

FRACAREERS MAGAZINE

**FASHION
RETAIL
ACADEMY**

November 2020

FASHION RETAIL ACADEMY

Issue 01

TO-DO LIST

- Write an amazing CV
- Log onto the careers platform
- Search for a job on the jobs board

WELCOME TO THE 2020/21 ACADEMIC YEAR

*All the latest news for students, parents, guardians and carers from the
FRACareers team at the Fashion Retail Academy*

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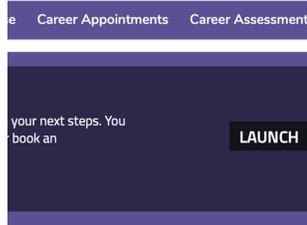
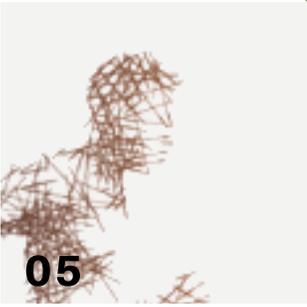
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TERESA
CHAMBERS

CAREER SERVICE MANAGER

WELCOME FROM THE FRACAREERS TEAM

Welcome to the very first edition of FRACareers Magazine. In the current climate, where we are slowly recovering from a pandemic and seeing the changing face of the retail industry, I thought it would be important to express how much we are here and committed to supporting students with the next steps into your careers. As students that have taken your first steps by deciding to study at the FRA, we are so glad to have you here, either continuing your journey or starting a brand new one.

The first edition of FRACareers Magazine is an introduction to us, our service and what underpins everything we do. Throughout the year we will bring you interesting and realistic insight into the working world, information about further study and what's in it for you, as well as everything that we can do to support you in your time at the FRA.

We hope you enjoy this read and look forward to touching base in our next edition which will be at the start of 2021. Until then, enjoy!

"THROUGHOUT
THE YEAR WE
WILL BRING YOU
INTERESTING AND
REALISTIC
INSIGHT"

Teresa

MEET THE TEAM

We are FRACareers and our service started officially in Sept 2019, so we are still very new. We are part of the wider Industry Development department and work really closely as a whole team to provide students with an FRA enrichment experience. We work with industry to thread and embed enrichment through the curriculum at optimum times during the academic year. FRACareers therefore works closely with industry to support our students next steps.



TERESA CHAMBERS

Careers Service Manager
Level 4 & HE Degrees

Teresa is the Careers Coach who supports HE and all courses across L4 and is responsible for the strategic direction of the careers service. This involves planning all the careers activity and, importantly, constantly reviewing the service as underpinned by the Gatsby Benchmarks.



MARC BRAMMER

Careers Coordinator & Coach
Level 3 Fashion Retail

Marc is responsible for supporting our L3FR students. Marc has historically been instrumental in providing huge support to curriculum with UCAS, and as a team we will continue with this support albeit in a different way.



MARIA-FAITH MENDOZA

Careers Coach Adviser
Level 3 Fashion Design & Level 2 Fashion Retail

Maria is the newest member of the careers team and supports our L3FD and L2FR students. Maria will also be supporting with UCAS, along with the rest of the team, from advice on Universities, to applications, and personal statements.

