

Just the Job

Information Sheet

Solid Plastering

Job title/s:

Solid Plasterer
Exterior Plasterer
Plasterer

Job description:

Solid plasterers apply traditional sand and cement plaster cladding to the exterior of buildings as well as things like walls and steps. You get to do lots of work outside in all sorts of weather so you need to be prepared to tough out the elements!

As a solid plasterer, your role may involve some or all of the following:

- look at the plans and specifications made by the architects and draftspeople
- advise clients on suitable products to use
- attach flashing around windows (reinforcing and weatherproofing joints)
- decide whether the surface will be covered using cement-based, sand-based or modified plaster
- erect mobile scaffolding if it is under five metres high
- prepare the surface for plastering
- mix the plaster
- apply plaster according to manufacturer's specifications
- ensure the surface they cover is watertight
- create decorative textures in the finishing coats
- clean up after the job

Qualifications required:

Most employers prefer you to do an apprenticeship and gain a National Certificate in Solid Plastering. 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, English and design.

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:

Solid plasterers travel locally between job sites to work on buildings that are being renovated or built. They may work on small or large sites and will sometimes work at heights. Conditions may be dusty and noisy, and there may be fumes. They do not usually work in the rain. As a solid plasterer you're always in new surroundings with a variety of work on a number of different jobs.

Career path:

With a solid plastering qualification under your belt you could:

- specialise in residential or commercial construction
- work for a large construction company
- 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.

Other careers this profession could lead to:

Owning your own business

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