

AUSTRALIAN MINING

APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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It could be the best career decision you will ever make

There are many reasons why embarking on a mining apprenticeship could be the best career decision you will ever make. You see, beginning a career in the mining and resource sector is to gain entrance into Australia's strongest and most financially rewarding industries.

It is true that there are many opportunities and pathways that can lead to a successful mining career, however, choosing a mining apprenticeship is a sure fire way to gain the right skills you need to climb your way to the top of the field.

If you know little to nothing about mining apprenticeships in Australia, then here is the information you need to read. Not only will you discover the ins and outs of the mining industry, you will also learn how to put yourself in the best position to successfully land the mining apprenticeship that's just right for you.



Mining apprenticeships in Australia

Aspiring tradespeople, (includes civil construction) both men and women, are urged to immediately polish their resumes and sharpen core interview skills. The season for major Australian companies who are gearing up for another round of mining apprenticeships is almost here.

Many people are now looking for a supportive transitional role into the mining industry or are seeking on-the-job experience, mine site training and formalised study in the mines whilst being paid.

If this sounds like you, then securing one of the mining apprenticeships in Australia with one of the world's most influential players is a definitive pathway to setting yourself up for life!

If you're currently searching for mining apprenticeships in Australia, your timing is fantastic as typically 2015 apprenticeships are offered between the months of August through to October in the year prior. Doing your homework now can see you very well situated come August.

If you're looking for a start in the mining and resource industry, then landing yourself one of the mining apprenticeships in Australia listed by some of the world's leading mining and resources companies, is a great way to attain exceptional training, gain a recognised qualification and highly valued practical skills, all whilst enjoying the security of paid work.



The mining industry and the need for mining apprenticeships

The first place to start when considering a mining apprenticeship is to gain a helpful insight into the mining and resources industry in Australia.

During the early days of British settlement mining quickly became central to the economic development of Australia. From the Victorian Gold Rush in the mid eighteenth century to the Opal and Uranium mining dominance in South Australia, Australia has mining activity in all of its states and territories.

Today, Western Australia and Queensland are driving the resurgence and growth of the mining and resources industry, with the Pilbara (WA) and Bowen Basin (Qld) regions accounting for the largest growth in both exploration and employment.

As a result of the recent mining boom Australia is now currently the world's largest exporter of coal, the largest producer of Bauxite (Aluminium) and Opals (95% of worldwide production), the world's second largest producer of Gold and Nickel, and the third largest producer of Iron Ore, Natural Gas and Uranium.

Clearly, Australia's status as a world leader in Mining is not going to change any time soon.



Queensland Minerals and Energy Academy

[The Queensland Minerals and Energy Academy \(QMEA\)](#) is a partnership between the Queensland Government, led by Skills Queensland and the Queensland Resources Council (QRC).

The QMEA was developed in response to skills shortages in the State's minerals and energy sector [mining, oil and gas] and the anticipated strong demand for Queensland's resources such as high quality coal, metallurgical coking coal and CSG-LNG production.

The Academy focuses the burgeoning demand for a skilled workforce in the Queensland mining and energy sector by developing career pathways for secondary school students to enter the mining and resource industry.

The QMEA has been successful in establishing strong industry partnerships, engaging with schools and industry to help students gain access to learning about mining and engaging in mining activities throughout Queensland.

The QMEA registers teachers and students from Years 8 to 12 in the [34 schools within the Academy](#).

Teachers and students also have access to a range of specially developed teaching resources and materials housed on [QRC's Oresomeresources website](#).

All QMEA activities are organised into four clear pathways into the mining and resources sector:

- Certificate I and II in Resource Infrastructure Operations
- Certificate I and II in Process Plant Operations
- Annual Engineering camps to Mt Isa, Dysart and Toowoomba
- Tours, incursions and excursions to mines, power stations, skills centres, TAFEs and universities
- Work experience and training in mining jobs, trades and professions on sites across the State
- Access to industry mentors to address classes and conduct industry standard training in short courses, traineeships and apprenticeships
- Engagement with tertiary students in a range of workshops related to the mining and resource industry
- Apprenticeship aptitude test training for those looking for a mining apprenticeship
- Scholarships and awards for students to encourage further engagement in the resources sector
- Professional development opportunities, awards and scholarships for teachers, laboratory technicians and mentors.

