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Dear Students

Every person and every industry in the world is influenced by, and depends upon, transport. Hence, there are so many diverse careers available in this exciting, fast-paced and ever-changing sector. So before you make the decision to get into transport you should firstly discover what it's really all about.

- Martina

TRANSPORT

Transportation is a broad field that includes job titles ranging from aircraft pilot to railwayman. Transportation careers includes jobs in industries that transport passengers and cargo via plane, rail, bus, boat, transit system, and other modes of private and public transportation. Transportation jobs might also involve scenic and sightseeing transportation.

The transportation and material moving sector also includes positions that support the industry.

For example, travel and tour agencies that book transportation and logistics staff that coordinate transportation are part of the transportation industry. So are mechanical support personnel such as automotive mechanics, automotive service technicians, maintenance workers, and repair workers. Read below for an extensive list of transportation job titles.

TAXI DRIVERS, CHAUFFEURS, AND DRIVERS

Taxi drivers and chauffeurs transport people to and from their destinations. They have to be good drivers and know their way around the area in which they are driving. They often have to go through some form of training, but there are rarely education requirements. Taxi driver and chauffeur jobs require strong customer service skills.

MATERIAL MOVER

Material movers and hand labourers move materials such as freight or stock. They might retrieve or unload trucks carrying materials. They may pack or wrap products as well, or even clean transportation equipment. While there are typically no formal education requirements, material movers often receive some training, and need physical stamina and strength.



CARGO TRANSPORTATION

Most cargo transportation depends upon the seamless operations of large distribution centers and warehouses. These busy hubs require both white- and blue-collar workers to ensure that freight is handled within established transportation schedules.

The primary responsibility of a cargo handler is to supervise the loading and unloading of all consignments. They must also ensure that consignments are properly packed and addressed, and that they are correctly loaded. They play a pivotal role in the economy as they help transport products or raw materials from one point to the next.

Cargo handlers move freight, stock and other materials and often perform other unskilled labour. Cargo handlers may attach identifying labels or mark them with information. They must be able to interpret instruction in a verbal or written manner. They also have to record numbers of units handled.

Freight handlers are found in transportation industries, such as airlines, shipping, and railroad companies. They may work specifically as baggage or cargo handlers or truck loaders and unloaders. Their specific duties differ, according to work setting or industry. They may also work in warehouses or storage areas. The job carries responsibility as the cargo controller forms the link between the customer and the safe, quick and efficient delivery of consignments.

They work with tools, such as dollies, forklifts, hand trucks, jacks, pallet trucks or wrapping machinery. They also may work with computers, such as data entry software or industry management software.

WATER TRANSPORTATION

Water transportation workers perform a variety of tasks. They operate and/or maintain vessels that transport people or cargo across bodies of water. There are many specific job titles within the broader category of “water transportation worker,” including merchant mariner, captain (or master), deck officer, pilot, sailor, ship engineer, marine oiler, and more. While there are no education requirements for entry-level oilers and sailors, upper-level positions (such as engineers and officers) typically require specific certificates.

AIR TRANSPORTATION

Air transport is an important enabler to achieving economic growth and development. Air transport facilitates integration into the global economy and provides vital connectivity on a national, regional, and international scale. It helps generate trade, promote tourism, and create employment opportunities. The skills and experience needed by workers in the air transportation industry differ by occupation. Some jobs may be entered directly from high school and others require specialized training. Most positions in the airline industry involve extensive customer service contact, requiring strong interpersonal and communication skills. Mechanics and pilots require specialized formal training and must be certified by the Aviation Administration. Skills for many other air transportation occupations can be learned on the job or through company-sponsored training.

TRAFFIC, TRANSPORTATION, AND TRAVEL LOGISTICS

Traffic and Transportation Logistics Analysts and related personnel coordinate all details of the transportation of people or of cargo between their points of departure and destination.

TRUCK DRIVERS

The truck driver transports cargo along highways, city streets or within compounds of industrial, construction or mining areas. Truck drivers are responsible for driving these heavy vehicles safely, in accordance with road regulations and with maximum efficiency. They are responsible for checking the condition and safety of the trucks before leaving but may also have to perform emergency roadside repairs if problems are experienced on the journey, such as changing tyres or installing light bulbs or spark plugs. Basic maintenance tasks need to be performed, such as adding oil, petrol or radiator fluid.

