PARIS AMERICAN ACADEMY

International school of Fashion, Interior Design, Fine Arts and Creative Writing
registered by the Académie de Paris

Établissement d'Enseignement Supérieur Privé

Fashion Design Program Spring 2027

About Paris American Academy

Paris American Academy, founded in **1965** by Richard Roy, is registered with the French educational authority, **Académie de Paris**.

Located in the Latin Quarter—less than one mile from Notre-Dame—Paris American Academy draws on **Paris's cultural and artistic heritage**, using the city itself as an extended campus.

The Academy has welcomed students and professionals from **35 nationalities** over the past **60 years**.

Students benefit from a highly personalized learning environment, where small class sizes allow for a high level of guidance and flexibility.

Paris American Academy brings together a distinctive **teaching team** of academics, experienced industry professionals, and invited guest artists—ensuring a practical, industry-aligned educational experience.

Our strongly vocational approach - through intensive short-term seminars, four-month terms, and a three-year curriculum - prepares students for careers in **Fashion, Fine Arts, and Interior Design**.

Fashion Design Program/Spring 2027

Preparing aspiring designers by providing them with a firm foundation in the critical skills and techniques needed to enter the professional design world.

PROGRAM DETAILS	
Program Dates	January 25, 2027 – May 11, 2027
School Location	19, rue Claude Bernard, 75005 Paris
Application Fee	100€
Tuition	8,875€
Credits	16

Introduction

The semester program prepares aspiring fashion professionals by giving them a firm foundation in product design, design process, luxury and couture techniques, as well as introducing professional skills needed to succeed in the fashion industry.

Students explore fashion design through coursework around the design process, including tailoring, embroidery, draping, flat pattern, and fashion drawing. On-site visits to contemporary exhibitions enhance the study of fashion history and art history, enhancing the student's holistic cultural experience. Practical French language prepares students for daily life in Paris.

Students may also participate in the internship program, which gives them practical experience with a range of fashion applications, from concept to finished garment.

Program Components (16 total credits)

- ### General classes

A History of Fashion from Louis XIV to the Present Day. Seminar

3 CREDITS

This course explores the evolution of French fashion from the opulent court of King Louis XIV in 17th-century France to the avant-garde creation of today. Students will examine how clothing transformed from a strict symbol of royal authority, political hierarchy, and craftsmanship into a medium of individual expression, avant-garde, aesthetic, and economic power.

We will analyze key historical turning points—including the birth of Haute couture under Charles Frederick Worth, then the couturiers of the 20th century, and the rise of prêt-à-porter, contemporary sportswear and sustainable fashion. Through visual analysis, historical readings, and case studies, students will learn how fashion reflects and shapes society, aesthetics, class, and politics.

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

Identify major historical silhouettes, garments, and design movements from 1660 to the present.

Analyze clothing as a cultural, aesthetics, economic, and political context.

Understand the transition from royal patronage to a multi-billion-dollar global industry.

Dr. Agnès Rannou

BIO. Dr Agnès Rannou is an art historian with a Ph.D in Aesthetics (Edward Hopper and American Realism). Professor of Art History, Fashion History, Interior Design History, and French as a Foreign Language.

French as a foreign Language: LV1, LV2, LV3. Seminar

3 CREDITS

The French as a second language program will be divided into three levels:

beginners, intermediate and advanced.

Each level uses a program based on 24 lessons which are covered two lessons per week. Each lesson consists of three parts: grammar, thematic vocabulary plus practical application both oral and written. Emphasis is placed on oral skills since the principal objective of these courses is to encourage communication in correct French.

Group 1- Beginners level

Provides a foundation in French grammar (indicative verb form and basic rules of syntax. This will allow for students, in addition to becoming familiar with basic vocabulary (daily life, corporation, media...) to begin communicating orally. The goal of the course is to develop the students' ability to understand the French language on a basic level and to express themselves while discovering French culture through art, media and civilization.

Group 2- Intermediate

The course will begin with a series of revisions (indicative verb form, basic vocabulary) in order to allow students to structure simple sentences in a known context and to participate in conversations. The grammatical progression and lexical development that continues throughout the year ensures both oral and written comprehension.

Group 3- Advanced

The students at this level are able to express themselves on familiar subjects and will learn to better master grammatical structure and will acquire a sufficient vocabulary to manage a wider range of situations and social contexts. This will enhance reading and writing skills with the aid of a dictionary.

