

Just the Job

Information Sheet

Job title: DOC Rangers

Job description:

Rangers are involved with field work for the Department of Conservation (DOC), where they work in a wide range of jobs throughout the country.

These jobs include:

- Looking after huts, tracks and campgrounds;
- Protecting native species (plants, animals, insect, fish etc);
- Removing threats to native species such as weeds or non native predators and;
- Working with local communities to help improve their conservation outcomes.

Qualifications required:

We are after people who are passionate about conservation and the outdoors, who are physically fit, and have demonstrated enthusiasm to do our work. This could be through tramping, hunting, fishing or undertaking volunteer conservation activities.

There are a wide range of school subjects that are useful for conservation work such as outdoor pursuits, biology and geography. Entry for school leavers (under 20yrs) are NCEA level 2 with credits in science, English or mathematics.

For applicants over 20, you need either the above criteria or a strong practical background.

All applicants will need a full or restricted driver licence, NZ or Australian Citizenship and have the eligibility to work in New Zealand.

There are several pathways for starting a career at DOC. One way is to train at Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology (NMIT) and complete the Trainee Ranger Programme which is a year long.

Fees for the Trainee Ranger Programme in 2007 were around \$4,700. The cost of living while studying is on top of this.

Other options include completing a degree at university in subjects like ecology, natural history, environmental management or sciences.

Location of job:

DOC has offices from Kaitaia in Northland to Stewart Island in the South and plenty of locations in between. DOC offices are usually close to the forest or coast and are often situated near local communities.

Career path:

A suggested career pathway is to start with gaining experience in working in the field and move around the country to get further experience. Then the possibility is there to move on to managing projects and then on to managing people.

Salary range:

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| entry level | \$30,000 to \$44,000 |
| next levels | \$35,000 to \$47,000 |
| | \$40,000 to \$54,000 |

Other careers this profession could lead to:

Other conservation organisations (such as Forest and Bird or Landcare Trusts), working in local and regional councils, working in private companies who contract to DOC, conservation on private land and farming.

Tips on how to increase the chances of successfully entering this industry:

It is recommended you get some experience doing some conservation activities (volunteer or paid) so you can test it out for yourself.

Talk to your local DOC area office who will be able to give you ideas and guidance on conservation activities, happening in your area

Websites to source information about this job:

www.doc.govt.nz
www.nmit.ac.nz