Consider an adult apprenticeship in mining

Adult apprenticeship programs in the mining industry are numerous. Employers need skilled workers to fill the number of positions that continues to grow on an annual basis. There are rarely enough skilled people to fill all of the positions. There is also a shortage of apprentices.

If you are thinking about a career in mining, there are certain qualities that employers look for. First, it is important to have a responsible outlook and a strong focus on safety.

Miners work with heavy machinery and are often in potentially dangerous situations. So some degree of bravery is necessary too.

Apprentices must be in decent physical condition and in good mental health. Heavy lifting is often necessary. This is obviously not a place where drug use is acceptable.

Even some prescription drugs can cause reduced capacity and make for an unsafe working environment.

In many cases, you will need to be able to travel and work in remote areas. This is especially true in some of Australia's mines. Some locations are "fly-in-fly-out". You are at the location for a considerable amount of time before you fly home.

The available adult apprenticeship programs might not be near where you currently live. So, in addition to being willing to travel, some employers might also require you to relocate. Some operations offer relocation assistance for employees.

Employers are looking for "team players". While it might seem like a solitary job, many of the roles are dependent on each other. Everyone has to do their share and be willing to work together amicably.

Like most employers, the mining industry is looking for people with a positive attitude and a good work ethic. If you don't have a positive attitude, it would be worth your while to work on that. Few employers are willing to hire someone with a negative attitude about work.

The qualifications required to get into an adult apprenticeship mining program vary with the different trades. Having some relevant work experience is helpful.

The programs are often used to obtain Level III or Level IV certifications. So, those certifications are rarely a requirement for the apprentice.

If you are interested in operating the diggers or the large trucks, you will need a Heavy Vehicle License. These licenses are issued by the state governments as special driver's licenses.

First aid certifications help a lot. While the mines are much safer than they once were, there are still minor injuries requiring quick first aid.

Adult apprenticeship mining programs might not be the most popular but the industry is dynamic and exciting. There is job security and plenty of room for growth.

Expressions of interest

The National Apprenticeships Program (NAP) is seeking Expressions of Interest from applicants prepared to undertake an Advanced Entry Adult Apprenticeship and work anywhere in Australia.

Expressions of Interest from overseas tradespeople whose qualification are not recognised in Australia are also encouraged to apply.

To either register or find out more information, head to the [National Apprenticeships Program website](#).



Australian apprenticeships offer a range of benefits

Australian apprenticeships encompass all apprenticeships and traineeships. Adult apprenticeships are becoming more and more popular with the mining skills shortage.

Mining apprenticeships (as well as other industries) combine time at work with training and can be full-time, part-time or even school-based.

Australian Apprenticeships are the best way to combine training and employment in the mining and resource sector and they can lead to a nationally recognised qualification which is favoured by mining companies when looking for a mining job.

Adult and mining apprenticeships are available to anyone of working age and do not require any entry qualifications.

Mining traineeships and apprenticeships in mining are available to school-leavers, people re-entering the workforce as adult apprentices or those wishing to change jobs and develop a new career in mining.

Adult apprenticeships are especially rewarding in the oil and gas industry as well as coal and metalliferous mining.

- Australian Apprenticeships are a great way to get a head start in a well-paid mining career
- Being an adult apprentice involves paid work and structured training that can be on-the-job, off-the-job or a combination of both to build your mining skills
- Mining apprenticeships represent 'competency based' training which means you can complete your mine-ready training faster when reaching the required skills level
- Apprenticeships can recognise existing skills and previous experience with course credits being granted, potentially reducing your formal training time. Mining apprenticeships, just like any other Apprenticeship can be full-time or part-time and also available part-time in many schools
- Completing an Australian Apprenticeship can lead to nationally recognised qualifications and skills which provide you with the basis for further education and training in the mining and resource sector
- Apprenticeships for younger people looking to get into mining are also an important pathway from school to a working environment.

Bechtel adult mining apprenticeships in Australia



This will sound like a dream come true for many adults. Bechtel, one of the world's premier engineering, construction, and project management companies, recently announced it will hire 400 adult apprentices in preparation for three LNG plant construction projects around the country.

There are currently 3 LNG plants being built on Curtis Island off Gladstone, creating 1000's of mining jobs in Queensland.

