



# JOB of the Week



**Job name: Jewellery Designer**

**Job description:** A career as a jewellery designer enables you to combine your creative talent and business skills with hands-on crafting ability. Jewellery designers design and make jewellery using a variety of materials, including gold, silver and precious stones.

You could either produce designs for mass production, make jewellery in small numbers or create bespoke pieces commissioned by a client. If you work for a company, it is likely that other members of staff will make your designs.

## Tasks you will undertake in the job:

As a self-employed jewellery designer, you'll need to: hold consultations with commissioning clients; discuss a client's range of options and formulate original ideas; sketch out ideas, sometimes using computer-aided design (CAD), to help the client visualise the finished design.

If you make jewellery, activities will include: mounting - making the framework for the piece of jewellery. This involves handling, forming and drilling metal, and opening out holes in which to place the selected gems; model making (casting) - making an object or decorative detail using a mould; stamping and presswork; chasing - making a raised pattern on the surface of the metal soldering and fabrication; polishing - ensuring the finish of the piece.

You may also perform the following specialist processes, but often pieces of jewellery are sent on to companies (outworkers) for these processes to be completed: stone setting - making adjustments to the mount to ensure the stones fit perfectly. This can involve very intricate work, such as removing tiny fractions of metal; electro-plating - layering a precious metal onto a base metal enamelling - fusing powdered glass to metal in a kiln to create coloured patterns and pictures; welding - joining pieces of metal using traditional methods or by laser; engraving - carving lettering or patterns into precious metals by hand or by computer-aided manufacture (CAM).

**Qualifications you will need for this job:** You don't need a degree or HND to be a jewellery designer - proven craft skills are more important - but those without a higher education qualification would usually need to undertake an apprenticeship or on-the-job training.

The most relevant degree, HND and foundation degree subjects include: jewellery design and production; silversmithing; 3D design. Any art and design degree, HND or foundation degree with a craft or making element may give you an advantage, in particular: applied arts; fashion design; fine art; textile design.

## Skills required for this job (core competencies):

Communication	Resilience	Organisation	Teamwork
Problem Solving	Initiative	Creativity	Digital literacy

**Skills that Jewellery designers would need:** creative thinking and vision, to produce new ideas; practical application to produce a piece which is desirable in the marketplace; practical ability to work with tools and materials, such as metals and gemstones; drawing and computer design skills to produce designs; dexterity, attention to detail and good hand-eye coordination; organisation and time-management skills and the ability to work to deadlines; commercial awareness and the confidence and temperament to be successful in the business world; the ability to market yourself and your work; skills in negotiation and persuasion when dealing with suppliers and buyers; a commitment to - and passion for - your work.

**Work Experience:** Work experience is valuable and helps you to build up a network of industry contacts, as well as providing experience of working in the jewellery industry. You may find work experience placements through your degree course or you could try contacting jewellers to ask if they have any opportunities.

There are apprenticeships available in jewellery including: a scheme for 16-24 year-olds which lasts for up to five years run by The Goldsmiths' Centre and an apprenticeship available in London or Birmingham offering a Level 3 qualification from The British Academy of Jewellery. The work can be painstaking and time consuming so you'll need to have patience.



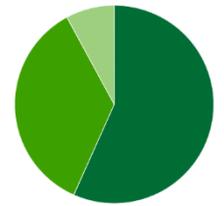
**Salary:** Average salary for a jewellery designer is £25 480, average salary in the UK is £28 758



**Working hours:** 37 average working hours in the week (37.5 working hours in the average working week).

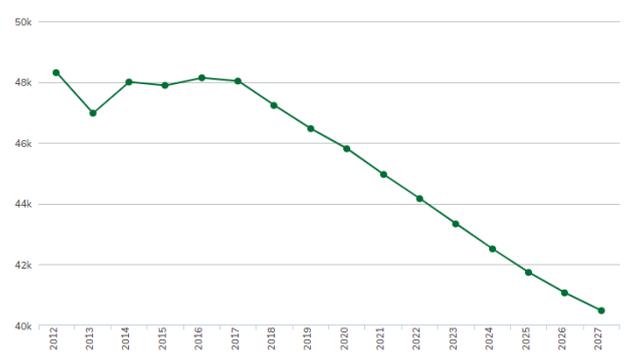
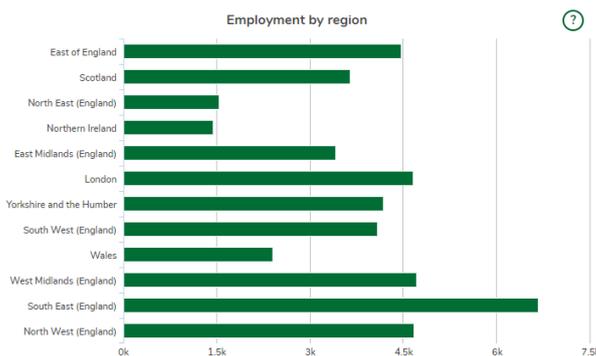
**Workforce in the UK:** 71% male / 29% female workforce

Top 10 industries for this job			
Other manufacturing	7399	Retail trade	3385
Specialised construction	2586	Metal products	2541
Sale of motor vehicles	2537	Civil engineering	2432
Rubber & plastic	1750	Architectural & related	1740
Machinery, etc	1456	Other trans. equipment	1392



**This job in the future:**

The workforce is projected to grow by 2.7%, creating 2 500 jobs; in the same period, 59% of the workforce is likely to retire, creating 49 600 job opportunities.



- [www.icould.com](http://www.icould.com)
- [www.successatschool.org](http://www.successatschool.org)
- [www.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk](http://www.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk)
- [www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors)
- [www.ucas.com/careers-advice](http://www.ucas.com/careers-advice)
- [www.kudos/cascaid.co.uk/#/](http://www.kudos/cascaid.co.uk/#/) (you all have a log on for this service)
- [www.careersbox.co.uk](http://www.careersbox.co.uk) (careers videos)

Helpful sites for careers information  
GAT careers links  
<http://airhead.io/public/launchpads/XqbuOMJgb0OfqvMPCykcZA>



