programme and the teaching/learning strategies.

Istituto Marangoni gathers student opinion in a variety of ways, which may include the following:

- informal contact with Programme Leader and subject Tutor, and through appointments with academic staff;
- end of Unit Evaluation;
- end of academic year online questionnaires where students will be invited to reflect on their overall experience in their school. Issues will be taken to Programme Reflective Meetings and added to the Annual Academic Monitoring Report;
- Programme Committee.

Istituto Marangoni would prefer that on most occasions students be identified when giving constructive feedback on the course and teaching methods. There might be occasions when it is not appropriate and Istituto Marangoni recognizes this exception. In these instances, programme teams and central support services will ensure that anonymity and confidentiality is respected. In order to 'close the feedback loop' and to communicate any improvements resulting from student participation at least once every academic year, programme teams relate back to students the actions taken in response to student views.

Students will be asked to respond to a series of questions, for example, if they were clear about what they were meant to be learning on the unit, if the teaching had helped them learn effectively and if they have developed new or existing skills. The data will be analysed and the Programme Leader will be required to comment on:

- key strengths and issues arising from student performance;
- key strengths and issues arising from student feedback;
- actions and improvements for the next academic year.