

20th 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



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