

# Textiles & Garments

Hong Kong is one of the largest clothing exporting centre in the region while the textiles industry is a major source of foreign exchange. Both industries account for about 40% of the total export value of domestic products every year.

The textile and clothing industries have always been inter-related in Hong Kong and the local clothing industry is the textiles sector's largest customer. In the past few years, its highly reputable innovation and development in fashion and textiles have attracted many new investments.

The industry, which is divided into four main sectors, deals with 'raw' goods. The spinning, weaving and knitting sectors of the textile industry produce yarns and fabrics. Finishing services for locally produced clothing are provided by the bleaching, dyeing, printing and finishing sector.

## POSITIONS

Positions in this sector vary greatly, and include mill managers, quality control engineers, artists, programmers and designers, trainee managers and sales executives.

Another common position for graduates of any discipline is assistant merchandiser. This position involves providing quotations, arranging shipments and shipping licences, applying for quotas and carrying out necessary quality inspections.

## EDUCATION & REQUIREMENTS

Graduates with marketing and business degrees, and graduates of the Institute of Textiles and Clothing of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University are preferred for positions in the industry. However, graduates of any discipline with a keen interest are also considered, especially for the position of assistant merchandiser.

Other skills required are the ability to work under pressure and a willingness to work in mainland China. Because much of the labour-intensive work is carried out there, business travel is common. As the industry





integrates more computer technology, a sound knowledge of computers is necessary, and those with computer design skills are highly sought after. Knowledge of Chinese is also an advantage.

### **SALARY & BENEFITS**

The starting salary for most positions is approximately \$8,000-\$10,000.

### **FURTHER TRAINING**

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University is a major provider of academic training and the principal research organisation dedicated to the textiles and clothing industry in Hong Kong. The Institute of Textiles and Clothing of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University is internationally recognised as one of the top three world-class research centres in this field.

The Textile Industry Training Centre provides full-time and part-time courses relating to fashion textiles merchandising. Besides foundation training programmes which emphasis both theoretical and practical training in woven and knitted fabric design, production and quality assessment, the centre also offers courses such as Textile and Apparel Merchandising.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

A useful source of information is the Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel. The institute can be contacted at:

R906-08, Shirley Chan Building  
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University  
Kowloon, Hong Kong  
Tel: 2627-0180  
Fax: 2364-2727  
Email: [info@hkrita.com](mailto:info@hkrita.com)  
Website: [www.hkrita.com](http://www.hkrita.com)