

The University is committed to supporting good practice in research and scholarly activity. It is fundamental that research and creative practice is conducted in accordance with ethical principles.

The Cass Fashion Ethical statement

'Our goal is to educate the students of today who will be the ethical employers and employees of tomorrow'

Sustainability, Fair Trade & Ethical Practice:

Sustainable fashion is a fundamental part of the design philosophy of The Cass Fashion. Our aim is to encourage and educate students to create a system that is supportable indefinitely without causing irreversible damage to the environment. We encourage these practices throughout education in choices of material and fabric used by the students in their garments and be aware of the range of issues so that we can help to bring a positive change within the international fashion industry. This is achieved through their project briefs & through a consistent approach to communicating sustainable ideals.

We teach awareness of issues that arise such as employee working conditions, exploitation, fair trade, sustainable production and the impact these have on the environment.

Working with local suppliers and manufacturers

Cass Fashion believes it is imperative to promote the use of local enterprises, suppliers, small manufacturing units & hidden gems many within visiting distance of the university. We strongly encourage students to visit in person and not just rely on social media and online presence, as many of these small suppliers do not necessarily utilise online communication tools.

In the broader context, the UK is still a rich source of artisan practice and, although these have slowly dwindled over the years, we are committed to encouraging the use of these precious creative industries. Our lecturing staff and technicians have vast experience working within the fashion industry over the last 20 years and are still actively involved in their own creative businesses, they are an encyclopedia of knowledge regarding where to source the raw material and much needed professional manufacturing and artisanship available locally and nationally.

We encourage and organise visits for fashion students to London enterprises set up to help and facilitate the transition from student to business launch - many of these enterprises again are in easy reach of the university- places such as the Craft Council & Cockpit Arts, both in central London to name but two.

Leather

- All leathers used are a by-product of farmed animals.
- We recommend all students purchase leather and skins from the UK's most reputable suppliers.
- A current list of recommended suppliers is always available to students.
- * If any student has an objection to using leather as a fashion material whether through personal beliefs or religion an alternative man made material is proposed and recommended.

Exotic skins including Snakeskin & Stingray

- Any Exotic Skins introduced to the students are sourced from UK recommended Suppliers.
- Any Exotic skins we introduce are protected by & Governed by CITES.
- We introduce and inform the students about CITES, what skins are protected and what are allowed to be used. **CITES** (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) is an international agreement between governments. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.

Statement from Leading UK Exotic Skin Supplier:

I cannot comment on 'ethically sourced' this is a personal choice all I can say is, is it ethical to kill any creature for food however we do by the billion.

The skins we use are a meat by product, the snakes are killed for their meat. It is an international fact that 'more people in the world obtain their protein from reptile meat than they do from beef '. If we did not source the skins via local collectors the snakes would still be killed for food and the skins just wasted (as are a large percentage that do not get into the collecting system).

They are not farmed, but all taken from the wild and monitored under CITES to ensure sustainability.

*There is a simple indicator. We have been in the trade for 45yrs as a supplier of Exotic skins to the UK Fashion industry and we are **still obtaining the same size range of snake skins that my father did when he started in the trade in the 1920's.** If wild stocks were being depleted (ie unsustainable) then the quantities of skins obtainable would start to diminish.*

- **Our Policy is to inform the students of the laws & ethics in using Leathers & Exotic Skins**

Fur:

The Cass Fashion has a fur-free policy.

Sizing & Body Shape:

The Cass is a multi-cultural university with a diverse cross section of students from all nationalities and of all age brackets.

We educate the students to understand there is no ideal body shape or size however to adhere to some uniformity we work to a UK size 10-12 as a 'sample size' for teaching purposes. We educate the students to understand and appreciate that the fashion industry is international and even the smallest of brands can be supplying outlets from Japan to China to Russia to Dubai, all of whom will require a different set of sizing and size charts. We educate our students to understand and accommodate all sizing systems and to understand and appreciate all body shapes and sizes.

Our approach is health orientated. We educate and encourage our students to understand the importance of living a healthy and active lifestyle. We emphasise and educate to develop student understanding of what is healthy both physically and mentally.