

Career Profile: Interior Designer

Interior designers come up with creative solutions to enhance the function, safety, look and style of interior spaces. They work out how different colours, textures, furniture, lighting and space work together to meet a building's occupants. Designers plan interior spaces for a wide range of buildings including shopping malls and stores.

Most interior designers used to focus on decorating (choosing a style and matching colours, selecting furniture, coverings, artwork and lighting) but more of them now become involved in planning layouts of buildings that are being renovated. For example they help to fix the locations of windows stairs and walkways, and make space accessible for the disabled. They often interact with architects, electricians and building contractors to ensure that designs are safe and meet construction requirements. Therefore they require knowledge of both technical and non-technical aspects of construction, lighting, air conditioning, plumbing, and acoustics, in addition to the principles of good design and colour usage.

Education Requirements

National Senior Certificate (NSC)

For a career in interior design students are advised to select Mathematics (preferable to Mathematical Literacy) and to add to this a selection from the designated subjects. These are subjects that are particularly suitable for tertiary study.

Interior design can be studied at National Diploma and Bachelor of Technology levels.

National Diploma / BTech

National Diploma (Interior Design)

The National Diploma is a three year course which includes guided practical experience. The diploma is a pre-requisite for admission to a Bachelor of Technology - BTech

Offered at:

- [Tshwane University of Technology](http://www.tut.ac.za)¹ (Faculty of Arts, Interior Design Brochure)
- [University of Johannesburg](http://www.uj.ac.za/fada/Courses/NationalDiplomas/InteriorDesign/tabid/7765/Default.aspx)² (Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture)

Admission requirements

¹ http://www.tut.ac.za/Students/facultiesdepartments/arts/departments/Documents/b_interior.pdf

² <http://www.uj.ac.za/fada/Courses/NationalDiplomas/InteriorDesign/tabid/7765/Default.aspx>

As admission requirements vary from one institution to another, find out what the specific requirements are by checking on the website and contacting the university if you have any queries.

Possible Employers

- [Truworths](#)
- [Foschini Group](#)³
- [Mr Price Group](#)⁴
- [Woolworths](#)⁵
- Other retail organisations
- Interior design companies

Find out more

Find out more about interior design, bursaries and jobs:

- [Article](#)⁶ on a furniture buyer trained as an interior designer.
- [The Foschini Group](#)⁷ runs a Graduate Programme each year for talented graduates interested in fashion and retail. It offers on the job training.
- [Mr Price Group](#)⁸ also has a Graduate Programme with several different possibilities.

³ <http://www.foschinigroup.co.za/careers/organisational.asp>

⁴ <http://www.mrpricegroup.com/careers>

⁵ <http://www.woolworthsholdings.co.za/>

⁶ <http://www.dispatch.co.za/article.aspx?id=194705>

⁷ <http://www.foschinigroup.co.za/>

⁸ <http://www.mrpricegroup.com/careers/grad.asp>

Are you suited to this career?

This quick quiz can help you to identify whether you are suited for this occupation.

Quiz	Yes	No
Are you creative?		
Do you enjoy solving problems?		
Are you able to work as part of a team?		
Can you work independently?		
Do you communicate well orally and in written form?		
Do you have an aptitude for technical drawing and illustration?		
Are you well organized, paying attention to detail?		
Are you patient and able to stay calm under pressure?		
Do you have an eye for detail, colour and style?		
Are you interested in fashion and design trends?		

If you have mainly yes answers it may be an indication that this is an occupation to consider.