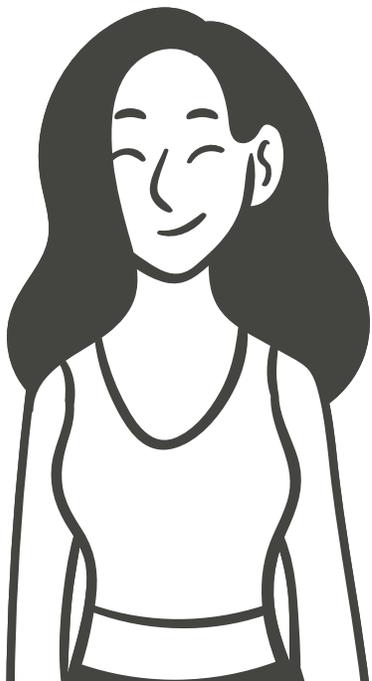


GATSBY

FRACAREERS AND THE GATSBY BENCHMARKS

FIND OUT A LITTLE MORE ABOUT THE BENCHMARKS AND WHAT FRACAREERS ARE DOING TO ENSURE A HIGH-QUALITY SERVICE

Since our launch in September 2019 FRACareers have been committed to delivering an exemplary careers service underpinned by the 8 Gatsby Benchmarks for Good Careers Guidance (for colleges). The benchmarks provide a framework on how to implement a great service to ensure that "every young person can access high-quality career guidance to make informed decisions about their futures". We put an emphasis on highlighting the unique features of the FRA offer and the amazing opportunities available to our students.



"FRACareers helped me with focusing on what I need to improve in my personal skill set, and has helped me by providing me with job opportunities and guidance."

S.T
- L3 Fashion Design

BENCHMARKS FOR GOOD CAREERS ADVICE

- 1 - A stable careers programme
- 2 - Learning from career and labour market information
- 3 - Addressing the needs of each pupil
- 4 - Linking curriculum learning to careers
- 5 - Encounters with employers and employees
- 6 - Experiences of workplaces
- 7 - Encounters with further and higher education
- 8 - Personal guidance



FRACAREERS

EMBEDDING THE BENCHMARKS

FRACareers offer all of our students an exemplary service in a unique learning environment. We embed the Gatsby benchmarks in all we do:

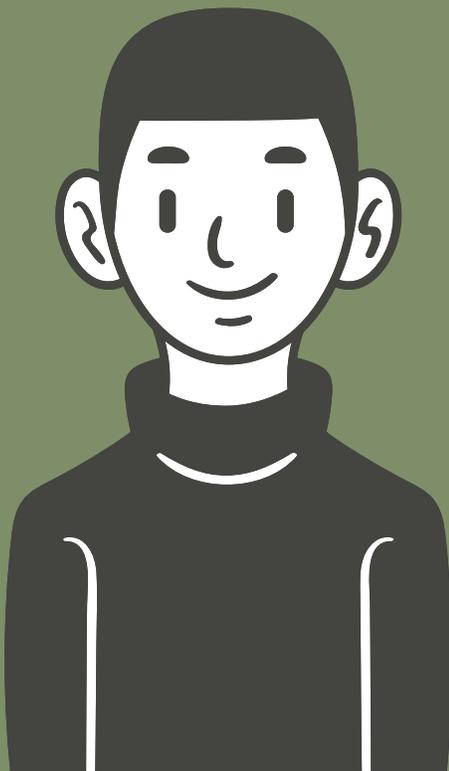
- We support students with IAG (Information, Advice & Guidance) for determining their next steps. This could be into work, an apprenticeship or further or higher education.
- As we don't have a dedicated space we work organically with our curriculum team to offer in-class interventions. We also operate a booking system that allows students to book a 1-1 appointment with a Careers Coach. Our bookings are for 30 minutes and are bookable between 9.30am and 4.30pm 5 days a week.
- We have a centralised email address, FRACareers@fra.ac.uk, that is manned by the team. We aim to reply to all messages within 48 hours.
- FRACareers delivers targeted in-class sessions across all courses to support curriculum. We deliver relevant and informative sessions alongside tutors and Group Leads to support with the learning that is taking place.
- We ensure there is a dedicated Careers Coach or Adviser for each course and cohort. This means there is a dedicated person who has knowledge of the course and units and can support students from a place of knowledge and experience.
- The team work closely with a huge range of brands to facilitate opportunities such as internships where these are available.
- FRACareers offer specific support with UCAS, this includes progression sessions, updates on the process and application timelines to support with personal statements. We have also created a dedicated area for UCAS on Canvas that all the relevant students have access to, this has a wealth of information for making a UCAS application.
- We have also developed an FRACareers section on Canvas which is available for all students to access. This has information, articles and a range of 'How To' webinars demonstrating how to navigate and some of the key functionality of our careers platform.

Please note - When booking an appointment your slot is not confirmed until you receive details of the room etc. from your Career Coach via email, this can take up to 24 hours. If you require an urgent or last minute appointment please email FRACareers@fra.ac.uk



"My Career Coach helped me find out what I want to do next when I leave the FRA."

