



FACT SHEET

Design careers

Do you enjoy creative problem solving and innovation? Do you want to make and design furniture, textiles, fashion, interiors or digital media? Or are you interested in designing practical products that are used in commercial, domestic and industrial situations? Design careers cover a broad range of occupations from graphic designers to landscape and interior architects to industrial designers.

This fact sheet will help you begin exploring a snapshot of design disciplines and occupations, including related Western Australian job prospects, salary and education and training pathways information. Along with the sample occupations listed below, it is highly recommended that you search the 540 [Career Centre occupational profiles](#) and the Career Centre [YouTube channel](#) for more information about careers that involve design. You may be surprised by what you find!

Industrial / product design

Industrial and product design involves the development and preparation of products for manufacture. It may include preparation of drawings, development of prototypes and selection of product materials. It will often involve working as part of a product development team. Examples of occupations include:

- [industrial designer](#) – develops designs for a range of practical products that are mass produced; and
- [set designer](#) – develops and creates sets for film, television and stage productions.

Fashion design

People working in this area apply their creative skills to the design and development of clothing, textiles, footwear and other personal apparel. There are opportunities for people to work on a small production scale, or to make the designs themselves. They are sometimes described as artisans, visual/fine artists or craftspeople. Examples of occupations in this area include:

- [fashion designer](#) – creates designs for clothing and lifestyle accessories; and
- [milliner](#) – marks out and cuts patterns to create designs for hats.

Building design

This broad discipline leads to careers that involve the planning and design of commercial and residential buildings. It will include both the aesthetic and functional elements of buildings and their interior spaces. Occupation examples include:

- [architect](#) – designs commercial, industrial and residential buildings; and
- [interior designer](#) – plans, designs and supervises the interior spaces of buildings.

Visual communication and design

Visual communication and design is an important element of organisations' promotional activities. It involves the use of a range of media. There are a number of occupations where you can use your creative skills and energies in this way:

- [multimedia specialist](#) – creates and designs multimedia programs using computer animation and image files;
- [web designer](#) – creates, develops and maintains websites;
- [graphic designer](#) – uses artistic skills to create a range of images for visual media; and
- [signwriter](#) – creates, makes and installs signs for commercial, industrial and practical purposes.



Training and education pathways

There are a wide variety of training and education pathways available depending on specific occupational requirements. The following are some examples of education and training resources that may help you to explore the options available to you in Western Australia.

- Use the TAFE Admissions Full time studies guide to identify the courses offered each semester by all WA TAFE Colleges – fulltimecourses.tafe.wa.edu.au.
- Explore the TAFE Choices website to see what metropolitan and regional TAFE Colleges offer in a range of study areas in the creative industries including fashion, graphic design, jewellery, interior design, product design and visual arts – tafechoices.com.
- Search for TAFE and private training organisations that offer vocational qualifications in design related fields – myskills.gov.au.
- Explore the range of design courses offered at WAAPA (Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts) – waapa.ecu.edu.au/courses-and-admissions/our-courses/disciplines/design.
- Search for accredited courses in design offered by WA universities - gooduniversitiesguide.com.au/course-provider.

Design networks and associations in Western Australia

More specific information on design careers and opportunities is available on the following websites..

- design.org.au/designindustry/design-disciplines – The Design Institute of Australia is the peak professional body for designers and design across a wide range of disciplines.
- artshub.com.au – ArtsHub is a source of information about arts and design jobs, industry news, reviews and data.
- artsource.net.au – Artsource works to inspire, expand and improve the sustainability and profile of artists (and designers), including Indigenous artists and those in both metropolitan and regional Western Australia.

Find out more:

T: 13 64 64

T: (08) 9225 7831 (hearing impaired only)

W: careercentre.dtwd.wa.gov.au

E: career.centre@dtwd.wa.gov.au

Web Chat: [Chat Online](#)



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