



RETHINKING FASHION WASTE

SCHOLARSHIP CHALLENGE

For the Master in Sustainable
Fashion at IE New York College

ieNYC

The fashion industry is at a turning point. With growing awareness of its **environmental and social impact**, industry leaders are being called upon to rethink the way fashion is produced, consumed, and disposed of. One of the most pressing challenges in this transformation is textile waste, which continues to grow at an alarming rate, burdening landfills and ecosystems worldwide.

At **IE New York College (IENYC)**, we believe that **innovative thinking and interdisciplinary collaboration** are key to solving this challenge. That is why we are launching the **Rethinking Fashion Waste: Scholarship Challenge**—an opportunity for creative problem-solvers to explore real-world sustainability issues and propose impactful solutions.

In partnership with FABSCRAP, a pioneering nonprofit dedicated to textile waste reduction, this challenge will push participants to rethink how fashion's excess materials can be reintegrated into sustainable systems.

Participants will have the chance to develop a **strategic response to the textile waste crisis**, showcasing their ability to think critically, analyze complex systems, and propose actionable interventions.

Top submissions will be awarded **scholarships** for the Master of Science in Sustainable Fashion at IENYC, a one-year, full-time program in **New York City—one of the world's fashion capitals**. This is your opportunity to not only learn from industry leaders but also **secure funding to kickstart your journey in sustainable fashion**.

If you are passionate about reshaping the future of fashion, this challenge is for you. **Take the first step today.**

DESCRIPTION OF THE ISSUE

Textile waste is an urgent and escalating issue with significant local and global impacts. In the United States alone, as of 2018, textile waste accounted for **7.7% of solid waste** sent to landfills. This is largely driven by the overconsumption of **fast fashion and disposable clothing**.

The rapid production, consumption, and disposal cycle of clothing has led to reduced utilization rates and increasing environmental and social challenges, including **eco-toxicity, marine pollution, and negative impacts on human and animal health**.

Non-fashion textiles, such as **home and medical products**, also contribute to the growing waste problem. Circular systems and markets for reclaimed textiles remain **underdeveloped**, leaving most discarded textiles to be disposed of in overburdened landfills or incinerated, generating harmful air pollutants.

Donations are no longer a viable solution, as thrift stores struggle to manage the influx of low-quality clothing, much of which is exported to the **Global South**, where it negatively impacts local economies. Unmanaged landfills in regions like **Ghana and Chile** exacerbate the crisis, while **methane emissions and air pollution** from textile waste further harm ecosystems and communities. **Urgent action** is needed to address these interconnected issues.



IENYC, IEU, AND SUSTAINABLE FASHION

IE New York College (IENYC) is the newest partner campus of IE University and is proud to offer one of the only **global research-based master's programs in sustainable fashion**. Students in the **Master of Science in Sustainable Fashion** program gain **cutting-edge skills** to address the environmental and social challenges of the global fashion industry. They develop expertise in sustainability strategy, leadership, and innovative business models while accessing mentorship from **industry leaders**.

Located in **New York City**, the program connects students to a vibrant **fashion ecosystem**, equipping them for impactful careers in roles such as **sustainability consultant, innovation manager, or circularity strategist**. With a strong track record of **alumni success**, graduates emerge as **changemakers** ready to drive meaningful and systemic industry transformation.

IENYC has partnered with **FABSCRAP**, a **textile recycling nonprofit** that has pioneered a system to recycle and reuse fabric waste. FABSCRAP provides an accessible material resource for creative communities while reducing the fashion industry's environmental impact. Since its launch in 2016, **FABSCRAP has diverted over 2 million pounds of fabric from landfills**.

🌐 Website: www.fabscrap.org

📷 Instagram: [@fab_scrap](https://www.instagram.com/fab_scrap)

THE CHALLENGE

Textile waste systems are complex, involve many stakeholders, and require interdisciplinary approaches to address. Your task is to choose a **specific facet of the textile waste** issue and respond to the following prompts:

1

(MAXIMUM 200 WORDS)

Describe the problem you have identified using simple, precise, and direct language. What is the problem? What is its cause? How does it manifest?

2

(MAXIMUM 200 WORDS)

Identify the stakeholders affected by this problem and explain how they are impacted. Who or what may be benefitting from the status quo, and in what way?

3

SYSTEMS MAP (IMAGE)

Create a high-level systems map illustrating the interconnected stakeholders and practices that contribute to or result in the issue you are investigating.

Suggested reading and resources for systems mapping:

- [Systems Thinking — What is it all about?](#)
 - [Start Systems Mapping Right Now](#)
 - [Tools for Systems Thinkings: Systems Mapping](#)
 - [Systems Thinking for Education and Nature Sustainability](#)
 - [What is a Systems Map](#)
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4

(MAXIMUM 200 WORDS)

Identify any global initiatives or organizations working to address this problem or similar issues. Why are they interesting? Summarize their approaches.

5

(MAXIMUM 200 WORDS)

Based on your investigation and systems map, what opportunities do you see for improving or intervening in the issue?

6

(MAXIMUM 200 WORDS)

How do you envision bringing one of these intervention opportunities to life? Provide 1-2 examples of a novel approach.

