



The Textile Institute Strategy Document 2024 – 2028

Our ambition is to be the leading international network for textile, clothing, footwear, and associated industries.

Our vision

To be the foremost international organisation for textile, clothing, and footwear professionals, advancing professional practice through networking, education, awards and publications, thus empowering current and future generations.

Strategy purpose

- * To provide a framework to underpin our Royal Charter, and to ensure financial sustainability to futureproof the organisation for the 21st century and beyond.
- * To strengthen the global standing of The Textile Institute, building on our rich heritage and international reputation across our four core areas of business: education, awards, events and publications to ensure we are recognised as being world-leading, enriched and informed by sector needs using our networks and partners globally.
- * To serve our global community through our charitable status for the advancement of textile, clothing, footwear, and associated industries worldwide.

Background

The Textile Institute is the professional body with a Royal Charter for people and organisations within the entire textile supply chain. For more than 115 years, the Institute has been bringing together professionals from all over the world for an exchange of ideas and provides a social community promoting the development and application of knowledge pertinent to the textile industries. It is an international organisation governed by a Council representing members globally.

The Textile Institute is run democratically by and for its members by the Trustees of the Institute, together with representatives from Sections, Special Interest Groups and internal committees. As a registered Charity with a Royal Charter the role of the Institute is to advance the general interests of the textile industry worldwide, more particularly in relation to the acquisition and application of knowledge for the benefit of mankind. The Institute has 11 Sections registered in 9 countries: Australia, Bangladesh, Hong Kong, India, New Zealand, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Switzerland and UK together with four Special Interest Groups spanning: sustainability, tailoring, textiles, and technical textiles.

The Textile Institute has a rich history dating back to its humble beginnings in 1910. The Institute was inaugurated on Friday 22 April 1910 with a worldwide family of 199 members at a short business meeting. This was followed by a reception and banquet at The Midland Hotel, Manchester, which still stands today.

The Institute's first world conference was held in Bradford UK in September 1910, the same year that the prestigious *Journal of The Textile Institute* was launched. The Journal continues to be world-leading today with an impact factor that rose to 1.88 in 2022. The Textile Institute was granted a Royal Charter in 1925 which underpins its global vision and is central to its strategy and mission. The Institute's purpose has remained unchanged throughout its history.

- to advance the general interests of the Textile Industry more particularly in relation to the acquisition and application thereto of scientific knowledge.
- to promote the profession and practice of Textile Technology, which for the purpose of this Our Charter, any Supplemental Charter and the Byelaws of the Institute shall mean the arts/design, sciences and technologies relating to fibres, to all products made from fibres, yarns, fabrics or other textile materials - including congenerous products made from fibrous materials - howsoever processed or produced and including the relevant fibrous materials themselves.

The much sought after Textile Institute Professional Qualifications date back to 1925. Over the years many thousands of individuals have applied for chartered status through a variety of routes, all of which are rigorously scrutinised by a committee of experts. In recent years, many universities have accredited their provision offering a route to professional qualifications for their students and a new membership stream for students and graduates. A system of offering Textile Institute Approval (with or without credit) to courses of shorter duration has also been developed.

A solid reputation for "Textile Terms and Definitions" has been built over the years and has a history dating back to 1954. In response to the pace of change across the sector this has now been transformed into a digital resource, available as part of the standard membership package. Publications continue to be a significant part of the Institute's work. *Textile Progress*, the research review journal (first published in 1969 and with an impact factor of 3.0 in 2022) continues to gather momentum. Some of the older critical reviews are still as popular today as they were on initial release. Issues which were deemed to be of significant interest in relation to the global Covid-19 pandemic were offered free of charge, enabling the Institute to further its civic mission regarding the acquisition and application of knowledge for the benefit of mankind.

The Institute has significantly extended its global publishing portfolio in recent years to include *International Journal of Fashion Design, Technology and Education*, *The Textile Institute Book Series (Elsevier)*, and *Textile Institute Professional Publications (CRC Press)*. Whilst the Institute's official magazine, *textiles*, aims to keep members well informed and abreast of new, novel and innovative developments across the commercial sector and the supply chain.

Mission, values and professional behaviour

Our mission remains to promote professionalism in all areas associated with the textile industries worldwide.

