

HAWES & FREER

Hawes and Freer supply wholesale trimmings and fabrics for the New Zealand fashion and textiles industry, students and keen home sewers. Company Director Trevor Hookway shares insights and experiences about his previous internship.

Why did you decide to take on an intern?

- Taking interns has been part of our business for the last twenty years.
- It provides us with time to mentor students and give them guidance on the opportunities available in our industry.

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?

- The skill set that many interns have is very encouraging to see.
- The most important aspect is their attitude and willingness to undertake a variety of tasks.

What positive benefits have come about because of the Internship?

- We employed several interns when they completed their studies, and so added a valuable resource to our company.
- Those that have started a business have become regular customers.

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

- Do not see the internship experience as spending time that you cannot afford but rather as a valuable contribution to our industry. If you make the effort, you can learn as much as the intern.



TANNAZ BARKHODARI | INTERN AT HAWES & FREER

What was the most awesome thing about the Internship?

- The most awesome thing about the internship with Hawes and Freer was a truly positive and compassionate learning environment with the support of friendly staff.

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

- My internship was an incredible experience. The staff were amazing and so helpful. They trusted me and gave me an opportunity to apply the skills and knowledge that I learnt through my fashion degree at Whitecliffe to a real work environment. They were patient with me and happy to answer any questions.

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

It helped me to learn about the business side of the fashion industry. I gained beneficial professional experience, new skills and new connections. I also learnt more about myself and what my strengths and weaknesses are and it increased my self-confidence.

What advice would you give to future interns?

- The great thing about an internship is that you have the freedom and flexibility to have learning become your main priority. This is the time to get uncomfortable and learn new skills and take advantage of the knowledge and expertise of all the staff. Don't be afraid to ask questions, and take lots of notes.