

Racehorse Trainer

Racehorse Training

Job Summary

The role of the racehorse trainer is to train thoroughbred horses to win races. However, the role encompasses a host of other activities which include the welfare and safety of both of both staff and horses, liaising with various owners and keeping them up to date regarding their horse, the daily routine of the racehorse, and picking suitable races for the horse.



Main Duties

- Plan exercise workouts, enter horses in appropriate races, advise jockey's on race strategy, notify owners of the progress on their horses' training and race entry options;
- Design and implement business plans and strategies to promote the attainment of goals;
- Lead and oversee the work of employees to ensure that they are appropriately trained and motivated to carry out their responsibilities to the required standard;
- Network and build relationships with industry professionals and horse owners;
- Ensure that the yard has the adequate and suitable resources to complete its activities;
- Develop and maintain an effective marketing and PR strategy to promote the yard;
- Maintain relationships with partners, vendors and suppliers;
- Maintain an awareness of national & international racing industry trends and demands;

Job Level

Management

Typical Employer

Self employed;

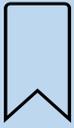


Case Study

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, 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 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;
Handicapping;
Race planning/Racecourses and racing calendar;

Business Knowledge & Skills

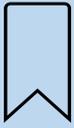
Business planning;
Finance & taxation;
Marketing, PR & networking;
Admin, compliance & law;
I.T. / digital Skills;
Environmental standards;

Education

All trainers are required to undertake a mandatory short course as part of their licence application. However many new entrants to the industry have a bachelors' degree in Business 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 for further information.

Post graduate opportunities include Godolphin Flying Start - 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 and the local enterprise office network provides business skills training to sole traders, small to medium sized business, see www.localenterprise.ie.



Career Path (Alternative Careers)

Pre Trainer
Bloodstock Agent
Assistant Trainer

Experience

Often trainers will have previously spent time as assistant trainers for several years or may have been a professional jockey to have developed a thorough understanding of the principles of training Racehorses & management of an enterprise.

Job Availability

Racehorse trainers are primarily self-employed.



Certification

Racehorse trainers are required to hold a licence issued by the Irish Horse Regulatory Body (I.H.R.B.). To gain a trainer's licence, you will need to provide a business plan, professional references and a financial statement that proves you either have substantial working capital or overdraft and complete a mandatory I.H.R.B. trainer's licensing course.

Working Conditions

The role is mainly outdoors based as primary duties include training and exercising horses on the gallops and requires allot of travel.

Pay & Benefits

A racehorse trainer's income depends largely on their level of experience and success. Income can vary widely based on the yard's number of horses in training as well as the level of success that the yard has at the races.