A variety of texts are studied and provide themes for discussions and debates.

The themes evoke the plurality of French culture: arts, morals and mentality, society and the media.

- ## Fashion Design classes

Haute Couture Draping. Studio

1.5 CREDITS

This studio course introduces students to the practice of haute couture draping (moulage) as a creative and technical method of garment development. Working directly on the dress form, students explore how fabric, volume, proportion, and silhouette interact to create refined three-dimensional designs.

Through a series of structured exercises and progressive projects, students develop an understanding of garment architecture, balance, and fit while cultivating the observational and manual skills associated with professional couture practice.

Through demonstrations and hands-on experimentation, the course investigates foundational draping techniques including bodice development, volume creation, bias manipulation, gathers, folds, and sculptural fabric treatments. Students learn to analyze the behavior of different textiles and transform design concepts into sophisticated forms through an intuitive and process-oriented approach.

Particular attention is given to precision, craftsmanship, and the refinement of haute couture techniques. Students develop a deeper understanding of proportion, structure, movement, and the relationship between fabric and the body while refining their ability to shape and control form directly in three dimensions.

Students are encouraged to experiment with creative silhouette development while applying professional draping methodologies used within couture and luxury fashion houses. Individual projects allow varying levels of experience to engage with increasingly complex design challenges and personal aesthetic exploration.

By the end of the semester, students will have developed confidence in three-dimensional design development and completed a series of draped studies and an original garment project demonstrating both technical competence and creative expression.

Damian Yee

BIO. Damian Yee is a Jamaican-born fashion and costume designer as well as an educator, trained at Toronto Metropolitan University.

He moved to Paris in 1990, working with leading designers including Martine Sitbon, Jean-Paul Gaultier, Barbara Bui, Hervé Léger, Karl Lagerfeld, and later served as Artistic Director at Guy Laroche.

His work spans fashion, music, and cinema, including award-winning costume design for internationally recognized films.

Currently teaching at the Paris American Academy, he also lectures at important educational institutions in France, while continuing collaborations with international brands and developing creative projects in Paris.

FLAT PATTERN Cutting — From Fundamentals to Creative Pattern Cutting. Studio

1.5 CREDITS

This hands-on course introduces students to flat pattern cutting as both a technical discipline and a creative design tool. Working from existing basic blocks, students learn how to transform a foundation pattern into different garments, silhouettes and design ideas through manual pattern manipulation.

Through demonstrations and practical exercises, the course explores dart manipulation, slash-and-spread techniques, volume, fit and garment construction. Students progressively move from fundamental transformations to more personal and creative constructions.

Particular attention is given to balance, ease, proportion, movement, and the relationship between a two-dimensional pattern and the final three-dimensional silhouette.

Students are encouraged to experiment and adapt the techniques demonstrated in class to their own design ideas, allowing different levels of experience to work at an appropriate level of complexity.

By the end of the program, students will have developed greater autonomy in pattern development and completed a personal final toile combining techniques explored during the semester.

Charlotte Lionnard

BIO. Charlotte Lionnard started her fashion journey via an immersion in Textile design. She later on moved to Berlin to study Knitwear then join the London College of Art in London to pursue her training with a focus on menswear.

Curious and hard working she worked while studying for emerging designer such as Faustine Steinmetz, Grace Wales Boner. After graduating she joined the danish team of Anne Sofie Madsen before moving back to Paris to assist the Botter duo at Nina Ricci.

After working for Haute couture designer Yiqing Yin she founded her eponymous label.

Charlotte Lionnard's designs focuses on textile alterations and sublimations to bring a textural and sensory aspect to menswear.

Portfolio: Design Process and Collections. Seminar

3 CREDITS

This studio-based course invites students to explore, develop, and articulate their individual creative vision through fashion design, guiding them in building a personal portfolio from initial research and experimentation to original design concepts and collections.

Set within the creative landscape of Paris, the course draws on the city's rich couture heritage, contemporary fashion culture, and traditions of craftsmanship. Students explore how couture heritage continues to evolve through new creative perspectives, cultural influences, and contemporary approaches to design.

Through exhibitions, fashion collections, and cultural research, students discover how these influences can inform their own work, bringing their individual backgrounds and perspectives into the design process.

