



Doncaster
Enterprise for
Learning

Business Placement Case Study and Evaluation 56

Yvonne from Hungerhill School visited Skopos, Dewsbury on a business placement in March 2009.

Skopos is a manufacturer of domestic and commercial soft furnishing fabrics.

Job Study - Brian Dickie, Studio Technical Manager

What does your Job Role involve?

My job involves ensuring that all textile designs get put onto screens, for the printing process, without any problems. I am responsible for producing some of the original designs, for the fabric we produce, and for overseeing students who are on placements.

What key skills are required for your role?

All the key skills of literacy, numeracy and ICT are important for my job, as is the ability to solve problems, particularly in relation to the print set-up process. It is necessary to have the ability to communicate patiently with others, liaise and relate decisions to various departments in the company and to clients.

What qualifications, training and/or experience did you need to enter your job?

I had previously gained a BA in textile design and a post graduate course before entering this job.

What extra qualifications/training have you gained in your current role?

I received specific training for the job role when I began in the position.

What are the working conditions of your job?

I work 8.30 am to 5pm, indoors. The health and safety issues which I am particular aware of are the possibility of people tripping when moving around as there are a lot of stairs on site.

What advice would you give to young people interested in entering this field?

Young designers need to be aware of how competitive this sector is and to equip themselves with a strong portfolio of work.

Evaluation of the Business Placement

What did you do on the placement?

I discussed the organisation of the company and its place in the market with the studio technical manager who also gave me a tour of the site and introduced me to various employees.

What knowledge about the organisation, its sector and its market place did you gain?

A lot of Skopos current output is geared towards specialist design briefs which come from working with architects on specific projects. It is the role of the reps to promote its catalogue of designs and services to prospective clients. In terms

of designing, Skopos uses its archive of patterns to create many designs , but there are two in-house designers who will meet project briefs. New designs, when required, come from freelance designers and are paid for individually. Current trends for woven fabrics mean the print room is not as busy as in previous years. It is the role of the buyers to source fabrics from overseas and factories who will produce woven textiles.

Do you feel that the placement was a success? Please give reasons

I spent a day at Skopos and I thought it was highly successful for myself as an art and design teacher. I found it interesting to see the range and number of employees the mill had. I was shown how a designer creates a design for textile and how this is taken into production. I can take the information about commercial screen printing practice back into school to inform students and make screen printing in school relevant to current practice. I can now confidently discuss careers in Art and Design with students.

Could you suggest any improvements to the management of the business placement?

My only suggestion for improving the management of the project would have been for the contact in the business to have arranged for me to do a practical task in the workplace, such as creating a design and using their software.

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