

Dear Students

This week we conclude our series of Trades in Namibia. Our focus will be on the Building & Construction Industries. Construction is one of the biggest and fastest-growing sectors of any developed economy. It represents a vast and multidisciplinary field, requiring cooperation between laborers, skilled trades people, project managers, engineers, designers, municipals, and others. If you are interested in getting a construction job, you should start by determining which position you'd like to fulfill .

- Martina

The Windhoek and Regional Vocational Training Centres are responsible for providing Namibia's labour force with various artisan skills. These technical colleges prepare skilled artisans through a programme that provides a sound foundation in theory combined with experience in the working environment . Persons, who wish to improve their knowledge and technical skills, can enroll for skills training and upgrading courses at these institutions. Training programmes consists of apprenticeships, basic and advanced skills upgrading and bridging courses.

The following trades, which are divided into four categories, are offered by Vocational Training Centres throughout the country:

Building & Construction Industries

- ◇ Bricklayer and Plasterer
- ◇ Carpenter
- ◇ Joiner and Cabinetmaker
- ◇ Plumber and Pipefitter
- ◇ Rigger
- ◇ Tiler
- ◇ Upholsterer

Inside this issue:

BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION TRADES IN NAMIBIA	1
BRICKLAYER & PLASTERER	2
CARPENTER	3
JOINER & CABINETMAKER	4
PLUMBER & PIPEFITTER	5
RIGGER	6
TILER	7
UPHOLSTERER	8
INSTITUTIONS	9
FOOD FOR THOUGHT	10



BRICKLAYER & PLASTERER

A bricklayer and plasterer lay bricks and are responsible for building the inner and outer walls of a building.

JOB CHARACTERISTICS

Examining plans, construction drawings, blue-prints and specifications of the structure to be erected.
 Inserting doors and windows, building of solid and cavity walls, steps and free standing piers and arches.
 Mixing mortar and spreading it with a trowel over laid concrete or stone foundation.
 Aligning the blocks by topping with a trowel and embedding them firmly in mortar, while checking the horizontal and vertical alignment.
 Setting blocks, bricks and stones in mortar bed by hand or with lifting devices, and laying them into place by using a hammer or trowel shaft.
 Forming ornamental brickwork designs.
 Repairing and altering existing brickwork and other constructions.

REQUIREMENTS & TRAINING

Secondary Education

Possession of at least a Grade 10 or equivalent qualification is required. A higher qualification is, however recommended. The candidate must be at least 16 years old.

Compulsory Subjects

Mathematics, Physical Science and English

Tertiary Education

Training is provided via any of the three described routes at a Vocational Training Centre, namely: the apprenticeship opportunity, the co-operative opportunity or the vocational trainee opportunity. NIMT also offers training in bricklaying and plastering.

Personality

A prospective candidate should enjoy working with his/her hands and using tools and equipment. He/she should possess a sturdy body and should be able to physically endure different working conditions. He/she must also be able to understand the drawings of architects and engineers.

WORK OPPORTUNITIES

Bricklayers and plasterers are employed at government departments, construction companies and the building industry. Since new buildings are constantly erected, the job prospects for a bricklayer seem to be favourable.



CARPENTER

A carpenter generally has to cut and shape timber for construction and fitting out of buildings.

JOB CHARACTERISTICS

Working from plans, drawings, sketches or instructions.

Marking out reference points according to a pattern of the plan in order to facilitate cutting and shaping.

Selecting the correct timber for the work.

Recognizing and utilizing the different kinds of timber to the best advantage.

REQUIREMENTS & TRAINING

Secondary Education

Possession of at least a Grade 10 or equivalent qualification is required. A higher qualification is, however, recommended. The candidate must be at least 16 years of age.

Compulsory Subjects

Mathematics, Physical Science

Recommended Subjects

Technical subjects

Tertiary Education

Training is provided via any of the three described routes at a Vocational Training Centre, namely: the apprenticeship opportunity, the co-operative opportunity or the vocational trainee opportunity. NamWater Human Resources Development Centre offer apprenticeships for prospective carpenters. NIMT also offers similar training.

