

Just the Job

Information Sheet

Interior Systems

Job title:

Interior plasterer

(you may specialise in any of the different areas outlined in the 'job description' section below)

Job description:

Interior systems is all about working on the insides of buildings and houses rather than the outside. This could be a great option if you don't like being outside when it's cold!

Interior plasterers apply plaster to the walls and ceilings of houses and commercial buildings. You're creating the final look on the inside of a house or building so getting it right is important.

There are a few different qualifications that you can do if you want to work in interior systems and they cover a wide range of the special skills you need to do the job. There are different areas that you can work in like:

- Plasterboard fixing or finishing
- Fibrous plaster manufacture or installation
- Suspended ceiling installation
- Interior partition installation
- Fibre cement linings

Qualifications required:

Most employers prefer you to do an apprenticeship and gain a National Certificate in Interior Systems. This qualification usually takes two to three years to complete (for further information contact the BCITO).

At least three years of secondary education is recommended. Useful subjects include maths and english.

If you don't have passes in those subjects, talk to a BCITO Training Advisor - in some instances, they can organise for you to up-skill in those areas to enable you to get an apprenticeship.

Good practical skills are a real plus when it comes to looking for an apprenticeship, and taking technology or woodwork classes while at school demonstrates an interest in the trades which may help when you look for employment.

The minimum age to be employed on a building site is 16. There is no upper age limit, except for people entering the Modern Apprenticeship Scheme - which is for people between the ages of 16 and 21.

Training costs:

The total cost of training varies between qualifications but is usually \$2000 - \$3000. A BCITO Training Advisor can give you a breakdown of costs.

There are no hard and fast rules on who pays for what. Some employers pay for all or part of the Apprenticeship costs. Some don't. Others will pay the costs on behalf of the Apprentice and then get reimbursement through the Apprentice's wages at so much per week.

Location of job:

As their job title suggests, Interior plasterers work on the inside of buildings and houses to create the final look. They may work on small or large building sites, and like other plasterers their job means that they usually travel from site to site frequently. This variety in the workplace helps to keep things exciting!

Career path:

With a National Certificate in Interior Systems under your belt you can choose to;

- Become a recognised applicator, technical support person or supervisor
- Work in commercial or residential construction
- Run your own business and be your own boss

Salary range:

Wages are negotiated between the apprentice and their employer. The BCITO does not set the wages you are paid as an apprentice or the increases you may get as you progress through your apprenticeship. There is however a minimum wage that an apprentice must be paid and this information can be found by going to the following website: www.ers.dol.govt.nz/pay.

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

It's all about attitude - employers are looking to take on people with a genuine interest and commitment to working in the industry and learning a trade. You need to have a positive attitude and good work ethic to be successful in an apprenticeship.

To begin an apprenticeship you need to be employed in the building industry and your employer has to be prepared to offer you an apprenticeship. You will need to prepare a simple CV and approach prospective employers about starting an apprenticeship. Work experience can help you establish relationships with people in the industry that can lead to an apprenticeship - school programmes (such as Gateway) can also be a good way to get experience.

Places/websites to source information about this job:

www.kiwicareers.co.nz

www.constructionzone.co.nz

www.bcito.org.nz

Your careers advisor

Any other relevant points:

BCITO apprentices know all about work life balance - after a day on site you will find BCITO apprentices representing their country or region in many sports for example:

- ✚ Kayaking
- ✚ Rollerblading
- ✚ Rugby - both Super 14, NPC and internationals!
- ✚ Triathlons
- ✚ Martial arts
- ✚ And many more

BCITO apprentices come from many different backgrounds. We have currently or recently qualified people who started out doing very different things including;

- ✚ Accountants
- ✚ Chefs
- ✚ Police officers
- ✚ Fishermen
- ✚ Mothers
- ✚ Farmers
- ✚ University lecturers

There are BCITO apprentices working on almost every major construction project in New Zealand including;

- ✚ Wellington Hospital
- ✚ Auckland War Memorial Museum
- ✚ Inner city bypass – Wellington
- ✚ The construction of Corrections Facilities