



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NORTHAMPTON
Institute for Creative
Leather Technologies

INNOVATION AT NORTHAMPTON

The Institute for Creative Leather Technologies at The University of Northampton in the UK is launching new programmes for 2011 and 2012 designed to deliver its world renowned courses internationally, so that they are available at the point of demand, wherever that market may be.

These courses are underpinned by the recent £800,000 investment in the tannery and teaching facilities in the Leathersellers' Centre (co-funded by the University and the Leathersellers' Company), with further investment in a new research laboratory scheduled for summer 2011 to enhance the Institute's industry focused research and development activities.

All our courses are offered with accreditation at an appropriate academic level to allow students and delegates to develop a portfolio of Continuing Professional Development and related credits, which they can use to build to a formal qualification from The University of Northampton.



“The Institute for Creative Leather Technologies is leading the way for the University in the development

of novel and innovative modes of course delivery to meet the professional development and employment needs of industry both in the UK and internationally.”

**Professor Nick Petford
Vice Chancellor
The University of Northampton**

Programmes for 2011/12

From September 2011 to July 2012, we will be offering the following courses:

Creative Leather Applications – 1 week

Leather has a significant presence across the fashion sector, including clothing, footwear and accessories and, more recently, interiors, including home accessories, wall and floor coverings.

Working with the Institute for Creative Leather Technologies, this module will provide students with an in-depth knowledge and understanding of leather and its performance in use. Students will undertake both theory and practical sessions (in the University's on-site tannery) enabling them to exercise their creative skills and produce their own leathers suitable for inclusion in final portfolios.

The leather knowledge offered within this module will enable individuals to make more informed decisions when dealing with leather and leather products in the commercial sector, ultimately providing a positive contribution to the success of the final product.

Leather Technology – 1 week

Practical and theoretical aspects of Leather Technology are presented in a blended experience in the tannery and classrooms at the Institute for Creative Leather Technologies. Subject areas include the manufacture of tanned, crust and finished leathers and also involve the use of the onsite laboratory facilities.

This course is suitable for applicants who have tannery experience and would like to strengthen their theoretical underpinning in the subject area as well as those that would like to establish experience in practical leather making operations.

Leather Design and Colour – 4 weeks

Offered by the University's Division of Fashion and Textiles in collaboration with the Institute for Creative Leather Technologies.

Topics studied will include:

- Supply chain
- Types of leather and end use
- Dyeing
- Surface coatings/ finishes/embossing/laser cutting
- Role of the tannery
- Leather within contemporary fashion
- Colour trends in leather

Students will have access to the University's tannery (the only tannery in a UK University), design studios and state-of-the-art production facilities.

The course is delivered through short intensive programmes of study supported by online learning materials. It will allow those already working within the industry to study for a postgraduate qualification in an expanding and exciting creative industry.

Leathersellers' Certificate in Leather Technology – 1 year

The Leathersellers' Certificate is a one year full-time course. Upon completion of the course, students can progress to the Leathersellers' Diploma. The course is designed to enable students to develop their interest in leather technology. The course has an emphasis on practical work and students have access to a well equipped model tannery and chemical and physical testing laboratories.

The Certificate will benefit students from all backgrounds, especially those that would like to enter the leather industry and those who are established within the industry who would like to develop their technical knowledge.



Leathersellers' Diploma in Leather Technology – 1 year

The Leathersellers' Diploma in Leather Technology is a one-year full time course. Upon completion of the course students are qualified to progress to the 'top up' Year 3 of the BSc (Hons) programme.

The course is designed to attract students from a wide variety of backgrounds. It will benefit those with substantial experience in leather manufacture who require a technical background and those with other expertise who require technical knowledge of leather manufacture and related principles.

The course is suitable for applicants with a qualification at an appropriate level, such as the SENAI 2 year Tecnico em Curtimento or the Leathersellers' Certificate.

BSc (Hons) Leather Technology 'top up' – 1 year

The BSc Leather Technology (Hons) 'top up' programme is a one-year full time course. Upon completion of the course, students can enter the industry or progress to the MSc or PhD programmes.

The course is designed for the dedicated student who wishes to develop themselves to their full potential. The BSc (Hons) 'top up' will benefit students from all backgrounds, especially those looking to develop a successful international career within an exciting, historic and dynamic industry.

Suitable for applicants with a qualification at an appropriate level, such as the Diploma in Leather Technology or the LGR Reutlingen two-year State Certified Leather Technical Engineer

MSc Leather Technology – 1 year

With optional pathways in International Environmental Management and International Marketing.

This course aims to provide the opportunity to acquire and enhance technical skills related to both self-learning and

research, enabling students to make a critical appraisal of the technical basis and needs of the leather and associated industries.

It will develop the skills and flexibility necessary to discriminate between technical and entrepreneurial issues related to the successful management of commercial operations within the leather industry.

Students will study within an environment which encourages the development of intellectual creativity as well as ability in researching other advanced technologies and relating these to the needs of the leather industry.

In addition, from 2012 the following programme is planned:

BSc Leather Technology (by blended learning)

This course will be offered in collaboration with key strategic partners in the major leather making regions of the world allowing students to gain a quality assured University of Northampton qualification in their home country.

This new flexibility will support modular, accredited Continuing Professional Development, making Northampton courses and qualifications much more accessible to those already working in the leather and leather-using industries, both in the UK and internationally.

Courses will typically be delivered through a combination of local teaching by the partner organisation, virtual learning using the Northampton Integrated Learning Environment, 'flying faculty' from Northampton for short, intensive periods of teaching and practical courses in our tannery in Northampton.



Research and Development at the Institute for Creative Leather Technologies

Over the last twenty years leather industry research has grown strongly in Northampton and is one of the fundamental pillars upon which the Institute for Creative Leather Technologies has been built.

World leading researchers such as Emeritus Professor Tony Covington, winner of the prestigious IULTCS Merit Award for Excellence in the Leather Industry in 2009 and awarded the University's first DSc (and the only DSc in Leather Science in the world) in 2011, and Emeritus Professor Geoff Attenburrow, who was our first Leathersellers' Company Professor, are typical of the knowledge and expertise within the Institute.

Areas of research combine fundamental long term studies with closer to market ideas which can be exploited in industry: understanding the fundamentals of tanning on the one hand

while developing marketable enzymatic materials on the other. Additional areas include medical uses of collagen, X-ray studies of chemical deposition in leather, novel finishing types, reverse tannage and similar approaches compatible with the Institute's cradle to cradle philosophy.

The Institute for Creative Leather Technologies intends to increase the depth and breadth of its research studies and in doing so to find new sources of funding including a search for new collaborative partnerships with industry and other partners.



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