Career of the Fortnight



Arboriculture Officer - maintain and manage trees for local or arboricultural contractors



Entry requirements:

You can get into this job through:

University - It may help if you have a foundation degree, higher national diploma or degree in a relevant subject, like:

- forestry
- arboriculture
- countryside management
- forest management
- woodland ecology and conservation

Entry requirements

You'll usually need:

- I or 2 A levels for a foundation degree or higher national diploma
- 2 to 3 A levels for a degree

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College - You could do a college course, which would teach you some of the skills and knowledge you need in this job. Relevant subjects include:

- Level 2 Diploma in Work-based Trees and Timber
- Level 3 Diploma in Work-based Trees and Timber

Entry requirements

You'll usually need:

- 2 or more GCSEs at grades 9 to 3 (A* to D) for a level 2 course
- 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C) for a level 3 course

Skills required:

You will need:

- knowledge of geography
- the ability to use your initiative
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- the ability to work well with others
- ambition and a desire to succeed
- administration skills
- knowledge of teaching and the ability to design courses
- knowledge of maths
- to be able to use a computer and the main software packages competently

What you will do:

Your day-to-day tasks may include:

- advising on planning applications, to take account of tree protection laws
- managing trees in parks, open areas and at the side of roads, organising tree surveys, recording tree locations
- planning tree planting schemes
- supervising tree care and tree planting contracts with site visits
- giving demonstrations and talks on arboriculture and woodlands to schools and other community groups
- training junior colleagues and volunteers

Working hours, patterns and environment:

- You could work in woods, forests or gardens or in an office.
- Your working environment may be at height and outdoors in all weathers.
- 41 to 43 hours a week evenings and weekends occasionally

What you will earn:

• Starter: £22,000

• Experienced: £35,000

These figures are a guide.

Career path and progression:

- You could become self-employed.
- With qualifications you could teach as a lecturer at a college or university.