In what's being called the largest single intake of adult apprentices in Australia's history, Bechtel says it will work closely with the Federal Government's National Apprenticeships Program. (NAP)

The announcement is good news for those who have only partly completed an apprenticeship program or trades assistants from construction and engineering backgrounds.

Others who are considering a job in the mining and resource sectors can get in on the action too; Australian residents, with qualifications not yet recognised in Australia will also benefit.

Andy Greig, Bechtel's managing director in Australia, says the program is win-win and his company is pleased to be part of the opportunity.

He added, "It will help meet the demand for skilled labour in the mining and resource sector and give adult workers with uncompleted apprenticeships, or those working in allied industries without a trade qualification, the chance to complete an apprenticeship in a reduced amount of time."



Fortescue mining apprenticeships in Australia



FORTESCUE
The New Force In Iron Ore

Fortescue Metals Group, have in the past decade forged ahead to become one of the world's leading resource companies, are currently seeking applications for their 2014 Apprenticeship Program.

The majority of the Fortescue operations culminate in the Pilbara region of WA, spanning from Port Hedland, across our heavy haul railway to our mines at Cloudbreak, Christmas Creek and Solomon.

The company is fast approaching a production target of an impressive 155 million tonnes per annum and right now is a very exciting time to join the Fortescue team as they consolidate their position as one of the world's largest iron-ore producers. A bit about their mining apprenticeships in Australia is outlined below.

- Fortescue will be offering a range of both FIFO and Residential mining apprenticeships in Australia across numerous operations.
- Current Fortescue mining apprenticeships in Australia on offer include FIFO Electrician, Mechanical Fitter, Fabrication (Heavy) and a Mobile Plant Mechanic.
- Apprentices will have the invaluable opportunity to gain practical work on mine sites including their Cloudbreak mine or at Port and Rail Operations in Port Hedland.
- Mining apprenticeships currently are fly-in, fly-out and have advertised a focus on a family friendly 8 days on, 6 days off roster.



BP mining and gas apprenticeships in Australia



BP has also opened up their 2014 Apprentice program. This is an opportunity to gain one-on-one training and first class mentoring with a world-class company who are involved heavily in the exploration and production of oil, natural gas and liquefied natural gas (LNG) and the refining process, transportation and marketing of petroleum and lubricant products.

An apprenticeship with BP would serve as the ideal training backdrop if you wished to pursue a high paying career in the mining and resources industry.

These apprenticeships are based at BP's Kwinana Refinery which is the largest refinery in Australia and allows you to attain experience with some of the most advanced plant and equipment in the Southern Hemisphere.

Apprenticeships are highly sought-after and some of the outlined requirements are listed below to help you put forward your best application.

- Training lasts four years and involves a mix of TAFE study and on-the-job training supervised by our qualified tradespeople.
- Based in the BP refinery departments apprentices will be trained in ensuring plant and equipment are safe, reliable and readily available.
- One of the most valuable skills you will learn (especially if you're looking at getting work in the mines down the road) is knowledge of BP's strict health and safety standards on site.
- After completion, you'll be fully qualified with a nationally recognised Certificate III Trade Certificate and a Certificate IV in Technical Training, in addition to the experience gained working for one of the world's most progressive and successful companies – which will set you up well for your future career.
- A relevant pre-apprenticeship course of trade-related work experience would be an advantage.
- Some of the requirements include being in Year 11 or above, studying Mathematics and English Physics and/or Chemistry, a strong academic record, good interpersonal skills, a high level of mechanical aptitude and be an Australian resident/citizen. If you can make sure all of this is portrayed well on your resume – you are setting yourself ahead of the pack. Need help with your resume? We can help.
- Keep in mind applications will be sought soon, so you will need to get working on your application ASAP. You can apply directly at www.bp.com/careers/australia or via the www.seek.com.au website. (Search for apprenticeships in the mining and resources industry).

Thiess Mining Apprenticeships in Australia



If you want experience within some of the largest, innovative and most challenging projects in construction, mining and services, then now is the perfect time to start preparing yourself, making sure all your ducks are in a row, and start thinking carefully about your application for Thiess.

Thiess is the world's largest open-cut coal contract miner and they mine more than 109 million tonnes of coal, 7 million tonnes of ore and move about 542 million cubic metres of overburden per year.

The company owns and operates one of the largest mining fleets in the world and contracts have included coal, iron ore, copper and uranium, nickel, gold, silver, lead, zinc and magnetite.

