



Job Situation

At home with drawing table and computer, phone and fax. Visiting clients. Self-directed. Flexible hours.

Weekly Hours of Work

40

Overtime

As required

Monthly Salary

\$3,500

Student Loan – Owning

Student Loan – Monthly Payment

\$250

Duties

Consult with clients. Prepare sample sketches and estimates. Negotiate contracts. Produce original graphics in different media. Look for work. Keep files, records, accounts. Deal with art suppliers and printers.

Prospects

larger more ambitious contracts. Art direction. More training and specialization.

Job Title

Freelance Graphic Artist

National Occupational Classification (NOC)

5241

Job Description

When the ad agency folded, you decided to make the leap and work as a freelancer. The agency was small enough that you knew many of the clients and hoped they would come to you for work. A lot of people encouraged you and you liked the idea of working at home, so now you're learning how to run a small business. An accounting software program and some instruction from a friend, who took a watercolour as pay, has made the bookkeeping pretty painless. You bought into the Internet and have just finished designing your own website, which you're very pleased with.

You're not exactly a computer whiz yet, but you're learning all the time, and realizing that you need to learn more. You still love your hand-drawn work the best but you find the computer indispensable for commercial work like posters. You don't want to be left behind before your business even gets off the ground so you have a brand new graphics software program waiting for your computer friend to install. You're looking forward to learning it because you know it's going to allow you new possibilities in design.

Your work corner is by the window in your big living room, and although you miss the wild old days at The Edge sometimes, you still see plenty of people. You're meeting a client this afternoon who may want you to design a cover for her new book, which you have read twice already. You are also waiting to hear from a trade council that asked you to submit designs for their monthly newsletter.

You still find doing contract estimates very tricky, usually bidding too low, but everyone assures you that experience will solve that problem in time. You are already noticing that you can present yourself more confidently—you've actually got the habit of giving likely prospects your business card. You still want to illustrate a book and today you feel like it's entirely possible!