



WOOL4SCHOOL  
DESIGN COMPETITION

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# MEDIA KIT

UNITED KINGDOM

## WOOL4SCHOOL

In keeping with a long tradition of supporting individual excellence in textile and design, The Woolmark Company's annual student design competition Wool4School encourages aspiring fashion designers to show UK what they are made of. Open to all students aged between 14 - 19 the competition invites students to design an outfit using wool.

Launched in Australia in 2012, Wool4School has gone to involve more than 95,000 students, not only learning the fundamentals of fashion design but also exploring the benefits and versatility of wool and the fabric it creates.

By putting wool into the minds of UK's future fashion designers, Wool4School encourages innovative thinking and creative design, in keeping with The Woolmark Company's tradition of fostering the education of the future generation.

On the back of the success of Wool4School in Australia, The Woolmark Company launched the competition into Hong Kong 2015, England 2017, Italy 2018 and opened in UK 2018.

[wool4school.co.uk](http://wool4school.co.uk)



## ABOUT THE WOOLMARK COMPANY

The Woolmark Company is the global authority on wool. Through our extensive network of relationships spanning the international textile and fashion industries, we highlight Australian wool's position as the ultimate natural fibre and premier ingredient in luxury apparel.

One of the world's most recognised and respected brands, the Woolmark logo provides assurance of the highest quality. Since 1964, the symbol has represented pioneering excellence and innovation at every level of the supply chain to increase consumer demand and enhance the profitability, competitiveness and sustainability of the Australian wool industry.

The Woolmark Company is a subsidiary of Australian Wool Innovation, a not-for-profit enterprise that conducts research, development and marketing along the worldwide supply chain for Australian wool on behalf of about 55,000 woolgrowers that help fund the company..



## THE COMPETITION

Wool4School is a real-life fashion design experience, with big rewards available for both students and teachers.

Open to students aged between 14 - 19, across UK. Wool4School sets the challenge to design an original outfit made from one of the world's most innovative and natural fibres - wool - and go in the running to win some amazing prizes and opportunities.

Teachers can also take part in the competition by incorporating exclusive units of work that have been designed in line with each region's Design & Technology and Arts curriculum, allowing teachers to easily introduce Wool4School into their classroom.



## AUSTRALIAN MERINO WOOL

The Woolmark Company supports Australian farmers growing and harvesting wool to the very highest standards.

The Australian Merino sheep derives its name and basic appearance from the famed Royal Merino Flocks of Spain, having been introduced to Australia by European settlers more than 200 years ago.

Australia is the world's largest producer of Merino wool. Flexible and softer than other types of wool, the fibres bend more easily, largely removing the sensation of prickle associated with some wool items.

The finer a wool's diameter, the softer and more crimped it becomes. Crimp, the wave in the wool staple, contributes to the bulk and the lightness of wool fabrics. The Australian wool clip is particularly suited to use in apparel.



## **THE STORY OF MERINO WOOL: FROM SHEEP TO RETAILER**

### **SHEEP**

Australian Merino wool production begins with the breeding and selection of Merino sheep with fine fleece. Sheep live on sunlight, water and grass.

### **SHEARING**

Shearers clip the wool fleece from the sheep. A professional shearer can remove the entire fleece in under five minutes. Any vegetation is removed from the fleece and the fleece is graded according to its quality.

### **SCOURING**

Fleeces are washed to remove dirt, dust, sweat and wool grease. The wool grease is recovered and, from this, lanolin (which can be used for cosmetics and skin care products) is extracted.

### **TOP-MAKING**

When the wool fibre comes out of the scour, the fibres are in a random formation. The processes of carding (removing the vegetable matter and dirt to open up the scoured wool fibres), combing (removing the short fibres and any foreign matters) and gilling (finer and more refined combing) are used to arrange the fibres in an organised and parallel form. The processes conducted between scouring and spinning are collectively known as top-making.

### **SPINNING**

The process of inserting twist into assemblies of fibres (in top form) to make yarns.

There are three common types of yarn in the wool industry:

- Woollen yarns are hairy and contain shorter fibres; they are normally used for sweaters and blankets.
- Worsted yarns use longer fibres to produce smoother yarns which are used in products like suits.
- Semi-worsted yarns fall halfway between woollen and worsted yarns and can be used for finer, smoother knitwear.

**KNITTING**

The process of inter-looping yarns across the width of fabric to produce the shape of the garment.

**WEAVING**

The forming of fabric by interlacing long threads (yarns) passing in one direction with others at a right angle to them.

**MAKING UP**

Individual panels of garments are cut from flat fabrics and are sewn together to form the garment.

**FABRIC FINISHING**

Woven fabrics and circular knitted fabrics go through many processes following fabric formation to make them suitable for end use. Processes are carried out to wash, flatten, reduce hairiness, stretch, consolidate, and stabilise fabrics for end use. These processes improve the appearance, drape, feel and performance of the fabrics.

**DYEING**

The process of colouring the wool. Different finished effects are achieved by dyeing at the different stages of processing. Dyes can be natural or synthetic and colour can also be introduced through printing.

**READY FOR SALE**

After pressing, the garments are ticketed and labelled so consumers know how to care for their new Merino wool garment.



## JOIN THE CONVERSATION



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### WEBSITES

[www.wool4school.com](http://www.wool4school.com)  
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### WOOL4SCHOOL PARTNERS

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