Istituto Marangoni Paris has announced its new 2022 I'M Mentors Projects, which includes an opportunity for students to work closely with Balmain creative director Olivier Rousteing.

During the mentorship program, the French designer will offer young fashion students his renowned expertise in design, creativity and the fashion industry. Details have yet to be finalized, but the program will include a masterclass in the spring, a Balmain-sponsored scholarship for the 2022 academic year and student participation in Balmain’s Fashion Festival in September.

Fashion education
Mr. Rousteing studied fashion at the Ecole Suprieure des Arts et Techniques de la Mode in Paris before moving to Italy to work for Roberto Cavalli.

In 2011, when Mr. Rousteing was only 25, he was appointed as creative director of Balmain, becoming one of the youngest designers to run a historical French fashion house.
"I am different from the other artistic directors of the Parisian fashion houses and I am determined to seize the opportunity to make new things happen and change what needs to be changed," he said in a statement.

"The world is rapidly changing outside our ateliers and the mentality and beautiful diversity we see on the streets today are a constant source of inspiration for me," he said. "This is why I will always look for honesty, direct communication, true inclusion and democratization in the world of fashion."

Through his designs and leadership, Mr. Rousteing has championed inclusivity in fashion for a number of years and hopes to inspire young designers to continue in this commitment toward a better industry.

During *The New York Times* Beyond the Runway virtual panel in March 2021, Mr. Rousteing pointed out that, due to the pandemic, fashion experienced a well overdue shift from focusing on the "elite" to expanding to audiences outside of fashion shows (see story).