A.B
- L3 Fashion Retail



FRA ALUMNI

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU FINISH YOUR TIME AT THE FASHION RETAIL ACADEMY?

The support doesn't end when you finish your course at the FRA. FRACareers are passionate about working with past students to continue to inform the development of our current students' employability skills.

You will have the opportunity to join the FRA Alumni upon successful completion of your course as you take your next steps. Joining the alumni offers a range of benefits and opportunities:

- Continued access to both a Careers Coach and the FRACareers platform for a period.
- Access to our exclusive LinkedIn group that offers further industry job opportunities.
- Contact with industry experts and influencers through FRA masterclasses.
- Opportunities to give back to students currently studying at the Academy through FRA Industry Exclusives. Alumni can offer a real insight into working in the industry which is invaluable to students via video, articles or in person.

Take Test

Take Test



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ASOS

ASOS



WHO WE ARE

We believe in a world where you have total freedom to be you, with no limits. To experiment. To express yourself. To be brave and grab life as the it comes. We make sure everyone has an equal chance to discover all the opportunities available – no matter who they are, where they're from or what they do. We give you the confidence to be whoever you want to be.

We have 168 suppliers who use 713 factories around the world. We ensure every single person in that global supply chain is safe at work and protected – that includes working towards ensuring all wages meet basic needs, but also provide some discretionary income. We set up support our suppliers to help them meet them, so we developed a

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Following assessments take 10-15 minutes each to complete. At the end, we provide recommendations to apply to the workplace.



Strengths

Taken on 16 Sep 19

See/print report

Retake assessment



Learning Styles

✓ Taken on 27 Sep 19

See/print report

Retake assessment

FASHION RETAIL ACADEMY

FRACAREERS PLATFORM

INNOVATIVE - INTUITIVE - INDUSTRY-FOCUSED

We really would not be able to deliver the service that we provide without our amazing careers platform. We work in partnership with Abintegro who support over 70% of universities in the UK with careers. However, there are only 8 colleges that use this platform and we are by far the most engaged and successful in our usage. In the academic year 2019/20 we had **1376** student users and **45,976** activities completed on the platform!

A SUCCESSFUL FIRST YEAR

Our first year of use of the platform has seen over **82%** of our students actually engaging and that's without having dedicated themes or a programme which we are currently developing and will introduce in this academic year.

- New in 2020/21 is Interview360 which is an update to the interview simulator and another great tool to allow students to practice an assortment of types of interviews.
- Career assessments psychometric diagnostics to support with personal development and interview and assessment centre prep.
- A unique career self-assessment tool called Career Pulse.
- E-learning, employability programmes, videos, webinars and much more.
- We have built FRA Industry Exclusives into the platform which is a dedicated resource for us to upload amazing video content from our brands, industry contacts and alumni.

KEY FEATURES

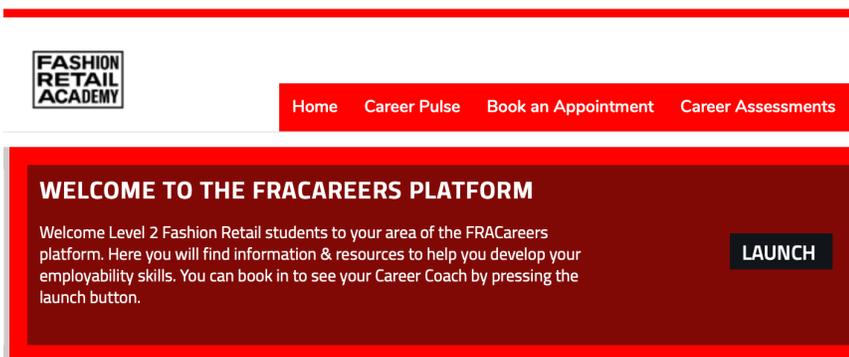
- A user-friendly, intuitive platform with over 10,000 tools and resources to support students with their development.
- Although we are not a recruitment service the platform has a dedicated jobs board. We advertise roles, placements and internships directly from our partnership brands.
- A phenomenal tool called CV360 which replicates CV scanning software so students can score their CVs.