Personality

A prospective carpenter should be an accurate worker with good eye-hand co-ordination and spatial and form perception. He/she should also enjoy working outdoors.

WORK OPPORTUNITIES

Carpenters are employed in the building industry as well as at construction companies. Self-employment is a viable option if sufficient experience has been gained. Work prospects are favourable.



JOINER AND CABINET MAKER

A Joiner and Cabinetmaker manufactures all the woodwork that is necessary for comfort as well as for ornamental purposes in a building, such as windows, doors and counters.

JOB CHARACTERISTICS

Examining plans, sketches, drawings and specifications to determine job requirements.

Selecting and measuring appropriate kinds of wood, cutting and shaping the material with hand tools or wood-working machines to form suitable units for assembling.

Joining the units to products by using glue, screws, nails and other means.

Decorating furniture and fixtures by inlaying wood, applying veneer, carving and turning designs.

Finishing surfaces of fabricated wooden articles or furniture.

Maintaining the woodwork machines and hand tools, adjusting accessories and sharpening the cutting blades.

Designing and manufacturing tables, chairs, drawers, trays, beds and other furniture for house interiors.

Performing decorative work in houses and premises, setting-up shelves and equipping built-in compartments and wardrobes.

Planning, designing and manufacturing doors, windows and other products like complete sets of kitchen interiors as a whole.

REQUIREMENTS & TRAINING

Secondary Education

Possession of at least a Grade 10 or equivalent qualification is required. A higher qualification is, however, recommended. The candidate must be at least 16 years of age.

Compulsory Subjects

Mathematics , Physical Science and English

Recommended Subjects

Woodwork

Tertiary Education

Training is provided via any of the three described routes at a Vocational Training Centre, namely: the apprenticeship opportunity, the co-operative opportunity or the vocational trainee opportunity. NIMT also offers training in Joiner and Cabinet making.

Personality

Joiner and Cabinetmakers should have an eye for line and creative approach to making a "living object" from what is raw material. They need to be methodical, careful and have a steady approach to work. They should also be able to do calculations and work accurately with regard to details and drawings.

WORK OPPORTUNITIES

Work opportunities exist in the building sector and to a large extent in private enterprises that concentrate on tailor-made build-ins and individual furniture. Self-employment is a good possibility if sufficient experience has been gained. Job prospects are favorable.



PLUMBER & PIPE FITTER

A plumber is responsible for installing, repairing and maintaining pipes, fixtures and other plumbing used for water distribution and waste water disposal in commercial and industrial buildings. A pipefitter attaches pipes to walls, structures and fixtures, such as radiators or tanks, using brackets, clamps, tools or welding equipment.

JOB CHARACTERISTICS

Examining building plans and related specifications.

Locating and marking out the position of pipes, pipe-connections and passage holes for pipes in walls and floors for water supplies and waste water systems.

Cutting, reaming, threading and bending pipes.

Assembling and installing valves, pipe fittings and pipes (in steel, PVC, or copper).

Joining pipes and fittings by using screw couplings, solvent cement or by brazing, welding and soldering .Caulking joints and testing them for leaks with air and water pressure.

Caulking joints and testing them for leaks with air and water pressure.

Installing assemblies and features like hot-water geysers, bathtubs, water closet (WC) suits and wash basins.

Doing repair and maintenance work, e.g. replacing tap washers, mending burst pipes and clearing logged drains.

Doing sheet metal work in flashing's and installing gutters and down pipes.

REQUIREMENTS & TRAINING

Secondary Education

Possession of at least a Grade 10 or equivalent qualification is required. A higher qualification, is however, recommended. The candidate must be at least 16 years of age.

Compulsory Subjects

Mathematics, Physical Science and English

Tertiary Education

Training is provided via any of the three described routes at a Vocational Training Centre, namely: the apprenticeship opportunity, the co-operative opportunity or the vocational trainee opportunity. NIMT and the NamWater Human Resources Development Centre offer apprenticeships in plumbing and pipefitting.

