

> HISTORY

The Department of Fashion Design at the Trier University of Applied Sciences is not only highly recognized in Germany, it is also the oldest, still existing institution for fashion design, which was founded as a design class at the state technical and arts and craft school in 1922.

Today, after several reconstructions, it is located in the building of the former Dominican monastery St. Katharina at Irminenfreihof, which was constructed by master builder Johannes Seiz in the 18th century. After a variety of different uses - during World War II as a military hospital and subsequently as a state construction school - the historical building complex was last renovated at the turn of the century.

From the founding of the fashion design class in 1922 until the mid-1950s female graduates (1.) predominantly found their professional field of activity in self-employment, designing and producing individual, artistic clothing items for private customers.

From about 1950 until 1955 a number of companies were founded in Germany, in which young people were needed who were artistically and practically trained in drafting and cutting - so called manageresses or later graduated designers (2). Increasingly, this was where students from Trier found a new employment opportunity in the field of textiles and fashion. Partly, they were also working as model illustrators, in fashion journalism as well as in the sales and marketing department of different German textile companies.

In the 1970s the proportional distribution between freelancers and regularly employed graduates was about 40 to 60 percent. These are cautious estimates due to the lack of detailed studies.

Since about 1970 highly trained fashion designers who were capable of successfully covering all areas of the trade were appointed for the management of fashion departments throughout the fashion industry. Here, the teaching contents implemented in Trier proved to be ideal prerequisites and leading companies began to preferably hire graduates from the Department of Fashion Design in Trier.

This resulted in a number of professional contacts that exist to this day and has led to regular requests that reach the Trier University of Applied Sciences in an attempt to seek out recommendations for graduate students.

1. Due to the small number of male students these developments only refer to female students. In fact, it was not until 1961 that the first male student verifiably enrolled in the program.

2. Former name for a university degree in the field of design.