

Student Dean Forum Term 2 22/23: LCF Design Technology			
Date & Time: 1 March 12 - 1 pm	UAL Staff in Attendance:  John Lau, Dean of Academic Strategy and Interim School Dean  Annamarie Mckie, Associate Dean of Student Experience  Ismaril Wells, Associate Director, Graduate Futures  Frances Odell, Head of Graduate Futures Consultants  Farah Ahmad, Head of Graduate Futures Operations	Arts SU Officer in Attendance:  Ti'Onne Debnam, LCF Officer	Arts SU Staff in attendance:  Lee Anderson, EQC Emily Sellon, EQC
# of reps in attendance: 13			

**Theme:**

Course reps were asked to provide feedback on student experiences in industry engagement and placements and any questions about the move to Stratford. Deans and Students were also asked for any other points they wished to raise during the meeting.

Updates from previous SDF:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Having discussions with unit leaders on alternative assessments</li> <li>• Know there have been issues around online drawing classes, and something we will rely less on when we're on one campus</li> <li>• Timetabling issues around what students couldn't see and could see: please do raise as soon as possible, as staff we can't see student view. Maybe when we have the induction, we can show the timetable for the first couple of weeks, and make sure there are no discrepancies. Comments very helpful as I'm leading the Stratford timetabling.</li> </ul>
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Topic	Feedback from Course Reps	Response and/or Suggested Solution
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<p>Industry Engagement &amp; Placements</p>	<p>MA Fashion Futures: Did expect industry involvement with the course. Found the external lectures interesting and engaging. However, it would have been good to have more engagement with people working inside businesses in sustainability.</p> <p>Concern for most PG level international students about how to find a job after graduating as many have fund constraints and immigration challenges.</p> <p>FDD rep: Did Dips last year which was great experience. However, wasn't aware many of the internships are unpaid so maybe make the students aware that it is a self-funded year.</p> <p>Students in my course have all found internships/work externally and have had trouble navigating/using the resources available for finding placement as through UAL.</p>	<p>Ti: I found it quite difficult finding placements throughout my course, people tended to find placements through industry connections. UAL does offer support in writing a CV and prepping for placement, but getting placements can be challenging. As an international student, I didn't know anyone.</p> <p>John Lau: I will share feedback with the DIPS Coordinator.</p> <p>Ismaril: Students can find careers related events on the LCF what's on page. Updated each term with extracurricular skills workshops etc. e.g. storytelling, presenting, networking, goal setting, Communication in the workplace, negotiation skills, employability mindset etc: <a href="#">Link here</a>.</p> <p>Frances Odell: I work on employability element. We're here to inform you on the how-to and the job searching and setting goals. Bringing in branding, so that students can hear what those brands want. Key thing is matching need and want.</p> <p>Ti: I feel like when you're coming into the institution, there's a sense that LCF will find the placement and think that</p>
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	<p>If students want to do projects with industry partners, whom should the students contact apart from course leaders/ lecturers?</p>	<p>LCF has all these connections. Not enough prep for finding the internships. Farah: Have connections and partners that we work with regularly. Always looking for new partners. Most of our opportunities go into LCF my jobs. For paid and unpaid: because of the pandemic certain companies stopped working with us and some couldn't afford to pay. We're pushing, especially due to the cost of living. A lot of the paid ones come out earlier. 80% on my jobs are paid.</p> <p>Ismaril: All student services want to communicate with students but it can lead to information overload. We have updates on moodle that are posted fortnightly. Can see related events on the LCF whats on page.</p> <p>Frances: We sit outside the curriculum. Nothing we do would inform your course. If you want to engage with industry of your own volition, we can help you do that, but can't set it up for you.</p> <p>Ismaril: We invite our industry contacts to the shows and to our events, including networking events.</p>
<p>Alumni access to Stratford</p>	<p>The lockdowns had a huge impact on students, because students couldn't access spaces, although we pay tuition and fees. Concern that we don't have basic technical knowledge due to the pandemic. We would be grateful to have access to some of the university facilities to build up our portfolio and our technical skills.</p>	<p>John Lau: currently trying to plan all the activities, not sure how it will work in reality yet. Can guarantee the use of the library, possible to book a space, and have access to collections.</p> <p>Annamarie: don't have an extensive response to this, colleagues in the communications team are working on this as we speak. There are usual benefits, including library access, etc.</p>

