

# Careers Chat



## ABOUT KEVIN HARDING

LECTURER IN FASHION  
TECHNOLOGY

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER  
FASHION AND BUSINESS  
TECHNOLOGY

### MY JOURNEY INTO SCIENCE

As a child I loved playing with different fabrics. I was fascinated by how they felt and looked. I enjoyed mixing and matching them to make outfits. At school, I was always interested in science and art, especially when they came together. I liked physics, especially when I saw how different fabrics worked in experiments. In chemistry, I loved discovering what fabrics are made of. Design and technology classes were my favourite though - here I learnt about machines that make everyday things. This love of fashion and how things are made is what led me to university.

### MY JOB

I teach fashion at the University of Manchester. Before this, I worked in the fashion industry where I gained lots of experience I now use to make my lessons really interesting. I share exciting things with my students like new materials, technology, the types of people who make our clothes and how to be kind to our planet. I love teaching young people about how clothes are made as I think it's important to know where our clothes come from. My job is very varied, which really suits me. I get to work with lots of different people and teach students from all around the world, who will be the next experts in fashion. I also work on exciting projects to make fashion more friendly to the environment. I think it's incredible that I get to help my students think in new ways about fashion and I can't wait to see the amazing ideas they come up with in the future.

### MY HOBBIES

I love visiting museums to learn about art and clothes from the past. You'll often find me in second hand shops to find cool, used clothes and furniture as I believe in reusing things to help the planet. I love a long walk immersing myself in nature, especially in the Lake District with my dog, Reggie the Miniature Schnauzer.

### A QUESTION I WANT TO ASK

What will it take for all fashion brands to set up circular fashion - to reuse the billions of garments that are discarded each year to create new ones?