Personality

A Prospective plumber and pipe-fitter must have finger dexterity, good eye-hand coordination and spatial perception. Accuracy is also deemed important

WORK OPPORTUNITIES

Employment opportunities exist in the building industry, plumbing and pipefitting businesses. Self-employment in plumbing and pipefitting is also a very viable option. Job prospects are good.



RIGGER

A rigger works with cables and ropes to hoist objects and ensures that the cables are in perfect condition, as many lives depend on him/her in this regard. A rigger also deals with cranes, scaffolding, platforms, tripods, escalators, etc.

JOB CHARACTERISTICS

Installing and maintaining steel cables used with lifts, cranes and pulleys.

Assembling and erecting derricks and other metal parts for buildings and other constructions.

Inspecting the cables and ropes regularly and ensuring that safety precautions are followed, in order to avoid any damages.

REQUIREMENTS & TRAINING

Secondary Education

No formal guidelines exist, as this is currently not a designated trade in Namibia. Relevant Experience and English literacy are advantageous to receive in-service training with a suitable employer. Most employers will, however, require higher qualifications.

Tertiary Education

Training is only provided at training centers in South Africa. For more details contact *Matovu Training Centre*.

Email contact: info@machinetraining.co.za or website : <http://www.machinetraining.co.za/index.html> or at the *Rigging Academy of South Africa* : <http://mme.co.za/riggingacademy.html>

Personality

A prospective rigger should work accurately, be safe conscious and should not be afraid of heights.

WORK OPPORTUNITIES

Riggers are employed by construction companies as well as the mining industry. The possibility of self-employment is low. Job prospects seem to be favorable.



TILER

A tiler's work entails the laying of tiles, mosaics or other decorative finishes to floors and walls by various adhesives.

JOB CHARACTERISTICS

Examining plans, construction drawings and specifications on the finish to be achieved.

Preparing walls or floor areas for covering with tiles or other materials.

Setting and leveling tiles to surface walls and floors according to certain patterns, pointing tile joints with filling material and cleaning surfaces.

Constructing and laying mosaic panels to decorate walls, floors and other surfaces

REQUIREMENTS & TRAINING

Secondary Education

No formal guidelines exist, as this is currently not a designated trade in Namibia. Relevant experience and English literacy are advantageous to receive in-service training with a suitable employer. Most employers will, however, require higher qualifications.

Personality

A prospective tiler must be accurate, display good hand dexterity and good form perception.

WORK OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities exist in the building industry and self-employment is an option, given the appropriate experience. Prospects are favorable.



UPHOLSTERER

An upholsterer is an artisan who applies soft finishes to furniture like car and household seating, couches and other interior decorations. Fabrics, foam and leather are employed to make, repair or replace upholstery.

JOB CHARACTERISTICS

Measuring the frames to be covered.

Creating patterns, marking and cutting upholstery materials with shears, scissors, etc.

Fitting, tracking, stapling or installing springs and padding, and covering material to furniture frames.

Fitting and installing covers and cushioning for seats.

Operating machines to compress padded spring assemblies and inserting them into mattress covers.

Replacing covering, padding, webbing or springs to repair upholstery.

REQUIREMENTS & TRAINING

Secondary Education

No formal guidelines exist, as this is currently not a designated trade in Namibia. Relevant Experience and English literacy are advantageous to receive in-service training with a suitable employer. Most employers will, however, require higher qualifications.

Personality

A prospective upholsterer must have a flair for design and ergonomic aspects of furniture. Good eye hand coordination and creativity are also important.

WORK OPPORTUNITIES

Upholsterers are employed by upholstery companies and workshops. Self-employment is possible with the necessary skills, experience and funds.