The platform continues to evolve and offer new features for our students, so watch this space!

COURSE-SPECIFIC THEMES

NEW FOR 2020/21

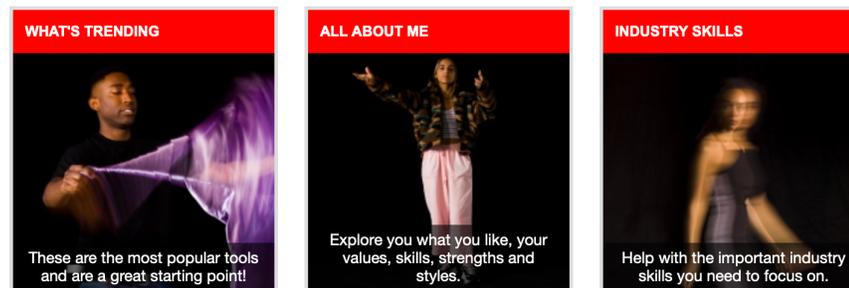
"UNRIVALLED CONTENT THAT IS RELEVANT AND DEVELOPMENTAL"



For the 2020/21 academic year FRACareers are pleased to introduce a new feature to the careers platform, course-specific themes. There will be separate themes for Level 2 Fashion Retail, Level 3 Fashion Retail, Level 3 Fashion Design and Level 4 & HE Degrees. The introduction of themes allows us to really tailor the content offered to not only the level of study but the particular course.

Content has been specifically chosen for the themes to back up our work with curriculum on PPD (Personal and Professional Development) sessions. Also, through the use of programmes put together by the FRACareers team, we offer unrivalled content that is relevant and developmental for all students regardless of the level they are studying at.

Welcome Marc



"FRACareers helped me to set out short, medium and long term goals."

C.L
- L4 Garment Technology



WEEKLY UPDATES IN CAREER WEEK

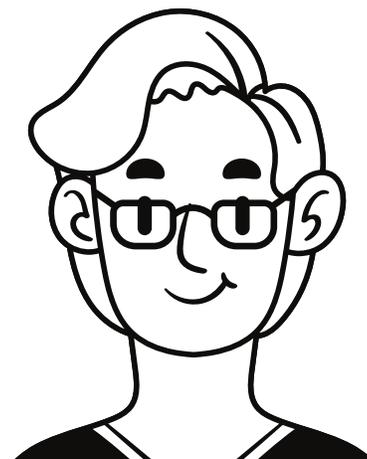
"They helped with my CV and where to look for jobs"

J.M

- L4 Digital Marketing

Career Week is our weekly email update sent directly to all students via their FRA email. This amazing resource includes articles written specifically for our students by the FRACareers team. These cover important topics and issues affecting the fashion retail sector as well as direct links to a wealth of content on the careers platform. Our Job Spotlight is another feature of Career Week. This highlights any new job, internship or short term placement opportunities that come through from our partnership brands that are posted on our jobs board. Last year we posted a range of positions from retail opportunities and head office-based roles to internships from a range of brands including; Calvin Klein, Tommy Hilfiger, Ted Baker and Tom Ford. Details of job opportunities are also displayed on the big screen in reception so if students are looking for a part-time job they should check these amazing positions out.

Every student is automatically signed up for Career Week when they log into the platform for the first time. This highly valuable resource is delivered straight into their FRA inbox every Friday afternoon so it's well worth them keeping an eye out for it!



FRA Career Week

Supporting you with your future career choices and progression



Skills Toolkit

In times such as this having a wide array of transferable skills in your toolkit can really help you to stand out, be more employable and get a head start in a new job. Check out a video on this [here](#).

On the Platform

The FRACareers platform offers an array of information on this: [Transferable skills on your CV](#) [Skills for a changing world](#) [Being openminded](#)
Check the links out to see more.

