

# HIGHER VISION LONDON

**Preface:** With a striking headquarters and a key role at the heart of the UK’s burgeoning creative industries, Central Saint Martins has reaffirmed its reputation as an artistic centre of excellence.

**School:** Central Saint Martins  
College of Art and Design  
**Location:** London  
**Founded:** 1989 as a result of a merger between Saint Martins School of Art (1854) and Central School of Arts & Crafts (1896)  
**Number of employees:** 389  
**Number of premises:** 2

**Quote:** *‘Few design schools can boast the alumni power of Central Saint Martins’*

During term time, any given morning in London bears witness to students swarming like ants north of King’s Cross, all heading to class at Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design. Men experiment with drop-crotch trousers tucked into leather riding or biker boots. Girls favour skirts and shirts topped with carefully constructed hair-do’s. It’s just as well these students care enough to dress beautifully because it’s likely that in years to come they’ll be at the forefront of their chosen creative fields.

Formed in 1989 following the merger of two older institutions – the Central School of Arts & Crafts and the Saint Martins School of Art – Central Saint Martins emerged from two schools founded at a time when craft and design education was recognised as vital to the industrial prowess of the UK. The UK has one of the largest creative sectors in Europe and leading this next generation of artistically minded businessmen and women is Central Saint Martins, one of six colleges that comprise the University of the Arts London – the largest creative educational establishment in Europe.

In 2011 the school moved into a new home at the Granary Building, part of Lewis Cubitt’s 1852 Goods Yard complex. It’s a soaring, cathedral-like space with the preserved brick façades

of the industrial buildings. It’s difficult not to be wowed and it’s little surprise that the new campus has been showered with awards.

But of course it’s not just the school building that attracts prospective graduates. Central Saint Martins’ students are involved directly with their future industry throughout their studies. LVMH sponsored the lecture theatre and is one of several scholarship providers. The fashion department has teamed up for projects with Celine, J.Crew and Louis Vuitton to name a few; the graphics department with Hewlett-Packard, Tetra Pak and Kagome. “They come to us for ideas,” says Anne Smith, dean of academic programmes and herself a former student. “When I studied here we did just one project with the industry. Today we turn brands away if they’re only interested in brand association. The global industry looks to us to provide their designers of tomorrow.” — (M)

**Why you should come here:** Few design schools can boast the alumni power of Central Saint Martins. The school’s graduates include fashion hotshots, Turner Prize-winning artists, film directors, musicians and even chefs. Attending gives students access to one of the best address books in the creative industry.



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- 01 Classrooms seen from the interior main concourse
- 02 The concourse is nicknamed ‘The Street’
- 03 East Transit Shed
- 04 One of the many workshops
- 05 Philip Strawbridge, BA menswear
- 06 Model workshop
- 07 Anne Smith, dean, fashion and textiles
- 08 The Granary Building



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