

Manufacturing ENGINEERING TRADES - FABRICATION

Related jobs:

Welders: Construct or repair metal products using a variety of welding methods including electric arc, MIG and TIG and oxy-acetylene.

First class welders:

Specialise in welding a range of metals such as mild steel, stainless steel, cast iron, aluminium, copper, brass, diecast metal and magnesium.

Boilermakers: Work with heavy gauge metal parts to manufacture or repair containers that have to withstand pressure such as ships, boilers and storage tanks.

Blacksmiths: Use furnaces, anvils, measuring instruments, hand or power tools and a variety of welding methods. They may make and repair agricultural equipment, mining and quarrying machinery or ornamental steelwork such as gates and fences.

What does a fabrication tradesperson do?

Fabrication tradespeople can really make the sparks fly. In manufacturing, the fabrication trades are all about designing and making products we use in our daily lives.

These qualified technical specialists cut, shape, join and finish metal among other tasks and they do it in some very creative ways. Choose fabrication as a career and you could work on projects such as:

- Building large naval ships and submarines
- Making stainless steel containers to produce fine wines
- Discovering ways to join new composite metals
- Making pipelines to conserve and distribute water

Living the life

Qualified engineering fabrication trades are in high demand both in Australia and overseas. Consequently, wages are rising and there are opportunities to travel with your skills.

Engineering trades provide great job security.

There are opportunities for further training and skill development to follow various career pathways as a fabrication specialist, an engineering generalist or in other areas of manufacturing business like product design and development or management.

There's a lot to recommend this career path. It could lead you to become an independent contractor and even establish your own business venture.

What types of organisations could I work for?

Fabrication tradespeople can work for a wide range of companies in interesting locations and work environments. You could work for large companies as part of the production team or help to setup and maintain production facilities.

There are opportunities to work for small engineering workshops that undertake a wide range of fabrication work for industrial customers.

You could also work 'on-site' in various locations such as shipbuilding yards, large building construction sites or mines in remote locations.



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What are employers looking for?

Employers look for young people who can:

- Show an interest and enthusiasm for working with engineering technology
- Demonstrate the ability to undertake and complete a hands on training program
- Listen, understand and follow instructions,
- Work with others in a team
- Plan and organise their own work activities
- Contribute to problem solving
- Use their own initiative

How do I get started?

Australian Apprenticeship

You can become an engineering tradesperson in fabrication by completing an Australian Apprenticeship.

An apprenticeship combines paid employment and a training course to develop technical knowledge and practical skills. As you progress and develop skills and competence your wage increases.

Apprenticeships are available through Group Training Companies, which arrange placements with host companies or directly with an individual company.

For more information:

Phone: 1300 798 199

Email: caa@aigroup.asn.au

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The training course is provided by a TAFE institute or other registered training provider. When you are assessed as fully competent you become a tradesperson with a qualification in Certificate III in Engineering (Fabrication). This is generally achieved within four years.

Further career opportunities

Once you have finished your apprenticeship, you can undertake further education and training to specialise in other areas of interest or take advantage of opportunities that arise such as company development programs, TAFE courses and university degrees.

Get a head start at school

Choose subjects like maths, science, communications and computer subjects to give you a head start for your apprenticeship.

Do work experience with manufacturing companies or an engineering related Vocational Education and Training (VET) program at school. You may even take on an apprenticeship part time through an Australian School-based Apprenticeship.

Websites to visit for more information:

Find out more online from:

www.zoomplus.aigroup.asn.au

www.makeit.net.au

www.skillsone.com.au

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My Career www.mycareer.com.au

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WWW.CAREERSCONNECTED.COM.AU

How much can I earn?

On average, weekly wages are:

Engineering Tradesperson	\$900
Engineering Associate/ Technician	\$1,120
Self employed Tradesperson	\$1,460
Operations Manager	\$1,675
Professional Engineer (University Degree)	\$2,300
Apprenticeship wages	
Starting with Yr 12	\$307
Starting with Yr 11	\$288
Starting with Yr 10	\$254
Final year (4th year)	\$550

Apprentices are also eligible for a range of Government financial assistance. Details are available from Australian Apprenticeship Centres: www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au

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Disclaimer: Earnings are indicative as at May 2008.