Job Characteristics

- Picking up goods from factories and delivering them to a terminal for further conveyance, or for the final delivery of goods from terminals to stores and homes.
- Checking the conditions of a truck before a journey, ensuring that brakes, lights, fire extinguishers and other safety equipment operate safely.
- Loading the truck and arranging the items in order of delivery or supervising the loading and unloading of the merchandise.
- Driving the truck and maintaining it in a responsible manner.
- Maintaining safety road regulations.
- Receiving money on behalf of the dispatcher and writing out receipts.

REQUIREMENTS

Secondary Education

Possession of at least a Grade 10 certificate, or equivalent qualification, and a heavy drivers' license (Code 10 or 11) is required. Candidates should be at least 18 years old. To transport hazardous substances, candidates must be 25 years or older.

A truck driver needs driving experience and preferably have knowledge of the city and the whole country. In addition to this, a long distance driver should have knowledge of neighbouring countries.

Recommended subject

English (Trans Namib)

Tertiary Education

Various colleges in South Africa such as "The Operator Training Centre", Emthonyeni Training Centre, Bloemfontein Training Centre and the Driver Training Scheme at Luipaardsvlei, offer professional post-license courses to truck drivers.

In Namibia, candidates can complete a three-months certificate course at Trans Namib's Gammams Training Centre. The course includes: fire-fighting, first aid and conveyance of hazardous substances.

Personality

The prospective truck driver must be responsible, emotionally stable, honest, and have sober habits.

BUS DRIVERS

Bus drivers operate buses that transport people to their desired destinations. Bus drivers are classified as either intercity or transit or school bus drivers. Intercity and transit drivers drive inside town or between cities. School bus drivers transport students between their homes and school.

Bus drivers follow schedules and usually stop at predetermined locations, and they frequently drive in congested traffic, so they must be very defensive and safe drivers. Drivers must not get behind or ahead their schedules since passengers rely on these schedules. Drivers operate a variety of buses from those that carry 15 people to those that seat more than 100 people.

Job Characteristics

- Driving and tending buses to transport local and long distance passengers.
- Ensuring the safety of the passengers.
- Rendering transport services on a routine basis.
- Collecting fares charges, issuing tickets, and keeping simple records.
- Keeping the bus in good order.
- Making minor repairs.

REQUIREMENTS

Secondary Education

Possession of at least a Grade 10 certificate, or equivalent. The candidate should further be at least 21 years old and have a Code 11 drivers license. Previous experience is deemed necessary in this occupation.

Recommended Subjects

English (Namibia)

Tertiary Education

Candidates who are not in possession of a heavy-duty drivers license can receive training at Trans Namib's Gam-mams Training Centre. Trans Namib is the only institution which offers a three-months theoretical and practical training course. Additional courses are the following: fire fighting, first aid and conveyance of hazardous substances.

Personality

The prospective bus driver should have good eye-hand coordination and be able to make accurate and quick decisions. Good health and alertness are also requirements for this job.

Work Opportunities

A bus driver can be employed at tertiary institutions, private transport companies or municipalities, travel agencies, airports and at Trans Namib.

TRAIN DRIVERS

A train driver is in charge of and drives steam, electrical or diesel locomotives to transport passengers and freights. A train driver starts the locomotive and increases speed; watches the instruments, such as the speed, temperature and pressure gauges, in the locomotive; interprets signals, such as hand, flag, shunter and speed signals, along the line. The career of train driver is best suited to the person who does not like the daily routine of office work. Diesel loco drivers are responsible for driving a diesel locomotive for the purpose of transporting waste products, materials and components between the various work sections.

The drivers receive their instructions verbally by radio or according to a schedule. After each shift they submit a report on the work done. They are also responsible for keeping the diesel locomotive in good working order. All work is done efficiently, punctually and safely.

