



| NSW Department of Education

Jockey

The thrilling world of horse racing is embedded in Australia's cultural fabric. Jockeys use a combination of strength and agility while risking life and limb to win a race. You'll join an elite group of athletes who race horses from start to finish as fast as possible.

What jockeys do

Jockeys use their knowledge of breeding, training, performance, and track conditions to manage each individual horse's temperament so they can run their best race.

They begin their day early with a weight check before spending time exercising their horses.

They race in the afternoon four to five days a week. Before each race they strategise with their racehorse owner and trainer. Following a race, they receive notes and review strategies for the horse's performance.

Most jockeys begin their career at a very young age, and at the age of 16 start formally working with a trainer. Jockeys are self-employed and contracted by horse trainers and owners to race their horses for a fee. They also get a cut of the purse winnings.

Will I get a job?

Strong growth is predicted for this occupation in the next four years, with 900 new jobs in Australia, bringing the total to 8,900.

What will I earn?

Up to \$1,650 median full-time weekly salary (before tax, excluding super).

You'll like this job if...

You're physically fit. You have excellent balance. You're disciplined and willing to work hard. You're competitive and motivated. You have great time management and organisational skills. You remain calm and perform well under pressure. You can accept feedback and criticism. You're observant and alert. You have excellent communication skills. You love horses.

A day in the life...

Work as a jockey may involve these tasks:

- Regular weigh-ins to check and maintain weight
- Ride every morning to exercise horses
- Attend practice sessions and training to maintain fitness
- Watch races and horses to learn skills that will benefit on the racetrack
- Assess competitor jockeys, horses and track conditions at venues
- Plan racing strategies with the owner and trainer
- Ride in competitions at racetracks in Australia and possibly overseas
- Maintain riding equipment including helmets, saddles, boots, whips, bridle, goggles.

VET qualifications

The following government-subsidised qualification is available in NSW:

Certificate IV in Racing (Jockey) (RGR40208)

- Up to 4 years full-time
- Available as a fee-free apprenticeship
- Employed or in further study: 89.8%*

Roles to look for

- Jockey
- Apprentice jockey

Main employing industries

- Racing (Thoroughbred)

Other jobs you may like...

- Horse trainer
- Stable hand
- Trackwork Rider
- Steward
- Clerk of the Course
- Clerk of the Scales
- Racing Official



To find out more regarding these related jobs, visit education.nsw.gov.au/job-guides.

Information sources

Income: Australian Government Department of Employment, Australian Jobs Report 2017, Occupation Matrix. ANZSCO ID: 2211. Earnings can vary greatly depending on the skills and experience of the worker, and the demands of the role. Career trend: Australian Government Department of Employment 2017 employment projections to May 2022. Graduate outcomes: National Centre for Vocational Education Research. *Approximately 6 months after they completed VET.

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