

# Career Profile: Design Manager

The Design Manager is responsible for managing the production of technical drawings and plans to build structures. They will oversee a design team that may include architects, structural and BIM technicians; providing advice, support and feedback to ensure documentation produced satisfies the requirements of the project. They also see a project through from start to completion and may assist with tenders for large projects. As a Design Manager, you will work on a project from pre-construction through to practical completion.

## What would my working day look like?

Some of the tasks you may complete are:

- ▶ Managing and supervising the design team
- ▶ Ensuring drawings for a project are completed to the standard required
- ▶ Providing advice to several different areas within a project
- ▶ Understand and interpret building, planning and safety regulations
- ▶ Oversee the process of creating drawings for a construction project
- ▶ Work alongside the design team, client, Architects and Engineers
- ▶ Working with the client to provide advice and support them in developing a building design that fills their requirements
- ▶ Ensuring designs satisfy regulations and requirements
- ▶ Ensure the design is achievable within the parameters of the project including budget and timeframe
- ▶ Have an in-depth knowledge of the construction sector
- ▶ Have a good understanding of the computer software used to produce drawings, specifically BIM (building information modelling) technology or CAD (computer assisted design) software

## I might enjoy this job if:

- ▶ I have an aptitude for computers and design
- ▶ I enjoy taking on leadership roles and mentoring others
- ▶ I manage my time well and can make decisions
- ▶ I enjoy Maths, English, Science, Design and Technology, Engineering studies or Visual Arts
- ▶ I work well under pressure and can keep a level head

## Working conditions and hours

Your work will be more office based, however at times you will be required to go onsite or meet with clients and stakeholders. You will use BIM and CAD software to assist with the design process and will be expected to use word processing software to complete budgets, reports and records of activities. You will work full-time (generally 44+ hours per week).

## How do I become a Design Manager?

To become a Design Manager, you will need to complete Year 12 or enter University via an alternative pathway option as you will need a tertiary qualification in design, engineering, architecture or construction. You may be required to complete post graduate studies and have several years' experience to enter this profession.

Contact individual university design and engineering schools to check if they have any pre-requisites before selecting your Year 11 subjects and before applying to a program. The next step is to enrol in an accredited program. Your school careers advisor can help you with information on how to enrol at university.

## Future pathways and opportunities

As a Design Manager you can be involved in the residential, commercial or civil sector working on a vast range of projects. You may be involved in some of the biggest or most innovative construction projects. Future career development may lead you to further study to become a BIM (Building Information Modelling) Manager.

## Average Pay

Between

**\$85,000-\$150,000** per year  
depending on your qualifications, experience and  
type of project.

(Source: Seek)

## What skills and personal qualities do I need?

- ▶ An ability to see the big picture and the smallest detail
- ▶ Have a high level of communication, interpersonal and negotiation skills
- ▶ Have a creative imagination
- ▶ Excellent time management and organisational skills
- ▶ Demonstrate initiative and ability to multi-task
- ▶ Display focus and forethought
- ▶ Be a problem solver
- ▶ Enjoy technical drawing and computers



## Next Steps

Further information can be found at:

- ▶ Jobs and Skills WA – [www.jobsandskills.wa.gov.au](http://www.jobsandskills.wa.gov.au)
- ▶ The Good Universities Guide – [www.gooduniversitiesguide.com.au](http://www.gooduniversitiesguide.com.au)

- ▶ Job Outlook – [www.joboutlook.gov.au](http://www.joboutlook.gov.au)