

CAREERS IN FASHION!!

Jobs in fashion range from glamorous, high profile work, such as modeling, to behind the scene skills such as pattern-cutting. For some careers, professional qualifications are a must while for others experience and enthusiasm count for more. The following list will give you a brief look at eleven career possibilities in the fashion world.

FASHION DESIGNER

Description: designing clothes (for more information refer to competency 1)

Qualifications: various degree and diploma courses available. Skill with fabrics, colors, and art skills.

Personal qualities: must love fashion! imagination, an eye for color and detail, artistic sense.

Strategy: build up a portfolio of fashion illustrations, apply for a fashion course for experience.

TEXTILE DESIGNER

Description: designing fabric weaves and prints for clothes and home furnishings.

Qualifications: specialist degree and diploma courses are available. Also taught as part of some fashion design, or University textile programs.

Personal qualities: artistic flair, color sense, technical skill and an eye for detail.

Strategy: put together a collection of fabric designs on paper. Enroll in courses in textiles and/or fashion design.

FASHION ILLUSTRATOR

Description: drawing and painting clothes for commercial use in magazines, newspaper, advertising, packaging, fashion forecasting, and dress patterns.

Qualifications: few courses teach fashion illustration alone. Art classes combined with courses in fashion design and merchandising.

Personal qualities: artistic flair, love of fashion and self-discipline.

Strategy: practice drawing until you have a number of good illustrations in your portfolio. Apply for a course or try to work on a freelance basis.

PATTERN CUTTER

Description: drawing out and sizing paper patterns for fashion designers or clothing manufacturers.

Qualifications: formal training is absolutely essential. Diploma courses are available at a number of colleges. Home Economics flat pattern design classes are excellent. Some fashion design degree courses include pattern training in the degree work.

Personal qualities: fashion sense, patience, dexterity and a good eye for detail.

Strategy: enroll in a University course with pattern cutting or fashion design.

TEACHER OF FASHION DESIGN OR ILLUSTRATION

Description: teaching students of fashion design, fashion illustration or both at degree or diploma level or at evening classes.

Qualifications: degree or diploma in fashion design and experience in the fashion industry.

Personal qualities: artistic flair, love of fashion and awareness of its trends, enthusiasm, patience and the ability to communicate.

Strategy: maintain contacts in fashion education while acquiring commercial experience.

FASHION PHOTOGRAPHER

Description: photographing clothes on fashion models for use in newspapers, magazines or advertising.

Qualifications: degree and diploma courses available but not essential.

Personal qualities: artistic flair, an eye for color, detail, and composition and a lively outgoing personality. Helpful to relate well with people.

Strategy: enroll in photography classes or take a job as an assistant to an established photographer. Build a portfolio of your best fashion shots.

FASHION JOURNALIST

Description: writing fashion articles for newspapers and magazines.

Qualifications: some experience of journalism is useful. Degree and diploma courses are available in journalism, media and communications. A number of fashion courses also have fashion journalism options.

Personal qualities: a good writing style, an interest in fashion, tenacity, enthusiasm and the ability to research a subject extremely thoroughly.

Strategy: enroll in courses in journalism or gain reporting experience by getting a job in mainstream journalism.

PUBLIC RELATIONS CONSULTANT

Description: providing publicity and information about fashion designers, manufacturers and retailers to the press and potential customers.

Qualifications: these are not essential. Some business studies courses include public relations as an option. Fashion classes will give you a background in the fashion industry.

Personal qualities: business sense, good communication skills, tact, dynamic personality and initiative.

Strategy: Enroll in courses in public relations or business studies which offer public relations as part of the training.

FASHION BUYER

Description: responsible for ordering stocks of clothes for shops, especially the larger chain stores.

Qualifications: not essential, but recommended. Some business schools offer courses on retailing which cover buying. Universities offering fashion merchandising degrees would give you your best chance for employment.

Personal qualities: an interest in fashion, a strong color sense and an eye for detail; good business sense, energy and initiative.

Strategy: enroll in a degree program at a good University. Most retailers who are recruiting buyers look for those with degrees to hire and then train within their company.

STYLIST

Description: coordinating the clothes, jewelry, accessories and so on, used in fashion photographs and catwalk shows.

Qualifications: most stylists move into styling from other fashion careers, such as designing etc.

Personal qualities: love of fashion, a very good color sense, an eye for detail, energy and diplomacy.

Strategy: build up a portfolio of fashion shots which you have styled. You may get the chance to do this by working as an assistant to an established stylist, or photographer.

FASHION MODEL

Description: modeling clothes for photographs or at fashion shows.

Qualifications: some modeling courses teach grooming and manners, but unless you have the looks and figure for it, training is a waste of time.

Personal qualities: figure, looks and age are the essential factors. Modeling is a short-lived career. The earlier you start, the better your chances. Only the most famous and successful models go on working into their thirties. As well as having good looks, models need patience, good humor energy and the ability to communicate.

Boys- must be at least 5'10" tall, with a medium build (neither fat or thin) and good looks. They must start their modeling careers between the ages of 16-22.

Girls- must be between 5'8" and 5'10" tall and wear size 10 or 12 clothes. Good looks and clear skin are essential. Well-cut hair and good fingernails are an asset. Girls must start modeling between the ages of 16-20.

Strategy: have a photographer take a portfolio of close up head and shoulder shots of you. Take your portfolio to a reputable modeling agency near you or send your photos to an agency near you.