


# The Value of Research, Education and Collaboration: following the merging of the Leather and Fashion at the University of Northampton

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# The University of Northampton in 2022

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- ▶ UON is a modern University with a new purpose-built campus, designed to adapt to 21st century teaching and learning, located just a few minutes' walk from the town centre.
  - ▶ The highest quality teaching and preparation for employment available in the UK.\*
  - ▶ Offering great value in welcoming and safe surroundings and less than one hour from London.

\*TEF report, UK Government 2017

# The Institute for Creative Leather Technologies

- ▶ Newest building on campus
- ▶ State of the art labs and lab/pilot scale tannery
- ▶ Delivers a wide range of educational programmes
  - Training programmes at a range of levels
  - Taught programmes inc. certificates, BSc, MSc



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# Fashion, Leather and ICLT

- ▶ In 2021 it was announced that the subjects of Fashion and Leather would combine into a single subject.
  - All leather teaching programmes fall under this subject area
- ▶ Took full effect in Jan 2022 with the appointment of Vicki Dean as subject leader.
- ▶ ICLT remains – but focusses on the non-teaching aspects.
  - All research, enterprise and consultancy falls under ICLT's remit
- ▶ Externally the change in delivery is minimal, we will continue to do what we do well.

# Fashion, Leather and ICLT



John Sinclair  
Dean of Faculty



Subject leader and thus  
leads the teaching  
programme



Leads research  
programme and ICLT



# Undergraduate provision

- ▶ BA Fashion Design (Fashion, Textiles, Footwear & Accessories)
  - 60 students
- ▶ BA Fashion Marketing & Promotion
  - 75 students
- ▶ BSc Leather Technology
  - Inc. certificate in Leather Technology (yr. 1 only)
  - 40 students



# Postgraduate provision

- ▶ MSc Leather Technology (Professional)
  - Postgraduate Certificate in Leather Technology (Professional)
  - Postgraduate Diploma in Leather Technology (Professional)
- ▶ Postgraduate Certificate in Leather Finishing – Automotive
  - Separate from MSc – in conjunction with Stahl



# Impact of teaching

- ▶ Reorganisation offers students greater exposure to the full breadth of the subject area.
- ▶ Provides industry with qualified employees that are highly valued.
- ▶ Employability is very high – demonstrates a need for the graduates by industry
- ▶ Important part of succession planning to companies
  - Can be seen as an investment by industry





# Research at ICLT

- ▶ Reorganisation will not affect research and improves expertise.
- ▶ Modes of engagement:
  - Rent/lease research space
  - Private client/ contract research
  - Consultancy
  - Studentships (inc. PhD and MPhil)
  - Collaborative grant applications to external funders e.g. Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs)



# Research at ICLT

- ▶ **Benefits to you:**
  - Work with established world leading academics
  - Access to a diverse range of facilities and expertise
  - Access to grants
  - Cost-effective research
  - Generation of 'numbers' to support the industry
  - Independence – no perceived bias
- ▶ **Facilities:**
  - Pilot scale tannery
  - Physical & chemical testing labs
  - Analytical lab (inc. Chromatography, thermal analysis suite & elemental analysis)
  - Microscopy Suite (light & SEM)
  - Small scale shoe and leather goods manufacturing facilities



# Why do Universities collaborate?

- ▶ How we are measured –
  - TEF – Teaching Excellence Framework
    - UK Government framework
    - Aims to ‘assess excellence in teaching at universities and colleges, and how well they ensure excellent outcomes for their students in terms of graduate–level employment or further study.’
  - REF – Research Excellence Framework
    - A system for assessing the quality of UK higher education research.
    - Papers, Environment and Impact
  - KEF – Knowledge Exchange Framework
    - Designed by the UK Government to help universities focus on improving communication with the public, government and business.
- ▶ All of the above improved through collaboration

# Why do Universities collaborate?

- ▶ Beyond the measurement
  - Context to work – teaching and research
  - Knowledge exchange – we learn from you e.g. sharing your experience, process of commercialisation
  - Improves the delivery of teaching and research
- ▶ Passionately believe in supporting the industry – education and independent research key to that support.



# Summary

- ▶ Already receive collaborative support from industry – more is always welcome.
- ▶ Collaboration is mutual
  - Teaching can support you, but your input helps to support us.
  - Research designed to support you in areas where you have a gap – but we learn from it too.
- ▶ There are costs, but it can be cost effective



Thank you for listening

