

## Assistant Trainer

Racehorse Training

### Job Summary

An assistant trainer is responsible for assisting the trainer with the daily care and conditioning of the horses in their yard to prepare them for competition on the Racecourse and the supervision and training of the stable staff team. They also set out the training schedules, liaise with owners and help with the overall running of the business.



### Main Duties

- Assist the trainer in assessing a horse's ability, planning race entries, completing racing documentation;
- Assist with scheduling of health care and maintenance appointments for the horses;
- Assist with overseeing the stablestaff team, their recruitment, training and development;
- Acting as the trainers representative on race days when required, saddling, passing on jockey instructions, communicating with owners and handling general public relations activities;
- Networking and building relationships with industry professionals;
- Maintain relationships with partners, vendors and suppliers;
- Maintain an awareness of national & international racing industry trends and demands;

### Job Level

Supervisory Role

### Typical Employer

Racing yard;

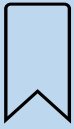


### Case Study

#### *Racehorse Training*

*Ireland has some of the leading trainers in the world amongst its 372 public trainers and 248 restricted licence holders. Whilst there are areas of concentration, notably The Curragh being a global centre of excellence for thoroughbred Racehorse training, trainers are located in 31 of Ireland's 32 counties. The largest trainers account for a relatively high proportion of horses in training. In 2016 the largest 32 yards accounted for over 3,500 horses, 45% of all horses in training. At the opposite end of the spectrum the smallest 166 yards accounted for less than 900 horses (11%).*

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



## Competencies (Behavioural)

- Passion - a love for horses or horse racing is the No. 1 motivating factor why people work within the horse racing industry (HRI Education & Training Survey 2020);
- Intrapersonal skills (perseverance; initiative; self-motivation), Critical thinking skills (problem solving), Interpersonal skills (communication; teamwork);

## Knowledge & Skills

### Equine Knowledge & Skills

Horse training, performance & fitness  
Horse care & welfare;  
Equine nutrition, anatomy & physiology;  
Equine transportation;  
Facility management & maintenance;  
Purchasing and sales procedures;  
Horsemanship skills;

### People Knowledge & Skills

Leadership & management skills;  
Communication skills;  
People management skills;  
Staff training & development;  
Health & safety regulations;  
Staff welfare including safeguarding;

### Racing Knowledge & Skills

Racing industry knowledge;  
Racing rules & regulations;  
Integrity of the sport;  
Raceday operations;  
Race planning/Racecourses and racing calendar;

### Business Knowledge & Skills

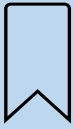
Marketing, PR & networking;  
Admin, compliance & law;  
I.T. / digital Skills;  
Environmental standards;

## Education

Many new entrants to the industry have a bachelors' degree in business studies or Equine Science (Course Code: LM093) or Animal Science - Equine (Course Code: DN250). Other relevant qualifications include: Level 5 Horsemanship (Course Code: 5M3371); Irish National Stud's Breeding Course. See [www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie) for further information.

Post graduate opportunities include Godolphin Flying Start - [www.godolphinflyingstart.com](http://www.godolphinflyingstart.com);

CPD: The Irish Racehorse Trainers Association (I.R.T.A.) and Irish Thoroughbred Breeder Association (I.T.B.A.) provides members with the opportunity to continue their professional development through a calendar of training and seminar activities on an ongoing basis. Part time supervisory management / leadership and management training courses, both online and classroom based are available through various education providers throughout the country, see [fetchcourses.ie](http://fetchcourses.ie) for further information.



## Career Path (Alternative Careers)

Racehorse Trainer  
Ground staff  
Instructor

## Experience

Assistant trainers typically have excellent horsemanship skills and developing management, organisational and communication skills built up through experience working in various stable staff roles prior to progressing to the role of assistant trainer.

## Job Availability

Job availability is limited. Follow [www.equip.ie](http://www.equip.ie) for information on job opportunities within the breeding, racing and racing administration.



## Certification

No Certification is Required.

Trainers are required to apply for a Racing Establishment Card issued by the Irish Horse Racing Board (I.H.R.B.) within 5 days of commencement of employment for all staff within their stable yard.

## Working Conditions

The role is mainly outdoors based as primary duties include training and exercising horses on the gallops and overseeing the work of the stable staff team in the yard.

## 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. The racing industry have an agreed minimum rate of pay as well as other minimum conditions of employment for Irish stable staff including entitlements to sick pay and stable employee bonus scheme. The agreement does not prohibit an employer from paying more favourable terms. Further information is available from the Irish Stable Staff Association at website: [www.issa.ie](http://www.issa.ie).