

Job of The Week

Fashion Designer

Key Skills

- the ability to come up with new ways of doing things
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- the ability to work well with your hands
- excellent verbal communication skills
- to be flexible and open to change
- to be able to use a computer and the main software packages confidently
- design skills and knowledge
- the ability to use your initiative
- thinking and reasoning skills

Salary

£24,000-£40,000

Working hours

40– 42 per week
evenings / weekends / bank
holidays / attending events or
appointments

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Fashion Designer

College

You could do a college course, which would teach you some of the skills and knowledge you need to work in the fashion industry as an assistant.

Subjects include:

- fashion
- fashion and textiles
- craft and design

Once you've gained some experience with an employer, you may be able to do further training to become a fashion designer.

Entry requirements

Entry requirements for these courses vary.

Career tips

You can create a portfolio of your design work to showcase your skills, which will help you in course and job interviews. Your portfolio should include mood boards, designs, technical drawings and examples of completed fashion items you have made.

University

You'll usually need a foundation degree, higher national diploma or degree.

Courses are widely available and include:

- fashion design
- art and design
- garment technology
- textiles

You should look for a course that covers both design and technical skills to get the practical knowledge needed.

Several universities and colleges that run courses are members of the British Fashion Council, which promotes strong links with employers in the fashion trade.

Entry requirements

You'll usually need 1 or 2 A levels, or equivalent, for a foundation degree or higher national diploma.
2 to 3 A levels, or equivalent, for a degree.

Volunteering

You'll need to get as much work experience as you can, for example through an internship, as there's strong competition for jobs in the fashion industry.

This can help you get a better understanding of the role, and to meet people who may help you to find paid work later on.

The British fashion industry supports initiatives like the National Saturday Club for young people aged 13 to 16, looking to learn about fashion careers.

Career path and progression

With experience you could become a:

- senior designer
- head of a fashion department
- creative director

You might specialise in particular collections, for example childrenswear or sportswear, or move into other parts of the fashion business like marketing or buying.

You could develop business skills and go freelance, or start your own fashion company.

You may wish to pass on your skills and knowledge to students by teaching fashion design at college or university.

Day to Day tasks:

- identify trends in fabrics, colours, prints and shapes
- develop new concepts and mood boards (a collection of items to capture a mood, like photos, fabric pieces or colour samples)
- create sketches and designs by hand or with computer-aided design (CAD) software
- work with product development teams to manage quality and costs
- supervise design assistants and patternmakers when making up product samples
- present ranges to production managers, merchandisers and customers

Working conditions

You could work in a workshop or in a creative studio.