7

(MAXIMUM 200 WORDS)

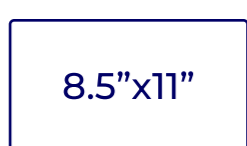
Explore the IENYC Master of Science in Sustainable Fashion website and discuss why you would like to study this program. How would it impact your career, and how would you contribute positively to the world around you?

8

(MANDATORY: ATTACHMENT)

In a maximum of five slides, using a landscape format (16:9 or 3:4), summarize your submission, including one potential path for research or entrepreneurial exploration that could help address your issue. Use a mix of graphics and text to explain why this path could lead to more interesting solutions than others.

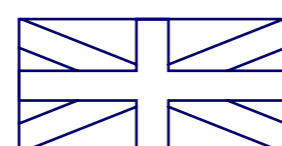
REQUIREMENTS



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document



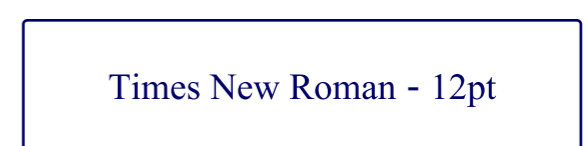
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Submissions must
be in English



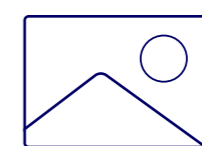
Any referen
provided in A



Times New Roman
12 pt font double spaced



Final document provided
in pdf format



Images included as a page within
the final pdf, not as separate files

All written responses must follow the order listed above and be included in a single PDF document along with the required 5-slide summary.

Refer to the submission guidelines below to ensure your entry meets all requirements.

JURY PANEL

The challenge will be evaluated by a panel of experts in **sustainable fashion and circularity**:



MICHELLE GABRIEL

Program Director, M.S. in Sustainable Fashion,
IE New York College

Michelle Gabriel is a **social impact and sustainability strategist, educator, and researcher** focusing on **value perception in economic and cultural systems**. With over **15 years of experience** in **sustainable business strategy, branding, product development**, and supply chain management, she currently leads the **M.S. in Sustainable Fashion program at IE New York College**. She works closely with industry leaders and partners to shape **future changemakers in the fashion industry**.

JESSICA SCHREIBER

CEO & Founder of FABSCRAP

Jessica Schreiber is the founder of **FABSCRAP**, a **pioneering textile recycling nonprofit** that has diverted over **2 million pounds of fabric from landfills**. She holds a **Master's in Climate and Society from Columbia University** and previously worked at the **NYC Department of Sanitation**. Her expertise in **circular systems, sustainability, and industry-wide waste management** makes her a leader in tackling **fashion's environmental challenges**.



PRIZES & SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The top participants will receive tuition scholarships for the **Master of Science in Sustainable Fashion at IE New York College**, an exclusive one-year program in **New York City, one of the world's fashion capitals**.

1ST PLACE: 40% TUITION SCHOLARSHIP (\$24,000 VALUE)

2ND & 3RD PLACE: 25% TUITION SCHOLARSHIP EACH (\$15,000 VALUE PER WINNER)

This is **your opportunity** to gain specialized training, build an international network, and **launch your career in sustainable fashion**.

Take the first step toward your future—submit your challenge entry by May 27, 2025!

IMPORTANT NOTES

- Winners must **gain admission** to the **Master of Science in Sustainable Fashion at IE New York College**.
- Scholarships **cannot be combined** with other **IENYC scholarships** or the **20% IE Community Benefit**.
- Scholarships **are only valid for the 2025 intake (September start date)**.

Even if you don't win a scholarship, participating in this challenge is a chance to showcase your thinking, refine your sustainability expertise, and gain recognition from leaders in the field. Top participants may also receive invitations for further discussions about the program and career pathways in sustainable fashion.

Additionally, **IE New York College offers other scholarship opportunities based on merit, need, and diversity.** If you are passionate about sustainable fashion and committed to making an impact, we encourage you to explore our **full range of financial aid options when applying to the program.**

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR ENTRY

Are you ready to compete for a **scholarship** and launch your career in **sustainable fashion**? Follow these steps carefully to ensure your submission is complete:

1. PREPARE YOUR SUBMISSION

- **Answer all challenge prompts** in the order listed (maximum 200 words per response).
 - **Include a 5-slide summary** (landscape format) within the same document as your written responses.
 - **Use any word processor** of your choice, but save your final document as a **PDF**.
 - **Prepare your CV separately** and save it as a **PDF** as well.
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2. FORMAT YOUR FILES

You must submit two separate PDFs:

- **[First Name] [Last Name] – Challenge Proposal.pdf**
(includes both your answers to the challenge prompts and the 5-slide summary)
 - **[First Name] [Last Name] – CV.pdf**
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3. SUBMIT YOUR DOCUMENTS

- **Email both PDF files** as attachments to:

Victor Aleñar

Senior Manager, Global Recruitment
victor.alenar@ie.edu

- **Submission Deadline:** Tuesday, May 27, 2025
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4. NEED HELP?

If you have any questions about the challenge or the program, book a call to discuss:

[Schedule a Call with Victor Aleñar](#)

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

📅 **May 27, 2025** – Submission deadline

📅 **May 28 - June 9, 2025** – Jury reviews all entries

📅 **June 10, 2025** – Winners announced via email & on IENYC platforms

Winners will be personally contacted with next steps on securing their scholarship and admission process. Selected participants may also receive invitations to further explore the program and opportunities at IENYC

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