Job Characteristics

- Inspecting locomotives before commencing a journey, for example, the coupling between locomotives.
- Monitoring the speed, temperature and steam input gauges closely and checking the fuel.
- Controlling the train during trip and during shunting operations, by watching the numerous controls and the signals along the line to keep the train in control.
- Correctly interpreting all signals and hand signals that can be given, for example, flag signals of the conductor, hand signals of shunters and speed-limiting signals.
- Repairing minor locomotive defects to promote safety and exercise loss control

REQUIREMENTS

Secondary Education

Possession of at least a Grade 10 certificate, or equivalent, is required to be employed as a junior train assistant. Candidates are also expected to obtain a pass mark of 80% on theoretical and practical tests before being appointed permanently.

The minimum requirements for a senior assistant is a Grade 8 certificate, or equivalent, plus three years experience as a train assistant or shunter. Candidates must first be appointed as a trainee senior train assistant and can advance to become a train driver after two years of experience as senior train assistant.

Tertiary Education

The career path of a Train Driver proceeds from train assistant to train driver. All new entrants will receive theoretical and practical in-service training at Trans Namib Rail. Candidates will have to pass a medical test and a psychometric classification test battery.

After three years of experience in the position of train assistant the candidate can write a follow-up examination. If 80% are obtained, he/she can be promoted to the position of train driver. Train drivers have to re-write a revision test every two years, and pass a mid-test and an efficiency test every four years.

Personality

The prospective train driver or assistant should be a mature, reliable, sober and responsible person. He/she should be able to make decisions and act rapidly.

Work Opportunities

The train driver and assistant are employed by Trans Namib Holdings. No self-employment opportunities exist.

THE FUTURE OF TRANSPORTATION

We went from simply walking, to riding horses, to inventing the wheel, to crossing vast oceans, to flying over them entirely, and finally, to going into outer space. But even with how much transportation has evolved over the centuries, especially during the past several decades, innovation is only picking up steam. Who knows how people will be moving around in 20 years? Well, these examples might offer us a glimpse of what is to come.

Gliding Taxi's : Up until the invention of flying, water was the fastest means of transportation. But even to this day, traveling by water is still the cheapest. In any case, by combining the benefits of both air and sea travel, two men, Alain Thébault and Anders Bringdal, have designed a water taxi that seems to be gliding right above the water surface. Known as *Sea Bubbles*, these transportation vehicles are perfect for overly-congested cities that also have a major river, or another body of water, passing through. Not only are they able to take you to, or close to, your destination in a fraction of the time, but they will do it in a completely clean way.

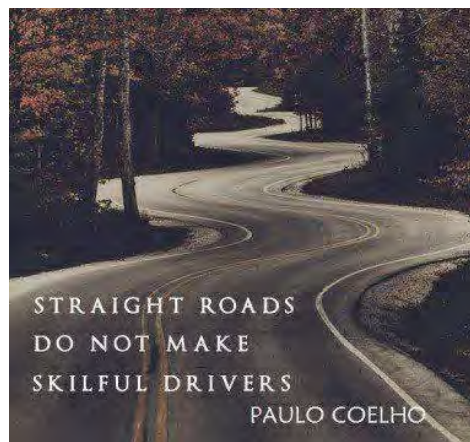
Hoverbikes : How long have we've been waiting for hoverbikes? Probably ever since we first saw them being used in *Star Wars*, at least. Well, they are finally here and they work. Looking more like a commercial drone on steroids, the *Hoversurf Scorpion-3* is the brainchild of a Russian drone start-up. These hoverbikes are programmed to fly at altitudes of 16.4 feet for 25 minutes, and at maximum speeds of up to 44 mph. They are capable of going much higher than that, setting a record of 93.5 feet, but for safety reasons they are limited to only 16.4 feet. It weighs only 229 pounds, which luckily is below the 250-pound threshold – the maximum weight allowed before you would need a registration or a pilot's license in most countries.

Flying cars: If there are hoverbikes around, then flying cars shouldn't be too far behind. Now, even though the project is still under development and has some way to go before it will become available to the general public, Uber and NASA have come together in order to make flying cars a reality. Known as *Uber Elevate*, this project involves the development of a vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) aircraft, which will most likely have a fixed-wing design. Mobile propellers at each end of the wings will be able to rotate up and down, thus allowing the VTOL to land and take-off on the spot, without the need of a runway.



References : Careers in Namibia;

www.thebalancecareers.com ;
<https://www.toptenz.net>



Previous newsletters can be found on the TUCSIN website:

<http://www.tucsin.org/index.php/en/project/documents-for-students/career-prospect>.