

Women in Welding

Welding as a Trade



Welding keeps the world together. From bridges and cars, to buildings and appliances, welding is an essential process. That's why it's no surprise that a future in welding is bright. The sector is growing, with opportunities for welding in robotics, motor racing, defence, construction, manufacturing and more. Do you want to travel the world? Build race cars, submarines or huge infrastructure? Would you like to own your own business? Do you love working with your hands, as well as technology? If you answered 'yes' to any of these questions, then welding might be the career for you.



What's It Like?

Welders cut, shape, combine and create materials and products for small scale projects, right up to large, industrial worksites. The tasks a welder completes vary depending on the type and scale of the project. Some of the most common tasks include: drawing and measuring specifications; transforming fabricated parts into objects and products; assembling parts; recognising faults; and equipment maintenance.



What Can I Earn?

Like all jobs, the starting pay for most welders is fairly basic, particularly straight out of high school. Once you have some experience, your earning potential will definitely increase. A qualified welder can expect a salary of around \$80,000. Making over \$100,000 a year isn't out of the question, particularly if your workmanship is top notch, you work on an oil rig, or you specialise in something like underwater welding.



Where Do I Start?

The first step is to complete the Certificate III in Engineering – Fabrication Trade (MEM30305). In this course you'll gain practical skills and learn the theory behind welding. All the course curriculum is based on the real life welding industry, which means you will build skills to carry onto your future employer. You'll also need to complete an apprenticeship under the supervision of a qualified welder.



What Skills Do Employers Look For?

Welders apply a range of skills to their practice. While you'll gain theoretical skills during your studies, an apprenticeship will give you loads of on-the-job training and practical knowledge to help you grow your skills. Just some of the skills and personal attributes that welders usually have are outlined below.



Teamwork



Communication



Precision



Punctuality



Autonomy



Problem Solving



Power Tool Use



What's It Like To Be A Female Welder?

Welding is often described as an art form, rather than a craft or trade. It takes a steady hand, patience, and an eye for detail. Female welders are every bit as capable as men, and there are significant benefits to women wanting to pursue a career in a male dominated industry. There are economic benefits for women in non-traditional trades, like increased choice and availability of jobs and improved job security. A career in welding can open up opportunities for women to start and run their own businesses as a pathway to financial security and independence.



The History of Women in Welding

Women have been welding for decades, with the first female welders working in shipyards and factories during World War II. In fact, 'Rosie the Riveter' is one of the most iconic images from the era. As men left their jobs to fight overseas, women were vital in keeping the industrial sector afloat. In total, 200,000 women joined the workforce during World War II, forever transforming the role of women in society. Between 1939 and 1943, an extra 31% of women joined the workforce. They were trained in a variety of trades and actively contributed to Australia's wartime success, working on ships and fighter planes.

About Weld Australia

Weld Australia is the peak body representing the welding industry in Australia. Our primary goal is to ensure that the Australian welding industry remains locally and globally competitive, both now and into the future. We are a not-for-profit, membership-based organisation.