INSTITUTIONS THAT PROVIDE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES TRAINING

It is expected of the **Namibia Training Authority** as the official regulating body in the Vocational Education and Training sector, to ensure that all training providers operating within the borders of our country, indeed meet quality training standards. The following institutions are now registered with the NTA and have been issued with registration certificates :

Windhoek Vocational Training Centre

Tel#: (061) 211 742

Eenhana Vocational Training Centre

Tel#: (065) 263 600

Zambezi Vocational Training Centre

Tel: (066) 253 264

NamWater Human Resources Development Centre

Tel: (062)71 6001/2

Okakarara Vocational Training Centre

Tel: (067) 317 069

Valombola Vocational Training Centre

Tel#: (065) 230 033

NIMT (THE NAMIBIAN INSTITUTE OF MINING AND TECHNOLOGY) offers a four-year training opportunity in the Boilermaking & Welding trade and the Fitting & Turning trade. Training is based on the Apprenticeship modular training approach in accordance with the requirements and recommendations of the industry.

NIMT ENGINEERING & BUILDING CIVIL TRADES MAIN CAMPUS ARANDIS

Tel: 064-511800 Fax: 064-510369 E-mail: nimtho@iafrica.com.na

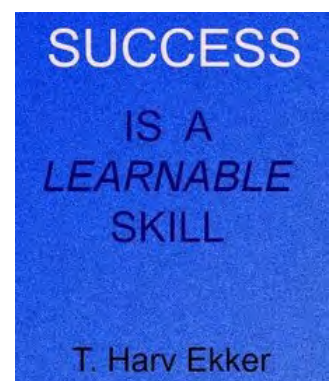
NIMT SOUTHERN CAMPUS KEETMANSHOOP

Tel: 064-511800 Fax: 064-510369 E-mail: nimtho@iafrica.com.na

COSDEF (Namibia Community Skills Development Foundation) is a registered Trust co-ordinating, supporting and supervising the various COSDECs (Community Skills Development Centres) and other training providers that provide competency based skills training to various communities throughout Namibia, primarily for youth and the previously disadvantaged groups to assist them in partaking in economic development activities. **Training Programmes being offered in 2015 at Mahetago COSDEC, Swakopmund :**

Bricklaying and Plastering
Joinery and Cabinetmaking
Plumbing and Pipefitting
Welding and Fabrication

Contact : Tel: 064 - 403 046



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Vocational education is changing its image, but people need to know about it

"The past 60 years has seen a steady, constant expansion in the higher education sector, with parents and policymakers alike placing ever-greater emphasis upon the "golden formula" of three A-levels and a university degree.

But the fierce competition for jobs between highly qualified graduates frequently makes the headlines as more and more people struggle to find employment, despite obtaining degrees. A new report from the Institute of Public Policy Research (IPPR) released today, to coincide with VQ Day 2014, reveals that many of the jobs expected to drive economic growth and mobility in the future will not necessarily require this traditional academic education pathway. Instead, the vocational path, which includes apprenticeships and on-the-job training, can open doors to an endless array of careers.

Traditional skilled trades will remain in high demand. Over the next eight years, nearly half a million workers will be required within skilled construction trades, ranging from bricklayers to renewable energy geothermal pump installers. Vocational education can also act as a pathway towards many roles historically seen as the domain of the university graduate. Associate professional careers, encompassing roles as diverse as financial advisers and dental technicians, will expand by a quarter of a million additional jobs. All of these roles can be secured through vocational education and training.

Technical, practical and vocational education has a unique role to play in the future job market, giving students the edge in a competitive jobs market by providing them with the skills, experience and clear progression routes they need to succeed. Vocational qualifications can aid progression along career paths, or facilitate entire career changes. But further research by the Edge Foundation earlier this year found that many vocational students felt that their schools and parents did not support their decision to pursue vocational study. Many felt they would have received greater support had they followed the university route. There is evidently a perception issue when it comes to vocational education; it has become viewed by some as a second-tier offering. However, the tide is certainly beginning to turn."
- Excerpt from Jan Hodges article 4 June 2014

<http://www.theguardian.com/education/2014/jun/04/vocational-education-image-vq-day-further-education>

Reference: Min of Labour & Social Welfare - Careers in Namibia 2005/2006

YOU CAN FOLLOW US FOR MORE NEWS FROM OUR TUCSIN WEBSITE PAGE AS WELL AS TUCSIN ALUMNI FACEBOOK PAGE.

We're on the web:
www.tucsin.org as well as on
Facebook

Tel# : 061 224840
E-mail: williams@tucsin.org