Our core values are to be:

- **Respectful and Fair** - We believe in treating everyone with dignity, empathy, and kindness. We recognise the unique worth of each person and value their contributions. We strive to create an environment where everyone feels respected and fairness is paramount.
- **Transparent and Accountable** - We commit to being open in our actions and decisions. We believe in taking responsibility for our actions and being accountable for our outcomes. We strive to build trust through honesty, transparency and integrity.
- **Inclusive and Ethical** - We are dedicated to promoting social justice and sustainability. We strive to create an inclusive environment where diversity is celebrated and everyone feels welcome. We adhere to high ethical standards in all our actions and decisions, promoting fairness and equality.
- **Ambitious and Impactful** - We are driven by our ambition to make a positive impact. We set high goals and work diligently to achieve them. We believe in the power of determination and hard work, and we strive to make a significant difference in everything we do.

These core values guide our actions and decisions, helping us to create a positive and productive environment. They reflect our commitment to professionalism, excellence, integrity, and respect for all.

Ambition

Our ambition is to be the leading network for textiles, clothing and footwear together with their associated industries worldwide. To achieve this, we will ...

- **Innovate**: Push boundaries in textiles and related industries with our extensive portfolio of publications and resources. We support both experienced and new publishers and provide members and subscribers with access to our comprehensive TI magazine.
- **Network**: Host and support inspiring events worldwide (for example our prestigious Parliamentary Lunch), offering excellent networking opportunities. We encourage member participation in our Section and Special Interest

Group activities and events and support Corporate Member events.

- **Reward:** Assist members with professional development, offering regular updates on opportunities such as job vacancies, competitions, medals, and awards. We recognise both academic and commercial experience through our range of Professional Qualifications.
- **Educate:** Provide sector-leading thematic and bespoke training through partner events, including conferences (for example the historic world conference - TIWC), webinars, workshops, training courses, exhibitions, and activities worldwide. We also offer intensive short courses approved by The Textile Institute.
- **Sustain:** As the only international professional body with a Royal Charter representing the entire supply chain in the textiles industries, we connect students, professionals, and organisations in up to 70 countries. We provide an inclusive approach to services that support the continuing professional development of our members.
- **Develop:** Ensure financial sustainability to serve future generations in a fast-paced innovative environment. We focus on internal staff development to advance careers within our organisation.

Our key tasks are:

	Short term	Medium term	Long term
Innovate: push boundaries of innovation in textiles and its associated industries.	Continuing to attract strong research published in journals. Extending global reach.	Attracting a wider group of authors and editors to keep book publications novel and current extending into new areas such as AI etc.	Explore new special interest groups to bring in new areas of expertise.
Network: increase networking opportunities for members worldwide.	Increasing Individual and Corporate Membership. Build on and extend prestigious events like TIWC and the Parliamentary Lunch.	Extend our global networks (new Sections) into new markets: China, Vietnam, Taiwan, Central Asian States, US.	Develop inroads into national and international government forums and advisory boards to ensure our members' voices and textile interests are represented.

Reward: recognise and reward excellence and innovation worldwide.	Encouraging applications for Professional Qualifications.	Make accreditation valuable and necessary for institutions.	Explore commercially bespoke accreditation, approval, and endorsements.
Educate: provide sector leading thematic and bespoke commercial training.	Providing the opportunity for members and non-members to gain knowledge and request information via training courses, short educational courses, information services, experts	Expand training to include expert podcasts and other modes of delivery. Expand to include study tours with commercial partners.	Engage our Special Interest Groups in the development of bespoke training and consultancy at regional, national and international levels.

	offering consultancy for short projects or problem solving.		
Sustain: care about our sustainability, social justice and equity.	<p>Fulfil our charitable aims by serving the wider community.</p> <p>Offering free training opportunities and public engagement opportunities.</p> <p>Develop an inclusive framework to maintain a code of sustainable good practice, with ethics, values, trust and respect, appropriate in the conduct of professionals.</p>	<p>Increase Corporate Members news.</p> <p>Offer opportunities for members to post news items from around the textile world for anyone to read.</p>	Expand bursaries for attendance at conferences, exhibitions and develop media dissemination of value and benefits.
Develop: a coherent framework to ensure we remain financial sustainable	<p>Ensure current resources both (financial & personnel) are streamlined offering value for money.</p> <p>Develop a marketing plan to ensure we are keeping the website fresh, accurate and constantly updated.</p>	<p>Building up our social media presence.</p> <p>Providing opportunities for students and young professionals to showcase their skills and improve employment chances.</p> <p>Encourage companies to advertise jobs on the website.</p>	Fostering mutually beneficial partnerships to both academic institutions, charities, advisory boards and the commercial sector.