

Job of The Week

Blacksmith

Key Skills

- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- design skills and knowledge
- the ability to work well with your hands
- thinking and reasoning skills
- physical skills like movement, coordination, dexterity and grace
- the ability to use your initiative
- the ability to accept criticism and work well under pressure
- > to be flexible and open to change
- to be able to carry out basic tasks on a computer or hand-held device

Average salary
Variable
Typical hours (a week)
47 to 49
You could work
freelance / selfemployed managing
your own hours

Aspire | Challenge | Achieve



Blacksmith

College

You could do an introductory college course in working with metal before looking for a trainee position with a blacksmith.

You could do a:

- Level 3 Diploma in Blacksmithing and Metalworking
- •Level 3 Diploma in Fabrication and Welding Techniques and Skills to get into industrial blacksmithing
- •T Level in Engineering, Manufacturing, Processing and Control to get some general blacksmithing skills
- •Course in general metalwork or art and design as it might give you an advantage when looking for a job

Entry requirements

You may need:

- •2 or more GCSEs at grades 9 to 3 (A* to D), or equivalent, for a level 2 course
- •4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), or equivalent, for a level 3 course
- •4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), or equivalent, including English and maths for a T Level



Work

You could work as an assistant to an experienced blacksmith and learn the craft on the job. You might find it useful if you have experience in metalwork and technical drawing.

University

You can do a degree course in artist blacksmithing at university.

You'll need a portfolio of your work and creative ideas to show at university interviews.

Entry requirements

You'll usually need:

- •a foundation diploma in art and design
- •2 to 3 A levels, or equivalent, for a degree

Apprenticeship

- General welder intermediate apprenticeship
- Blacksmith advanced apprenticeship
- Plate or pipe welder advanced apprenticeship

You may be able to use industrial welding experience to find a trainee blacksmith job with a specialist metalwork company.

Entry requirements

You'll usually need:

some GCSEs, usually including English and maths, or equivalent, for an intermediate apprenticeship

5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), or equivalent, including English and maths, for an advanced apprenticeship







frameworks operate power hammers and presses to shape heated metal to requirements and to make and repair a variety of metal articles and make moulds and cores for casting metal and pour or inject molten metal into dies.

Common tasks in this job:

- examines drawings and specifications to determine operational requirements
- marks out metal plate with guidelines and reference points and cuts metal plate using hand or machine tools
- uses machine tools to bend, curve, punch, drill and straighten metal plate as required
- uses hydraulic jacks to position and align metal platework or frame for welding and bolting and rivets together metal plate and girders

parts, and clean, smooth and polish metal workpieces.

Common tasks in this job:

- secures workpiece in drilling, boring, milling, planing, grinding, lapping, honing, electrochemical, or other shaping machines, or loads metal stock on to press
- sets controls, starts machine and operates controls to feed tool to workpiece or vice versa and repositions workpiece during machining as required
- withdraws workpiece and examines accuracy using measuring instruments
- operates burning, chipping and grinding equipment to remove defects from metal parts, and files, chisels, burns and saws off surplus metal

processing equipment to smelt, shape, coat and treat metal and metal products.

Common tasks in this job:

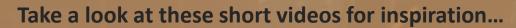
- charges furnace, operates controls to regulate furnace temperature, and adds oxidising. alloying and fluxing agents as required
- withdraws samples of molten metal for analysis, taps slag from surface of molten metal and directs flow of molten metal into casts
- sets rolling speed, tension and space between rolls, guides the metal to and from rollers, and monitors the rolling process to detect irregularities, and ensure that the gauge and finish match required specifications
- operates equipment to remove dirt, scale and other surface impurities by immersion in chemical solution

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JOW Blacksmith



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BBC Blacksmithing Career



Blacksmith: The most future-proof profession? BBG News **Useful Websites**

<u>BABA Directory – British Artist Blacksmiths</u> Association

The Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths

<u>Find your perfect role in the creative industries -</u> Creative Careers