



Sydney Trains
Apprenticeship Program

A full-page background image of a female rail worker in an orange high-visibility jacket, orange helmet, and safety glasses, working on a railway structure. She is smiling and looking upwards. The background shows a blurred view of a railway track and some greenery.

Information on Apprenticeships and the recruitment process

**The Sydney Trains Apprenticeship Program
is one of the best in Australia.**

Come and work for a dynamic organisation with state-of-the-art technology, recognised experts in the rail industry, a variety of challenging work and a genuine commitment to apprenticeships.

Our apprenticeship streams

Apprentice Rail Traction



Rail Traction apprentices are trained to work with high voltage (1500 volt DC) transmission lines and associated equipment. You will be trained to work safely and competently at heights and around electrical equipment using track machines and lifting equipment. This role can be physically demanding. You will work in all types of weather and will be on-call 24/7 to ensure the electrical system keeps Sydney's trains moving. You will be rotated every six months to build your skills in a variety of work contexts. Included in the training are licences to perform dogging and operate a boom lift.

Rail Traction apprentices undertake a Certificate III in ESI-Rail Traction.

Apprentice Plant/ Diesel Mechanic



Plant/Diesel Mechanic apprentices are trained to repair and maintain mobile plant including forklifts, small excavators, skid steers and attachments, heavy track maintenance machines and the diesel engines that drive them, plus training for high risk licences to operate this machinery. These machines are vital for track maintenance. You will receive one-on-one training from experienced tradespeople in mechanical, low voltage electrical, hydraulics and pneumatics, as well as Programmable Logic Control (PLC) skills. As this machinery is mobile, you will be called to regional areas to stand by in readiness to perform repairs if required.

Heavy Plant apprentices undertake a Certificate III in Mobile Plant Technology.

Apprentice Signal Electrician



Signal Electrician apprentices are trained to work with hand, power and diagnostic tools to install, repair and maintain various electrical, mechanical and electro-pneumatic signaling devices. Some examples include track switching points, colour light signals, computerised and relay operated control systems, conventional and solar power supplies and multi-core cabling systems. You will be trained to work with DC and AC voltages, single and three phase circuitry. These vital systems ensure the safe movement of trains around the network. Included in the apprenticeship is training to qualify for an Electrician's licence. You will be rotated every six months to build your skills in a variety of work contexts.

Signal Electrical apprentices undertake a Certificate IV in Electrical -Rail Signalling.

Apprentice Cable Jointer



Cable Jointers are a branch of the electrical trades with direct non-rail equivalents in domestic, commercial and industrial work. As a Cable Jointer apprentice, you will be trained to install and repair joints in insulated power supply and control cables in underground pipes, trenches, and overhead supply systems. You will also be involved in building substations and installing major pieces of equipment. This specialised work will take you all over the rail network. The work is primarily outdoors, involves working at heights, in all kinds of weather, seven days a week.

Cable Jointing apprentices undertake a Certificate III in ESI - Cable Jointing.

Apprenticeships on offer may change in line with changing business needs

Apprentice Substation Distribution Electrician



As a Substation Distribution electrician you will help power our rail network. You will be trained to work in high voltage rail substations, installing and maintaining rectifiers, transformers, high and low voltage switchgear, and High Current DC equipment. You will also install and maintain general lighting, power services and electrical appliances. Included in the apprenticeship is training to qualify for an Electrician's licence. You will be rotated every six months to build your skills in a variety of work contexts.

Substation Distribution apprentices complete a Certificate III Electro-technology Electrician.

Apprentice Telecommunications



Telecommunications apprentices are trained to work with complex communications and control systems, using current and emerging technologies to provide critical services to rail operations.

This equipment is responsible for providing train control and train visibility systems, wireless and fixed data network and voice communications, the passenger information system and asset condition-monitoring systems. You will be involved in fault diagnosis and the repair of critical systems to ensure safe, on-time operations.

You will be rotated every three months to build your skills in a variety of work contexts.

Telecommunication apprentices undertake a Certificate III & IV in Telecommunications Technology.

Apprentice Signal Fitter



Signal Fitter apprentices are trained to work with hand and power tools, and lathes and milling machines, as well as oxy-acetylene cutting equipment and electric welders to maintain and repair signalling equipment.

You could be working trackside, in signal boxes or on train stations to perform a variety of duties. This signalling equipment is vital to the safety and efficiency of the rail network. Work may be undertaken in regional areas as well as the Sydney metropolitan area.

Signal Fitting apprentices undertake a Certificate III in Engineering Mechanical.

Apprentice Automotive Electrician



As an Apprentice Automotive Electrician you will work on the maintenance of heavy track machines including specialist large and small rail machinery and general earthmoving equipment.

You will gain the qualification of Certificate III in Automotive Electrical Technology.

Begin your journey now

Recruitment Process

Apprentice recruitment is a step-by-step process designed to ensure that you're the right fit for the job, and that it is the right job for you. These steps are outlined below.

1. Online application
2. Phone interview
3. Job related testing
4. Interview

Successful applicants from the job related testing will be invited to attend a panel interview.

5. Pre-employment checks

This is the final stage of the assessment process. As the rail system is vital to the smooth running of any city, and the work brings with it special risks to human safety, Sydney Trains requires all candidates to undergo criminal record and medical checks.

As a Sydney Trains Apprentice you will be classed as a Rail Safety Worker which requires the following independent health checks:

- Drug and alcohol screening
- Hearing
- Vision
- Mobility
- Health and fitness assessment
- A pathology (blood) test.

Apprenticeship Details

Duration: 3 or 4 years depending on qualification.

Working hours: You will work 38 hours per week while completing your vocational qualification with a Registered Training Organisation.

Sydney Trains advertises for apprentices in July each year on websites such as: I work for NSW, Transport for NSW Facebook, LinkedIn and Seek. Both current employees and external applicants may apply. As Sydney Trains is an equal opportunity employer and values workforce diversity, people of all ages, genders and backgrounds are encouraged to apply.



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