	<p>Overwhelming to learn technical skills and be in final year. So, I hope that we can continue to learn technical skills after.</p> <p>MA courses are compact, and students get limited time to practice technical skills and most of the industry asks for it. If we could get access to workshops, would be helpful.</p>	<p>John Lau: thank you for that feedback, and the comment on access during the pandemic. We did put technical and development skills back into courses, although it was more accelerated to ensure that students did not miss out on any learning. I can take this back to the course teams to highlight the skills you've learned. Referring to practice and use of the machinery - a lot of students have raised that in the past. Unfortunately, I don't have the answer to that, we don't know how that will work in Stratford and how space can be made available. Can take to director of learning environments and see how we can make Stratford welcome to our alumni.</p>
<p>Other feedback &amp; questions</p>	<p>MA Innovative Fashion Production: Can the school increase the visibility of our course? Like womenswear and pattern-cutting courses, could the university help us to set up an instagram account and show students' works on that account to promote students' enthusiasm for learning.</p> <p>UAL emails - the UAL website says "You will lose access to your UAL email account 150 days after the date your course ends." Do we receive an alumni email?</p> <p>MA Innovative Fashion Production: Can physical objects be displayed in the graduation exhibition? Because our</p>	<p>John Lau: We're always seeking to promote all courses; I will work with your course leader to identify what we can do to promote the course. We don't usually set up course pages as we like to channel all social media through the LCF main account.</p> <p>John Lau: short answer is no. We don't have that facility in place. Once 150 days have lapsed, the email account will close. It's essential that you archive emails, forward them to your personal account, and update student records with your personal email account by contacting the programme administrators. I could raise concerns with Chief Technology Officer.</p> <p>John Lau: Yes, we would love to show 3D objects. Anything you'd like to show, we welcome that. I encourage students to</p>

	<p>course is not only focused on digital things, and most students will make physical products and want to show them in the final year exhibition.</p> <p>MA Fashion Futures - Is it possible to have a dedicated studio space, lockers or storage in Stratford?</p> <p>MA Fashion design technology: would like more information regarding the production and organisation of the final year show. We have collected feedback from last year's students, current students, and students who had previous experience in BA final show and believe it would be constructive to talk about potential improvements. Early to talk about it but believe that it would be beneficial to address the feedback as soon as possible.</p> <p>Why are the personal sanitary products placed in the canteens and not in the restrooms? It's not always ideal for those that need them.</p>	<p>challenge our creative director as to what we can show. Your research proposals will also be a good place for us to see what types of objects you'd want to present.</p> <p>John Lau: In Stratford there won't be dedicated lockers to the courses, but there will be lockers around the building that students can use. MA courses will have a zoned room for themselves. Might be sharing with other MA courses, but MA courses will have a zoned room where you will be timetabled into consistently.</p> <p>John Lau: will take this back to internal and external relations team. Don't know yet where the show will be. Past 2 years it was been in Truman Brewery. Students are also welcome to contact team who organizes the show directly.</p> <p>Ti: The funding couldn't place them in all bathrooms, so placed in easily accessible public spaces.</p>
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Other comments from Mural Board shared with students in advance of forum:

Stratford:

- We're aware the move will take place over the summer when we'll be working on our masters projects. How will access to facilities like the DLL work during the move?
- Resounding yes to wanting access to the Stratford building once you finish your degree.
- Alumni should be permitted to access the premises and facilities of the uni post graduation. Maybe the ones who are linked with the industry projects/ potential companies could be

prioritised. As it can help in building effective industry connects, benefitting both industry and academic institutes.

Fashion Contour year 1

- students are anxious about not having an arts shop in Stratford
- students would love to have a bar with subsidised drinks like other unis
- more activities within the Contour/LCF community

Rental/Sharing Community:

- Would the university establish a forum where students could share or resell equipment such as sewing machines and fabrics?

Placements:

- PG courses are intense, time-bound and really wide learning takes place. Within semester time, it is difficult for many students to hunt jobs/ placement alongside working on projects, visa requirements, accommodation, meeting basic living. Job hunt is likely to start somewhere near graduation. Students seek guidance and support for effective and timely placement.

**Action Log for School Dean & Students' Union**

Actions for School Dean	Update on Progress	Response to students
Share feedback with the DIPS Coordinator		
Take back to course teams to highlight the skills students have learned		
Take concerns of how we can make Stratford welcome to our alumni to Director of Learning Environments		
Contact course leader of MA Innovative Fashion Production to identify what we can do to promote the course		
Raise concerns about alumni email access with Chief Technology Officer.		
Take back concerns on organisation of final year exhibition to internal and external relations team		

