

CAITLIN CRISP

Caitlin Crisp is a New Zealand boutique designer brand, that works with local fabric and trimming suppliers and manufacturers. Designer and Founder Caitlin shares insights and experiences about her most recent internship.

Why did you decide to take on an intern?

- To give back, and to learn about the various fashion courses & what they're teaching.
- Help with various tasks eg. Sampling and events.
- We often get approached about internships from fashion students as it is part of their course. I remember all too well how daunting that is so feel it is a good way to give back and provide that experience myself.

What was the best thing about this Internship for you?

- It keeps you in touch with the new generation's expectations and perceptions of our industry which is vital information for our business in assessing changes in demand and trends.
- Keeping track of past interns' career development and their successes is very rewarding. Many interns we have had now run very successful businesses.

What surprised you about the Internship?

- New ideas and productivity, and a new employee out the other end!
- For this specific internship, I was surprised by how much she already knew and how her work habits were in alignment with my own. I hadn't had a student from Whitecliffe before and was very impressed by what she had learnt and was being taught.

What positive benefits have come about because of the Internship?

- We have gained an incredible full-time employee! I have also learnt a lot more about Whitecliffe and now I would happily take interns from them again.
- Don't shy away from any new tasks you aren't familiar with.
- Always have a positive and can-do attitude.

What advice would you give to other businesses thinking about offering an Internship?

- Ask for student recommendations from the fashion school for who might be a good fit, it really matters!
- Have a range of tasks ready for the intern and communicate clearly how to do these tasks.
- Make sure they have a good point of contact in the business to who they are allowed and feel comfortable asking questions. It's the business's responsibility to create a welcoming and positive environment for the intern to thrive and learn.



NICOLE TILLING | INTERN AT CAITLIN CRISP

What was the most awesome thing about the internship?

- Learning about the industry from a hands-on perspective.
- Doing a production drive-by with the production manager to multiple cutters and manufacturers.
- Being in an encouraging environment where everyone was keen to teach me different things.

What surprised you, what was different from what you expected?

- How many different roles there are in the industry.
- How far ahead production/designing is from the current season.

How did the Internship help you with your future studies and career?

- I learnt so much about the industry that I would not have learnt from university.
- I gained a full-time position after my studies from my internship.

What advice would you give to future interns?

- Be as involved as possible.
- Don't shy away from any new tasks you aren't familiar with.
- Always have a positive and can-do attitude.