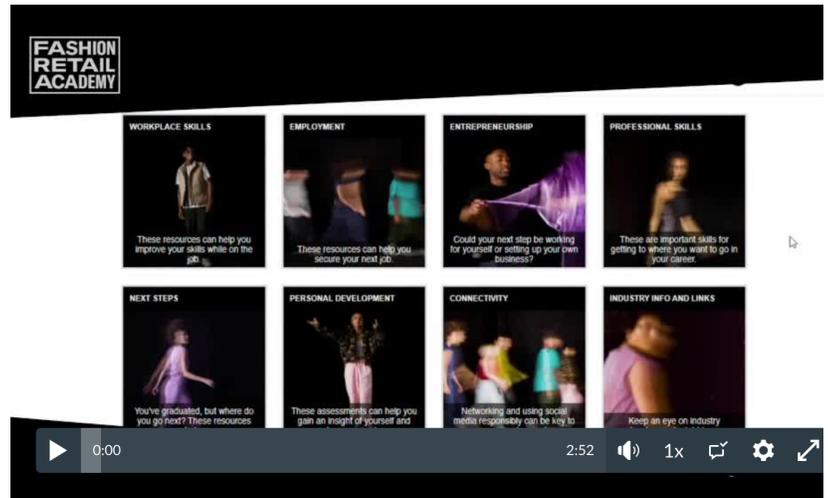


A LOOK AT OUR

CANVAS PAGE

THE FRACAREERS CANVAS PAGE

The FRACareers team have a range of ways to communicate with our students. We have a page on Canvas, our virtual learning environment, that is another avenue for us to get information to all students enrolled at the Fashion Retail Academy. The FRACareers tile on Canvas is available to all students when they enroll and has a great range of resources for students wanting to find out more about our service. You can link directly to the FRACareers platform from this page as well as through the FRA Sharepoint homepage. Here you will also find a range of short video webinars covering a wide range of topics; 'Getting to Know the Careers Platform', 'Career Pulse', 'CV360' and 'The Job Tracker'. These informative videos will talk you through some of the key functionalities of the FRACareers platform and will be really useful as you explore the resources and assessments available to you. Also, we list links to all of the Career Week articles written by the FRACareers team on our Canvas page. Simply click the links to read these articles on the platform.



THE UCAS CANVAS PAGE

There is also a page on Canvas specifically on making a UCAS application. This page gives you all of the information you will need for making an application for university for the 2021 UCAS cycle. It contains the buzzword to link your application to the FRA, our centre information, as well as details on how to apply, student finance and how to apply for loans and breakdowns of the degree courses offer at the Fashion Retail Academy. It should be your first port of call for all information regarding UCAS applications.



REASONS TO WORK WITH FRACAREERS



"There's a lot of passion from FRACareers and they really do want the best for the students."

T.F
- **L4 Merchandising**

82%

of enrolled students engaged with the platform in 2019/20.

45,976

activities completed by students on the platform in 2019/20.

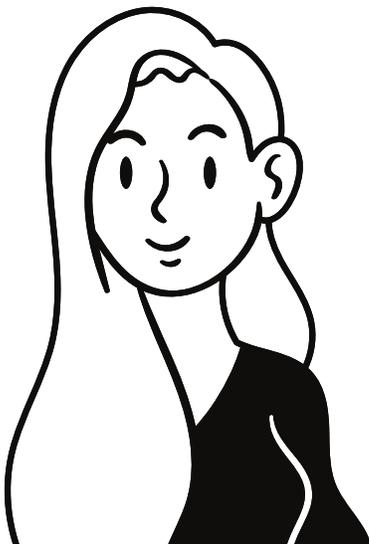
"FRACareers helped with creating a CV that will be read and valued."

G.H
- **L3 Fashion Retail**



1,911

CVs improved by using the CV360 software in 2019/20.



"The service and resources helped me focus on my strengths and reflect on my weaknesses."

Z.B
- **L4 Visual Merchandising**

Good luck

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TO ALL OUR STUDENTS FOR THE
YEAR AHEAD!

We look forward to seeing everyone in class in term 1
and throughout the year.



Need support? Get in touch! An appointment can be
booked directly through the careers platform or you
can email us at the address below:

FRACareers@fra.ac.uk

www.fashionretailacademy.ac.uk