



HELEN GRAS CV

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 (TTTT) 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



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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.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

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.