Through research, sketching, visual experimentation, and the development and curation of design ideas, students build their personal design language and strengthen their point of view. Working alongside PAA's couture techniques, tailoring, and textile classes, they integrate silhouette development, craftsmanship, and material experimentation into their projects.

The studio combines individual guidance, group discussions, and regular critiques, encouraging students to explore new directions, challenge their ideas, and refine their work.

Emphasis is placed on documenting the creative process, visual storytelling, and learning to edit and communicate design ideas effectively.

Throughout the semester, students develop a digital portfolio alongside their PAA Diary, bringing together research, experimentation, design development, and work produced during their time in Paris.

By the end of the semester, students have developed a personal body of work that reflects their creative identity and can serve as a foundation for future thesis collections, advanced studies, or independent design projects.

Antonio Azzuolo

BIO. At PAA, Antonio Azzuolo leads design and portfolio studios that emphasize process, visual clarity, and the articulation of a strong point of view.

His approach moves between precision and instinct—balancing structure with fluidity, and heritage with reinterpretation.

Students learn to translate research into concise, well-structured outcomes that are both conceptually grounded and visually resolved.

Textile Techniques. Studio

1 CREDIT

This course introduces students to a range of advanced textile techniques and surface development processes employed within the high-end fashion industry. Through a combination of theoretical research, material investigation, and practical experimentation, students will explore the creative and technical potential of textile embellishment, manipulation, and surface decoration.

The course will encompass a diverse range of techniques, including embroidery, lace application, origami-inspired textile manipulation, ribbon work, beadwork, three-dimensional flower making, and leather manipulation. Students will investigate the relationship between material, texture, structure, and form, considering how traditional craft techniques can be adapted and reinterpreted within contemporary fashion contexts.

Students will develop a collection of textile samples and explore how these techniques can be applied to a garment. They will present their ideas through fashion sketches, showing the placement and integration of the textile techniques within the garment design.

Barbara Skuczik

BIO. Barbara Agnes Skuczik. Textile, Print designer and Illustrator for the past 25 years and educator in Paris since 2009. Loves to share her passion for creative textiles surface design.

BA in Fashion Print / Central Saint Martins London.

Ma in Drawing / Paris College of Art

Sewing and Haute Couture techniques. Studio

3 CREDITS

This hands-on program introduces students to advanced haute couture construction and finishing techniques through three practical projects.

Project 1 – Draped Bustier: Students will create a structured bustier, starting with a *toile*, inserting boning, and developing two different draping directions within a predefined shape. Special attention will be given to invisible stitching, pleat fixation, and lining.

Project 2 – Lace Camisole: Students will construct a lace camisole, focusing on lace motif placement, pattern matching, delicate edge finishes, invisible seams, and refined couture finishing techniques.

Project 3 – Haute Couture Tailored Collar and Lapels: Students will learn traditional tailoring techniques to construct a haute couture collar and lapels, including basic sleeve setting. Depending on available time, they will also practice a hand-embroidered tailored buttonhole or a sleeve vent.

Throughout the program, emphasis will be placed on precision, craftsmanship, and the development of professional haute couture skills.

Nicole Yao

BIO. Nicole Yao is a haute couture tailor with 17 years of experience, having worked for prestigious houses including Guy Laroche, Givenchy, Hermès, and Chanel.

She has also worked as a haute couture tailoring trainer for 5 years and has over 12 years of teaching experience in luxury ready-to-wear, specializing in garment construction, draping, and pattern making in important fashion schools across France.

Academic Calendar Spring 2027

Date	Event
24 January	Arrival no later than 24/01/2027
25 January	Program starts (Monday). Special Fashion week activity TBC
26 January	Orientation (Tuesday) TBC
25–28 January	Official dates Haute Couture/Fashion week
26–28 January	Official dates Première Vision fair
1–9 March	Official dates Woman/Fashion week
29 March	Easter Monday/Bank Holiday
5–11 April	Spring Term Break
1 May	Labour day/Bank holiday (Saturday)
6 May	Ascension day/Bank holiday (Thursday) TBC
8 May	Victory day/Bank holiday (Saturday)
11 May	Program ends (Tuesday). Jury and Farewell event (Tuesday)
12 May	Departure no earlier than 12/05/2027

PARIS AMERICAN ACADEMY

19, rue Claude Bernard, 75005 Paris, France – Tel: +33 (0)1 86 04 37 93

contact.parisamericanacademy@gmail.com – www.parisamericanacademy.fr