Typically their recruitment process starts around August or September annually and goes right through to December, with successful apprentices starting in January.

Candidates must have completed year 12 (unless you are a mature aged applicant), with sound results in Mathematics and English.

Thiess encourages females, mature aged and Indigenous candidates to apply.

The Recruitment Process begins around August/September each year and goes through until December. New apprentices start in early January.

- Apprenticeships are posted on their Careers pages as soon as they become available which is typically around August/September of each year, where you complete an online application form and submit your resume.
- The programs are designed to help you with practical on and off-site training whilst completing a qualification, and offer an ongoing support pathway into the very large and diverse workforce of Thiess.
- Some of the key attributes that will need to shine through on your application are a mature and responsible attitude alongside a can do attitude (notice how attitude is mentioned – you can bet it will be highly scrutinised). A strong work ethic, motivation, willingness to commit to structured training, of course sound communication skills, team player, willingness to learn new skills, accepting of direction and attention to detail. (Does all of this shine through on your resume? We can help you stand out)
- Mining apprenticeships in Australia are located on various Thiess sites around Australia. You can research a list of their current [projects here](#), which would be advisable before applying.
- Numerous apprenticeships are offered annually, structured with practical work experience, supported by block theory components through TAFE or registered training organisations.

To find out more about mining apprenticeships in Australia with Thiess visit <http://www.thiess.com.au/careers/investing-in-our-people/apprentices> – bookmark the page and check back regularly.

Rio Tinto mining apprenticeships & traineeships in Australia

RioTinto

If you've just finished year 10, 11 or 12, you'll be thinking hard about where to go next. An apprenticeship offers on-the-job experience, mining training and formalised study all while getting paid to do it.

Rio Tinto's operations offer a variety of mining related apprenticeship programmes.

In New South Wales, up to 12 electrical and mechanical apprenticeships are made available each year to high school graduates and people who are committed to working in the trades industry. The four-year practical training programme is delivered in partnership with group training employer SKILLED.

Apprentices will get the opportunity to work at two of Rio Tinto Coal Australia's operations in the Hunter Valley - Mount Thorley Warkworth and Hunter Valley Operations - to gain on the job experience, as well as formalised training in their area of expertise, mining and safety.

The selection process begins in June each year and is advertised in local papers and in online recruitment services, so start the application process asap.

Opportunities in Information Technology

Large mining companies have been deploying technology solutions in recent times aimed at increasing productivity and trimming costs.

Remote operations centres – where “pit to port” operations can be seen and controlled holistically are becoming commonplace. Rio Tinto, Fortescue Metals and BHP Billiton have them. The new Roy Hill mine in the Pilbara will have remote controlled operations.

Recently, Rio Tinto opened its Brisbane based process centre of excellence. The centre is all about big data. It takes data from the company's global copper operations and analyses it to find cost and efficiency savings. All indications are it's a great success with savings of \$US80 million already being reported.

Based on this success, the company will be intensifying its “data mining” exercises across other areas of its operations. With the company having automated haul trucks, autonomous drilling rigs and a range of other automated equipment in operation, the data sources will be rich and, well, big.

It will require huge information processing power and importantly, people who can analyse the data and turn it into information.

Visit [Rio Tinto's careers website](#) for more information or to apply for apprenticeships or jobs in IT and technology.

Need more information on mining apprenticeships?

You can visit an [Australian Apprenticeships Centre Search](#) – they operate from more than 300 locations across Australia or call 13 38 73.

School students thinking of starting an Australian Apprenticeship in mining while still at school should talk to their school careers adviser.

Find out what courses are available to prepare yourself for a career in mining or gas jobs in Australia.

Call **(07) 5520 2522** for more information.

Breaking News

Apprenticeships Australia are making headlines today with Tony Abbott's new campaign to boost skilled workers by providing up to \$20,000 in a HECS-style interest free loans to apprentices, to help with upfront costs and reduce high drop out rates.

The coalition's newest campaign, this apprenticeships Australia loan scheme is proving a powerful play; designed to assist with the costs of tools and equipment, acknowledging the need for financial aid to assist apprentices to complete training.

Abbott's Trade Support Loan scheme will target Australian apprenticeships where national skill shortages are apparent and will provide access to up to \$20,000 over a four year period to ease the financial pressures that so often causes young apprentices to drop out of their trade.