Labour Market Information

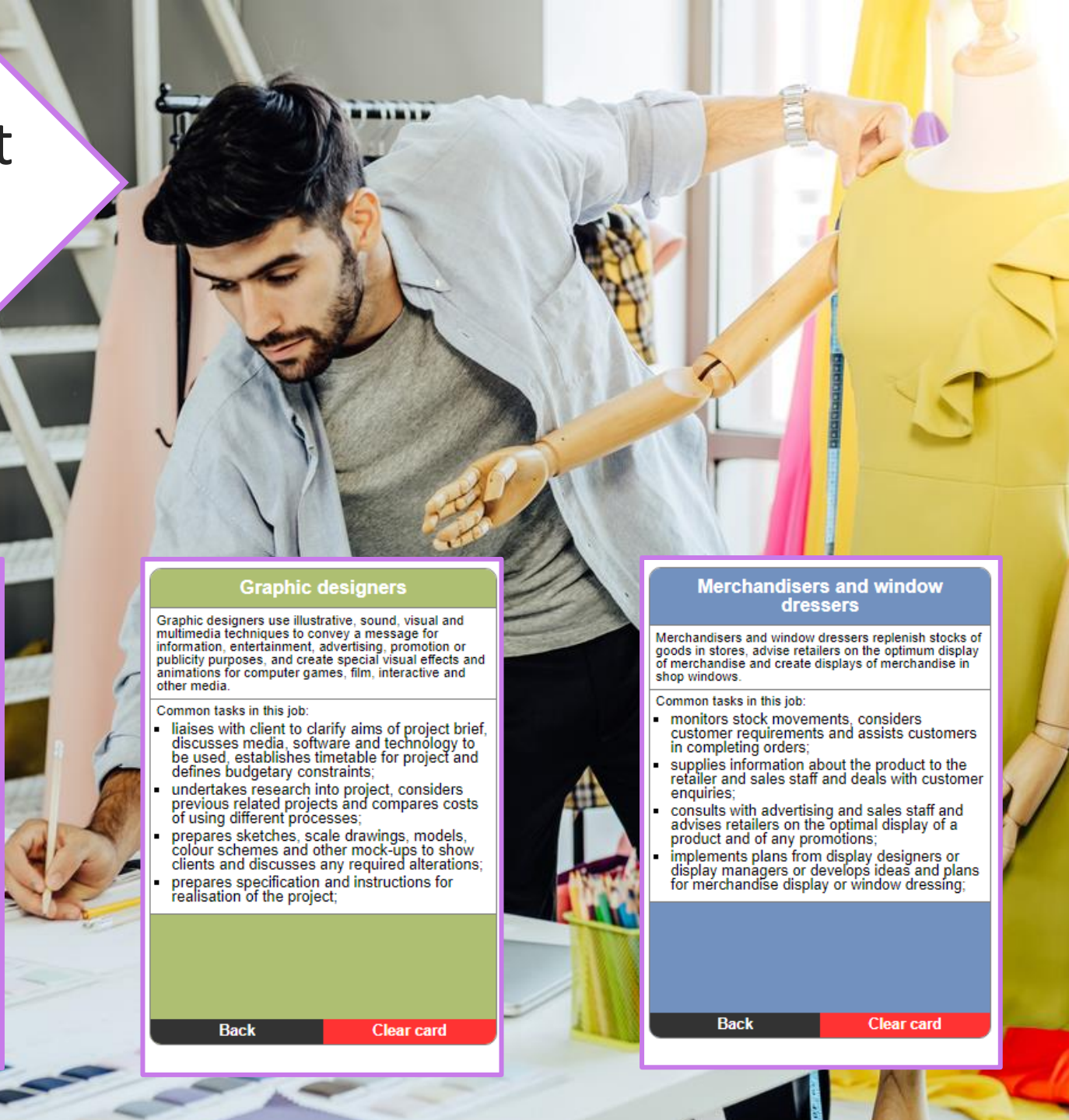
In the Careers section of the school website you can find the useful comparison tool the 'Labour Market Information widget'.
Use the widget to compare different job roles in any employment sector or relating specifically to the 'Job of the Week'.

Product, clothing and related designers	
Weekly Pay £520	Annual Pay £27,040
Hours/Week 33h	Hourly Pay £16
Workforce Change (projected)	
Growth 1.9%	Replacement 58.5%
<p>The workforce is projected to grow by 1.9% over the period to 2027, creating 1,600 jobs. In the same period, 58.5% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 49,600 job openings.</p>	
<p>You might find this job in Architectural & related Services to buildings Retail trade Printing & recording Gambling</p>	
More info	Clear card

Graphic designers	
Weekly Pay £600	Annual Pay £31,200
Hours/Week 38h	Hourly Pay £16
Workforce Change (projected)	
Growth 1.9%	Replacement 58.5%
<p>The workforce is projected to grow by 1.9% over the period to 2027, creating 1,900 jobs. In the same period, 58.5% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 59,100 job openings.</p>	
<p>You might find this job in Employment activities Libraries, etc Computer programming, etc Printing & recording Office admin.</p>	
More info	Clear card

