

JEWELLERY DESIGN AND MANUFACTURING

SOUTH AFRICA is rich in natural resources such as gold, platinum, diamonds and gemstones. The government is promoting the manufacturing of these resources as finished products for export rather than just selling the raw material. Therefore, the future of jewellery design and manufacturing is very positive, especially in the area of advanced technology and mass-production.

It is time to reclaim our country's treasures and show them off to the rest of the world. Local designers have made significant inroads into the local and foreign jewellery markets with pieces that reflect the rich diversity and vitality of Africa. This is most evident in the industry's national design competitions which showcase South African talent to the rest of the world.

In addition, the expected boom in the tourist industry that will result from the soccer world cup will provide opportunities for those students that would want to specialise as jewellery artists, designer-makers or those that may want to own a retail store.

RECOMMENDED SCHOOL SUBJECTS

Art.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

A Senior Certificate or an equivalent qualification is required.

SELECTION REQUIREMENTS

The ideal candidate should have a balance of academic ability, communication skills, creativity, technical thinking, hand skills and a passion for fine detail. Some universities might require students to attend an entrance examination to test these abilities.

PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENTS

The portfolio should preferably consist of pieces of craft jewellery, artistic drawings, technical drawings and any other art form.

TRAINING

UNIVERSITY

A four-year BA: Fine Arts degree.

UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

A three-year NDip: Jewellery Design and Manufacture which can be followed by the BTech: Jewellery Design and Manufacture.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

There are employment opportunities at jewelers or you can start your own business.

PROFESSIONAL BODIES

Jewellery Council of South Africa and The Jewellery Manufacturers' Association of South Africa.



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