



OCCUPATIONAL QUALIFICATION: WELDER

SAQA I.D 94100, Credits 373, NQF Level 4

Career Overview: What do I do for a living?

Welders use their knowledge of metals and physics as well as their dexterity to fuse various materials together. Quite often, they have to work with steel, aluminium or brass as well as polymers. Their equipment consists of a stick welder, a charged electrode, wire feeds, and safety gear.

A welder must possess an in-depth understanding of welding electrodes, filler wire compositions and fluxes, and how to store them. Expert welders must also identify quickly defects and fissures in metalwork, and know how to rectify them by filling in holes and indentations

Working as a welder may also provide experience in cutting, soldering, and brazing. Welders who possess these skills have a better chance of getting more work and subsequent higher pay. Cutting involves the trimming of metal objects with arc, plasma or oxy-gas cutters. Soldering and brazing are forms of joining two or more metal objects together, but at a lower temperature than welding.

Welding imposes a few occupational hazards and dangers. The risk of injury in this vocation is high if the artisan does not possess excellent skills in safety and first aid, fire-fighting and preventative security measures

What is the minimum entry level?

Grade 9, Matric(Grade 12) NQF Level 1 with Communication and Mathematical Literacy

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL):

RPL for access to the external integrated summative assessment: Accredited providers and approved workplaces must apply the internal assessment criteria specified in the related curriculum document to establish and confirm prior learning. A statement of result or certified work experience record must then be issued by the accredited provider or workplace to confirm prior learning.

RPL for access to the qualification: Accredited providers and approved workplaces may recognise prior learning against the relevant access requirements.

What can I become?

- Fabricator / Welder, Plater-welder / Welding Inspector / Sheet Metal Worker / Pipe Fitter / Mig Welder / Steel Worker / Oil Rig Welder / Auto body Welder

Where can I work?

Typical employers include:

- The motor body manufacturing industry
- Power plants and refineries
- Metal industries
- Gate and fence maintenance and repair
- Railway undertakings
- Heavy engineering
- Explosives industry
- Construction of buildings, bridges and other structures

What is the duration of the course?

The Duration is 3 years

What is a Welder's Job?

A welder's main duties include:

- Studying blueprints and understanding their specifications
- Calculating the dimensions of the objects that need to be welded
- Inspecting the condition of structures and materials involved in the process
- Working with ignition tools and power supplies
- Cutting, gouging and gas welding of ferrous materials
- Welding cautiously to avoid overheating
- Using hand tools of various types
- Repairing faulty pieces
- Ensuring the maintenance of welding equipment

How to Work as a Welder in South Africa?

South Africa has a wide market for Welder jobs. There is a huge demand for such experts in several industries and sectors. Candidates that meet the mandatory qualifications and professional skills have several resources available where they can apply for this specialisation.

Graduating welder courses is a sure way to acquire the necessary skills for this vocation. The knowledge and information that you get from this type of learning give you a competitive advantage over other applicants for the same position.

Working as a welder in South Africa gives you the freedom to pick a field of work from numerous industries. Additionally, with enough experience and knowledge, you can start your welding business and practice the trade on a private basis.

How Much Does a Welder Earn in a Year?

Comprehensive knowledge of welding and metalwork can earn you a decent yearly salary in South Africa. Specialization courses and experience can increase it and provide substantial career benefits.

At the moment, the average hourly pay for welders is R61.38. Depending on your level of abilities and experience, you can earn between R34 and R116 per hour in addition to which you may also receive a bonus ranging between R1,030 and R29,289 calculated for an entire year.

As a student, you may earn only the minimum rate at first. However, in time, you can earn an average of R148, 800 per year. The most that you can make within 12 months of working as a Welder in South Africa is R265k, which is well above minimum wage.

However, this may also depend on company salary structures

How Much is the tuition fees?

- Registration fees: R1000
- Deposit fess: R5000 (**Includes Course Materials, PPE, Student Card, Assessment fees, Certification fees**)
- Monthly Instalment Fees: R2750