

Just the Job

Information Sheet

Job title: Utility Arborist

Job description: A utility arborist, or (less commonly) arboriculturist, is a professional in the practice of arboriculture, which is the cultivation, management, and study of individual trees, shrubs, vines, and other perennial woody plants. The difference between an arborists and utility arborist is the latter works around power lines.

Qualifications required: Training is on the job through ESITO (Electricity Supply Industry Training Organisation) to achieve a Level 2 National Certificate in Utility Arboriculture.

Training costs: Large companies provide training as part of their contract.

Career path: A school leaver will work as a trainee and build up experience whilst working with a qualified tree crew. Senior crew will be looking at leader ship roles to a foreman. In a large company there are project and business managers, these roles focus on business management skills.

Salary range:

Trainees would start on \$14 per hour.

An experienced and qualified utility arborist up to \$25 per hour.

Managers range from \$55,000 – 80,000, there would be a range of company benefits including vehicle use.

Other careers this profession could lead to: Consultants

How to increase the chances of successfully entering this industry: Work experience and an interest in the environment and sports.

Other places to source information about this job: Otago Polytechnic and WINTEC

Other relevant points: In NZ there is a shortage of qualified people so there are plenty of opportunities. It's much the same story in Australia and Europe.