

Farrier

Equine Welfare

Job Summary

A farrier is a skilled craftsperson who combines blacksmithing skills with horsemanship and specialises in making and fitting shoes for all types of horses. A farrier works across racing stables, stud farms and large equestrian establishments and are an integral part of the breeding and racing industry.



Main Duties

- Make and fit horseshoes to prepared feet, with an understanding of different style of shoeing and trimming required for various types of work, and both hot and cold shoeing techniques;
- Trimming, correcting and assisting with various hoof ailments;
- Correcting the conformation of foals and horses in consultation with other equine specialists such as veterinarians, podiatrists and physiotherapists ensuring the best practice;
- Ensure adequate and suitable resources are available to complete all scheduled activities;
- Maintain relationships with owners and their representatives, veterinarians and fellow farriers and liaise with key industry governing bodies as needed;

Job Level

Specialist Role

Typical Employer

Mainly self-employed; Stud Farms; Racing Yards;

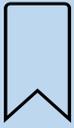


Case Study

Equine Health and Wellbeing

Equine welfare is a key priority for all involved in Irish Breeding and Racing. In addition to the significant volumes of equine related capital investment incurred by racecourse, breeders and trainers, Racing's stakeholders invest in research and development in the field of equine welfare via the Irish Equine Centre (IEC). Services provided by the IEC help ensure the health of Ireland's horses and include the provision of specialised facilities for the diagnosis, management and prevention of diseases, in addition to further research and education in this area.

[Source: Economic Impact of Irish breeding and racing 2017]



Competencies (Behavioural)

- A love for horses, horse riding or horse racing is the No. 1 motivating factor why people work within the horse racing industry (HRI Education & Training Survey 2020);
- Critical & innovative thinking (problem solving; reasoned decision making; reflective thinking; entrepreneurship;) & Interpersonal Skills (communication; teamwork);

Knowledge & Skills

Equine Knowledge & Skills

Horse care & welfare;
Horse training, performance & fitness;
Breeding operations & pedigrees;
Equine nutrition, anatomy & physiology;
Horsemanship skills;

People Knowledge & Skills

Leadership & management skills;
Communication skills;
Health & safety regulations;
Self development;

Racing Knowledge & Skills

Racing industry knowledge;
Integrity of the sport;
Raceday operations;

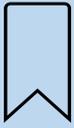
Business Knowledge & Skills

Admin, compliance & law;
I.T. / digital skills;

Education

To become a farrier you first must obtain employment as an apprentice, and your employer must be approved to train apprentices by the Irish Masters Farriers Association. Places are limited with circa just 8 new entrants each year. The apprenticeship period is 4 years. On successful completion of the programme the learner is awarded a Level 6 Advanced Certificate Craft-Farriery (Course Code: 104923). See www.qualifax.ie for further information.

CPD: The Irish School of Farriery provides opportunities for farriers to continue their professional development. See www.irishfarrieryauthority.com for further information.



Career Path (Alternative Careers)

Instructor
Manager;
Small business owner;

Experience

Many farriers are heavily reliant on the Breeding and Racing industry and the 45,000+ horses under its care, together with another 120,000+ sport horses.

Job Availability

Job availability is limited. Follow www.equip.ie for information on job opportunities within the thoroughbred breeding and racing industry.



Certification

To become a farrier you are required to attain a Level 6 Advanced Certificate Craft-Farriery. A registration of farriers is maintained by the Irish Farriers Authority. The Irish Farriery Authority estimates that there are c.350 farriers operating in Ireland, with concentrations in the key Breeding and Racing counties.

Working Conditions

Working hours are typically flexible, your work could be full-time or part-time and your hours will depend on the needs of clients.

Pay & Benefits

Generally, the amount of pay you receive for working is a matter of agreement between you and your employer. These negotiations normally occur when you receive a job offer.