

# 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020 – Career of the Week

## Textile Designer

Textile designers create fabric designs and patterns for woven, knitted and printed materials for clothes and interior furnishings.

**National Careers Service**

[www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk](http://www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk)



### Entry Requirements

You can get into this job through a university course, a college course, an apprenticeship or working towards this role.

#### University

You could take a foundation degree, higher national diploma or degree in textile design. Other useful subjects include:

- fashion and textiles
- art and design
- textiles and surface design

Entry requirements - You'll usually need:

- a foundation studies diploma in art and design
- 1 or 2 A levels for a foundation degree or higher national diploma
- 2 to 3 A levels for a degree

#### College

You may be able to get into this career by studying for a college qualification like the Level 3 Diploma in Textile Design and Manufacture.

Entry requirements - You'll usually need:

- 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A\* to C) for a level 3 course

#### Apprenticeship

You could complete an advanced apprenticeship in fashion and textiles.

Entry requirements - You'll usually need:

- 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A\* to C), usually including English and maths, for an advanced apprenticeship

#### Work

You could start work as a textile operative or design assistant, get relevant work experience and qualifications, and then move into textile design.

#### Career tips

You'll need to present a design portfolio when you're looking for work. You can also use your portfolio to make job applications to companies whose products match your style.

### What you'll do

- producing initial sketches by hand, or on a computer using design software
- reworking designs until they meet the customer's needs
- making up samples or having them made by technicians
- researching design trends to decide what will sell
- investigating new textiles made from sustainable materials
- working with clients, technical staff, marketing and buying staff
- keeping up-to-date with developments in manufacturing technology

### Professional and industry bodies

You could join [The Textile Institute](#) and [The Textile Society](#) for professional development training.

### Further information

You can find out more about careers and training in textile design through [Creative Choices](#).

### Skills Required – You'll need:

- design skills and knowledge
- knowledge of engineering science and technology
- the ability to come up with new ways of doing things
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- analytical thinking skills
- persistence and determination
- the ability to use, repair and maintain machines and tools
- thinking and reasoning skills
- to be able to use a computer and the main software packages competently

### Related Careers

- Analytical textile technologist
- Costume designer
- Fashion designer
- Garment technologist
- Graphic designer

### Salary

**These figures are a guide.**

Starter: £ 15, 000

Experienced: £ 40, 000

### Working Hours

Typical hours – 40 to 42 hours per week

You could work evenings / weekends attending events or appointments.

### Working Environment

You could work at a manufacturing plant, in a creative studio, in an office or at a conference centre.

### Career paths and progression

With experience, you could progress to a senior design position, or work as a product or project manager.

You could also move into part-time teaching, or set up your own business.

What is labour market information?

**Labour Market Information (LMI)** is the name for facts and figures about jobs and employment.

The information is used to give an overall picture of the past, present and future of work.

The **labour market** is the term used to describe the amount of people working and looking for work, and the amount of jobs.

### Labour Market Information

In **North West England** there are currently 6166 Product, clothing and related designers in employment.

[www.icould.com](http://www.icould.com)