

Just the Job Information Sheet

Job title

New Zealand Registered Electrician

Job description

An electrician installs, maintains and repairs wiring and equipment in homes, businesses and industrial environments. Some specialise in the residential, commercial or industrial areas while many work across all areas, usually based on choice or geographic location. In recent years the work of an electrician has expanded into new technology including voice, video and data with the inclusion of automation of the simplest home through to the most complex machinery in our largest industries.

Electricity is everywhere and well trained highly skilled electricians are needed to keep it working.

Being an electrician is a great career choice, especially now that this trade has been touted as one of the 10 best jobs for the future.

Qualifications required

To become an electrician you have to undertake an electrical apprenticeship program that combines classroom instruction with on-the-job training.

To enter into an **etco*** electrical apprenticeship you will need to have:

- NCEA Level 2 with a minimum of 8 credits in English, Maths and a relevant Science (preferably Physics)
- A current driver's license and own transport by the time you start the apprenticeship
- A commitment to ongoing studies
- A positive work attitude
- Ambition

An apprenticeship with **etco*** takes at least three-and-a-half years to complete. Students attain a National Certificate in Electrical Engineering - "Electricians for Registration" (Level 4) providing all on-job and off-job units are achieved successfully. Subsequently you can apply to the Electrical Workers Registration Board (EWRB) for Registration as an Electrician and a Practising Licence allowing you to work as an Electrician in New Zealand.

General requirements

Secondary schools recommend their bright and enthusiastic Year 11, 12 and 13 students for **etco*** apprenticeships. **etco*** staff work with the schools, the students and their parents to ensure the student achieves the necessary entry criteria prior to starting the apprenticeship during their Year 13.

etco* prides itself on having the best apprentices and **positions on the etco* apprentice scheme are limited.**

Training costs

An **etco*** apprenticeship has a one-off fee of \$2100.00 (incl GST) that is required to be paid upon acceptance of a position on the ELITE Induction course with **etco***. This fee is for the 12-day ELITE induction course at our Training Facility in Ramarama, Franklin. **etco*** apprentices also receive:

- A full tool-kit intended for your entire apprenticeship
- Personal Protective Equipment including overalls, safety boots, goggles and glasses, gloves and ear muffs
- All workbooks and reference material required for night school and block courses
- External examination fees accrued during your final year of study.

Career path

The role of an Electrician can be varied throughout his or her entire career and there are plenty of opportunities for specialities and advancements.

Most electricians work for small businesses, are self employed or work for electrical contracting businesses in the Commercial, Domestic or Industrial sectors.

Industrial and specialist electricians work for businesses in a wide range of areas including:

- the dairy industry
- boat building
- the petrochemical industry (oil rigs and refineries)
- electricity supply and manufacturing
- power stations and sub-stations
- Steel and Aluminium plants.

Electricians may progress to become supervisors, or may become consultants at building construction companies or engineering firms. They may also set up their own businesses.

Electricians have the opportunity for academic advancement by completing further National Certificate levels above Level 4. These qualifications are pertinent to those wishing to prepare for engineering technician roles and often provide a pathway to other engineering disciplines at diploma level as well as a lead in to engineering degrees.

Salary range

Upon successful completion of the ELITE Induction course, **etco*** apprentices are paid from the first day of their apprenticeship.

Pay rates for apprentices vary but are usually increased as you progress and become more competent and productive. The current hourly rate for a first year **etco*** apprentice is \$12.00 per hour. By the end of a typical three-and-a-half year apprenticeship, the apprentice will have earned in the region of \$100,000 over this period.

In the first two years after completing an apprenticeship, electricians can expect to earn in the region of \$55,000 per year. With three to five years' experience this will increase to between \$60,000 and \$70,000. Experienced electricians working in specialist fields or running their own business can earn \$80,000 or more.

How to increase the chances of successfully entering this industry

If you would like to enter into an **etco*** apprenticeship, the minimum of 8 credits in the core required academic subjects of English, Maths and Science is essential as well as a driver's licence.

Useful traits to have before considering an apprenticeship:

- Be accurate and methodical
- Have practical and logical skills
- Be able to work well independently or in a team
- Be safety-aware
- Enjoy problem-solving.

Other places to source information about this job

Please visit our website www.etco.co.nz for further information about our electrical apprenticeships, training and hosting.