

EDUCATION

## Kering, London College of Fashion launch open-access sustainability course

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*Kering is working with the London College of Fashion on sustainability coursework. Image credit: Gucci*

By STAFF REPORTS

Conglomerate Kering is encouraging the luxury and fashion community to adopt sustainability through education.

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The group is working with the London College of Fashion, UAL on a free six-week course that will cover both the theories and applications of sustainability for the luxury business. In an effort to make a larger impact, the class is being made available to any and all who wish to learn.

"At Kering we believe that the shift towards sustainability and innovation in luxury fashion is not only an imperative, in our world of finite resources, but also a goldmine of opportunity," said Francois-Henri Pinault, chairman and CEO of Kering, in a statement made during the launch event for the course.

"We actively work with our Houses to craft tomorrow's luxury via our 2025 sustainability strategy, but also wish to contribute to the evolution of luxury fashion as a whole, by sharing our expertise with industry counterparts and educating future generations," he said. "Today I am proud that Kering's partnership with London College of Fashion takes a new step, making education accessible outside of the classroom with the world's first open-access digital course on sustainable luxury fashion."

### Sustainability sessions

Titled "Fashion & Sustainability: Understanding Luxury Fashion in a Changing World," the course from Kering and LCF will officially kick off on April 9 with the first edition of the class. Enrolled students will be able to access coursework at their leisure, accessing it via mobile or desktop device.

The total 18 hours of instruction time will include a mix of films, podcasts, activities, quizzes and discussions.

Throughout the class designed by academics from LCF and Kering's sustainability experts, participants will be led through six modules. These include topics such as why sustainability matters in fashion and sustainable sourcing for luxury goods.

As the first Massive Open Online Course dedicated to this topic, the class is designed to reach both those in the industry and interested members of the public. It also aims to reach both current fashion talents and those who will

be looking for jobs in fashion in the future.

Kering and LCF are also teaming with the British Fashion Council to promote sustainability within the fashion industry. As part of the partnership, British designers are previewing the platform ahead of the course's global start.



*Kering is aiming to educate on sustainability. Image courtesy of Bottega Veneta*

"Over a year in the making and based on the research, teaching and practice of Centre for Sustainable Fashion at London College of Fashion, UAL as well as the expertise and leadership of Kering's sustainability team, we are delighted to present the world's first luxury fashion online course developed between higher education and industry," said Frances Corner, head of London College of Fashion, UAL.

"This is significant because it signals a real desire and commitment from the industry to the open sourcing' of knowledge," she said. "Only through collaboration and the sharing of experience can we face the enormity of the challenges that lie ahead together.

"Often we can feel overwhelmed or unsure what sustainability means for our industry we feel disempowered because there is no one size fits all' solution - but this course aims to empower aspiring and existing fashion professionals alike and help them develop their own manifesto for change."

In 2014, Kering inked a five-year partnership with LCF's Centre for Sustainable Fashion.

This collaboration will promote sustainability in fashion by encouraging innovation, working with students, as well as designers, teachers, researchers and industry experts. As Kering focuses on its in-house sustainability efforts, this further positions the group as a leader in eco-friendly fashion ([see story](#)).