Merchandisers and window dressers	
Weekly Pay £390	Annual Pay £20,280
Hours/Week 32h	Hourly Pay £12
Workforce Change (projected)	
Contraction -3.9%	Replacement 61.3%
<p>The workforce is projected to contract by -3.9% over the period to 2027, losing 1,200 jobs. In the same period, 61.3% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 18,900 job openings.</p>	
<p>You might find this job in Retail trade Head offices, etc Advertising, etc Wholesale trade Financial services</p>	
More info	Clear card

Labour Market Information



Product, clothing and related designers

Product, clothing and related designers plan, direct and undertake the creation of designs for new industrial and commercial products, clothing and related fashion accessories, costumes and wigs, and for building interiors and stage sets.

Common tasks in this job:

- liaises with client to determine the purpose, cost, technical specification and potential uses/users of product;
- undertakes research to determine market trends, production requirements, availability of resources and formulates design concepts;
- prepares sketches, designs, patterns or prototypes for textiles, clothing, footwear, jewellery, fashion accessories, set props, wigs, ceramics, plastics, motor vehicles, domestic appliances and engineering products;
- prepares sketches, designs, mock-ups and storyboards for consideration by theatre/film director or client;

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Clear card

Graphic designers

Graphic designers use illustrative, sound, visual and multimedia techniques to convey a message for information, entertainment, advertising, promotion or publicity purposes, and create special visual effects and animations for computer games, film, interactive and other media.

Common tasks in this job:

- liaises with client to clarify aims of project brief, discusses media, software and technology to be used, establishes timetable for project and defines budgetary constraints;
- undertakes research into project, considers previous related projects and compares costs of using different processes;
- prepares sketches, scale drawings, models, colour schemes and other mock-ups to show clients and discusses any required alterations;
- prepares specification and instructions for realisation of the project;

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Clear card

Merchandisers and window dressers

Merchandisers and window dressers replenish stocks of goods in stores, advise retailers on the optimum display of merchandise and create displays of merchandise in shop windows.

Common tasks in this job:

- monitors stock movements, considers customer requirements and assists customers in completing orders;
- supplies information about the product to the retailer and sales staff and deals with customer enquiries;
- consults with advertising and sales staff and advises retailers on the optimal display of a product and of any promotions;
- implements plans from display designers or display managers or develops ideas and plans for merchandise display or window dressing;

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Clear card

Keep looking...

Use these links to learn more about our Job of The Week, consider the various pathways leading to the career, what you can be doing now to help yourself and other roles in the industry...

Take a look at these short videos for inspiration...

Costume design for Cruella



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Co4rBTR-yI0&pp=ygU6ICAgMDowMSAvDI6MjMjIjRlCBBeaXNuZkncvBDcnVlbGxhIHwgVGh1IEZhc2hpb24gRmVhdHVyZXR0ZQ%3D%3D>

Day at Work: Fashion Designer



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r3X5Jj3u-u0&pp=ygUdRGF5IGF0IFdvcms6IEZhc2hpb24gRGVzaWduZXI%3D>

Useful Websites

[Fashion designer | Explore careers | National Careers Service](#)

[How To Become A Fashion designer | Explore Jobs | UCAS](#)

[Differences Between Fashion Designing & Fashion Merchandising \(chron.com\)](#)

[How to become a fashion designer: Gemma's story - BBC Bitesize](#)

[How to create a fashion portfolio for university | UAL \(arts.ac.uk\)](#)

Art & Design at Sheffield Hallam



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RphOU1Nz6I&pp=ygUwOXI0IGFuZCBEZXR0Z24gRmFjaWxpZGllcyBUB3VlIj0gRmFzaGlubzBzdHVka>

Marc Jacobs teaches



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NEIFx4KHbgg&pp=ygVDTWFyYyBKYWVvNnMgVGhY2hlcYBGYXNoaW9uIERlc2lnbiB8IE9mZmlj&3D>

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