



## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

I am a designer on my pathway to teaching, applying for a Master of Teaching (Secondary) in Design & Technologies (Textiles) with Visual Arts as a secondary area.

With roots in the Netherlands and a move to Melbourne planned for December 2025, I bring over a decade of experience in design, creative education and digital culture into the classroom.

Through the Permission to Teach (PTT) and Teach Today Teach Tomorrow (TTT) pathways, I aim to contribute to schools while completing my studies.

## SKILLS

- Teaching & Learning: Lesson design • Student engagement • Blended learning •
- Creative Expertise: Textiles • Visual Arts • Social Design •
- Digital Competence: Digital literacy • Media education • AI in learning
- Professional Skills: Project management • Communication • Cross-cultural collaboration

# HELEN GRAS CV



[www.learningbydesign.nl](http://www.learningbydesign.nl)



[helen.gras@gmail.com](mailto:helen.gras@gmail.com)



[linkedin.com/in/helen-gras](https://www.linkedin.com/in/helen-gras)



## EDUCATION

### **Graduate Certificate in Design (23 ECTS)**

*Validated by the Open University UK · Utrecht School of the Arts , Netherlands · 2008*

Research-based program exploring design, communication and cultural theory. Focused on artistic research as a method for connecting creative practice with social and educational contexts.

### **Bachelor of Design University of the Arts Utrecht**

*Utrecht School of the Arts (HKU), NL 2008*

Comprehensive training in design thinking, prototyping and material exploration. Combined textile design, visual research and creative direction, with an emphasis on process-based learning.

### **Propedeuse in Cultural and Social Education**

**(Undergraduate Certificate, HBO)**

*Hogeschool van Amsterdam 2001*

Introductory teacher education studies in pedagogy, psychology and communication, focusing on the social role of education and creative learning environments.

### **Senior Secondary Certificate – HAVO (Higher General Secondary Education)**

*VHBO voormalig Stadstimmertuin, Netherlands · 1999*

General secondary qualification providing university entry, with strong emphasis on humanities.

# TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

My teaching philosophy is grounded in the belief that learning by design cultivates imagination and creativity – helping young people learn to shape the world that sustains their future.

I see design not only as a subject, but as a way of learning: through making, reflecting and adapting, students explore how ideas take form and meaning.

In this process, creativity becomes a language for understanding, and imagination a catalyst for change. By engaging ethically and curiously with materials, contexts and each other, students learn to connect what they make to who they are – and to co-design a future built on ethical awareness, creativity and care for their world.

## ADITIONAL INFORMATION

- Eligible for CSP/HECS-HELP
- Dual citizenship: Australian & Dutch
- Permission to Teach (PTT) eligibility – pathway to Teach Today, Teach Tomorrow (TTT)

## INTERESTS

- Textiles & Visual Arts – exploring materials, colour and technique through hands-on making
- Design, Culture & Media – linking creativity with identity, society and global perspectives
- Wellbeing & Education – fostering balance, resilience and mindfulness in learning



## RELEVANT TEACHING & EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

### Project Leader – Digital Literacy

*Lukida, Amsterdam the Netherlands | Jan 2024 – Sep 2025*

- Designed and delivered blended learning frameworks for Years 5–8.
- Trained and coached teachers to design media-rich, creative lessons.
- Led Project Alpha Youri, supporting transition of digital literacy skills into secondary school.

### Co-Founder – Open Youri

*(Digital Literacy & Creative Education)*

*Amsterdam the Netherlands | Jan 2024 – Sep 2025*

- Co-founded initiative developing creative tools for teachers to integrate digital literacy.
- Launched AI-driven classroom tool supporting resilience and critical thinking.

### Managing Assistant & Project Coordinator

*Lukida, Amsterdam | Jan 2022 – Jan 2024*

- Supported director with coordination of education projects and operations.
- Oversaw planning, logistics, and communication across multiple initiatives.

### Workshop Leader & Coach

*(freelance roles) 2015 – 2022*

- Facilitated creative workshops linking design, media, and wellbeing.



## CREATIVE INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

### Art Director / Social Design Projects

*Hello Helen Here,  
Amsterdam NL | 2008 – 2015*

- Managed design projects with a social focus.
- Translated abstract concepts into tangible outcomes for diverse audiences.

### Trend Researcher & Art Director

*– Fashion Snoops, NYC &  
Amsterdam | 2007 – 2009*

- Conducted international design research, reporting and forecasting.

### Designer (Fashion & Graphics) –

*Various clients, NL | 2010 – 2013*

- Designed maternity wear and branding for Dutch labels
- Created graphic design, campaigns, and POS materials.