The current boom in the resources sector has stimulated rewarding employment opportunities for qualified fabrication and welding trades people within the mining, oil and gas industries. This is particularly relevant in WA where these industries make a significant contribution to our economy.

Opportunities for employment are also available in the construction, manufacturing, power generation, ship building and other industries.

Fabricators and welders manufacture a diverse range of products using steel, stainless steel and aluminium using hand and power tools, flame cutting torches, and metalworking machines. Sheetmetal shaping and forming machines may also be used in the manufacture of certain items.

This career is ideally suited to those who have a technical interests and a flair for working with materials, tools and machinery.

For those seeking advancement positions such as welding supervisors or welding inspectors offer interesting and well paid careers.
The world of fabrication and welding

Fabricator/welders perform a range of tasks requiring meticulous attention to detail and a high degree of accuracy. Frequently the role calls for the fabricator/welder to utilise analytical and problem solving skills in the production of certain items requiring a high degree of technical expertise and precision work.

More specifically, fabricator welders

- interpret technical drawings or specifications
- determine the materials and equipment required to complete the job
- manufacture components that will be assembled to make up the whole product
- operate various machines, hand and power tools and computer numerically controlled (CNC) machines
- use welding or bolting techniques to assemble structures
- repair and maintain mining and processing plant

Fabricators/welders usually work in a workshop environment where occupational health and safety issues are extremely important particularly given the hazards created by working with apparatus such as power grinders and oxy-acetylene (cutting) equipment.

Experienced trades people with the requisite business acumen can establish their own businesses.

Personal attributes that will enhance your chances of success in this career include:

- demonstrate technical ability
- problem solving skills
- be physically fit
- able to work in a team as well as independently
- capacity to work to exacting standards
- safety conscious

What qualifications in fabrication and welding offer you

The Certificate I in Engineering [Pre Apprentice (Fabrication - Welding)] will provide you with the practical skills and knowledge to cut and join metal to make, maintain or repair metal products and structures. You will learn skills in using tools, measuring and calculating, drawing and interpreting sketches and technical drawings, mechanical cutting, thermal cutting, gouging, and gas metal arc welding. You will also learn about safety in the workplace and quality control. You will practice the skills you have learned in a workshop environment and undertake a supervised work placement.

Employment opportunities

Successful completion of this qualification provides you with the opportunity to become a trades assistant, gain an apprenticeship to become a ship builder, boilermaker, sheet metal fabricator or welder, or gain a traineeship in engineering. You will need to be employed and registered as an apprentice/trainee before you can commence apprenticeship/traineeship training.

Entry requirements

Certificate I in Metals and Engineering Studies (Pre-Apprentice/School Apprentice Link Pre-Apprentice Fabrication Heavy)

- Communication skills
- Maths skills

For more information of TAFEWA entrance requirements please visit www.tafe.wa.edu.au

Further study options

Apprenticeship/traineeship Certificate II and III engineering qualifications

Further information

Contact our Information and Career Advisory Officers on 1800 621 445 or (08) 9780 7070
Email: courseinfo@bunbury.training.wa.gov.au
Website: www.swrc.wa.edu.au