

In order to make an informed choice about the suitability of this course, you must take into account the essential skills and knowledge in addition to the critical aspects of assessment of this course or qualification.

In the fashion industry, the following areas need to be considered:

Observational skills and abilities

- Ability to identify safety hazards and risks (e.g. maintaining a safe working environment in the workshop).
- Adequate visual acuity for quality assurance requirements of garment production (e.g. ability to determine fabric, colour and print qualities).
- Being mindful of space, time boundaries and body movements and gestures (e.g. when using machinery such as sewing machines).

Communication skills and abilities

- Listen actively (e.g. to be able to understand basic instructions).
- Written communication (e.g. ability to complete design briefs for clients based on an understanding of demographics).
- Responding to feedback and questions from the customer, staff and client.
- Using appropriate language and respect when working with customers and staff (e.g. understand and respond to verbal communication accurately and appropriately).
- Be able to carry out verbal instructions from supervisors and/or other team members in a timely and accurate manner.
- Communicate with customers in a professional manner at all times.
- Negotiating with clients to suggest new looks, products and services.
- Be able to conduct trend research and show findings in a clear and direct way.
- Strong Customer service skills (e.g. dealing with clients, buyers and customers through the sales process).

Technical / motor skills and abilities

- Fine motor skills (e.g. to manipulate machinery such as sewing machines, scissors, pencils, rulers etc.).
- Good hand eye coordination (e.g. you will be required to clearly examine items close-up- working with detailed drawings, scissors, needles, embellishments etc.).
- Good mobility (e.g. able to deal with the physical demands e.g. standing, lifting, bending and/or sitting for period of times).
- Physically fit (e.g. working long hours and requiring stamina to be able to stand on their feet for long periods of time).
- Have a range of Information Technology (IT) skills (e.g. Microsoft Office suite (excel, word, PowerPoint, publisher and outlook)).
- Gather information through touch, smell and visual cues to identifying fabric types if the origin and composition of the fabric is unknown
- Perform these tasks safely and within specified time frames provided to meet industry practice of seasonal or quick turn- around fashion requirements.
- Use basic mathematics effectively (e.g. patternmaking grading when increasing and decreasing sizes requires adding and subtracting to a base pattern).

Cognitive skills and abilities (understanding, interpreting, analysing, applying and transferring)

- Managing time and priorities (e.g. setting time lines, co-ordinating tasks for self and with others).
- Read and interpret instructions (e.g. on labels and apply to products or tools).
- Able to and willing to follow instructions.
- Problem solving (e.g. show independence and initiative in identifying and solving problems with clients).
- Information recall and interpretation when researching trend forecasting.
- Ability to identify fabrics through touch, sight and smell.
- Spatial awareness to be able to understand and implement pattern making rules and language.
- Ability to recognise personal limitations and identify when and where to seek assistance or professional advice and support.
- Able to prioritise tasks (e.g. self-motivated to get things done and works to agreed outcomes).
- Able to work under direct supervision.
- Understand and follow policies and procedures (e.g. working within the specifications and guidelines for garments which may vary from business to business).
- Able to be responsible for self and others' health and safety.

Behavioural and social skills

- Demonstrate behavioural, social and emotional skills to manage in stressful and emotionally traumatic situations (e.g. When learning about shore production in third work countries and when coping with high workload in the upper levels of the qualifications).
- Working within the constraints of the workshop environment and the associated rules (working cohesively within a group and sharing facilities and equipment).
- Interpersonal skills (e.g. customer service skills/ability to contribute and work as a member of a team).
- Ability to work under pressure and in a stressful environment.
- Tolerance of working long hours.