



Farriery Apprenticeship Information

Becoming a qualified farrier is a rewarding job which can take you all over the world.

The New Zealand Farriers Association runs an apprenticeship program – this is like any other apprenticeship – you will work and learn on the job. To complete your apprenticeship and become qualified takes 3.5 – 4 years. Once qualified you will hold a Certificate in Farriery Practice (CFP).

To complete your apprenticeship you will be employed by an existing qualified farrier. Training will cover the practical and theoretical aspects of farriery which includes:

- Trimming – for both barefoot and shoe application.
- Shoeing – to be able to apply a range of shoes for a wide variety of disciplines
- Forging – this includes shoe and tool making
- Theory – covering anatomy & physiology with particular attention to hoof balance. You will also learn about a wide variety of pathology which affects the hoof.

Each year of your apprenticeship you are required to attend a two week block course. At the end of your apprenticeship you will sit your exam. This is a day long exam which covers the following:

- Theory of farriery
- Practical assessment of the horse
- Application of handmade shoes
- Forging - assessing your ability to make shoes from scratch.

The exam is a pass/fail exam. If you fail, you are entitled to re-sit at another set time.

The New Zealand Farriers Association hold several competitions throughout NZ during the year. Apprentices are encouraged to attend at least two competitions a year – these provide an opportunity to meet other farriers, ask questions, increase your skills and have your work peer reviewed. Attending these competitions will help you prepare for your final exam. Dates and details of the competitions are advertised on the NZFA Facebook page and on the NZFA website – www.nzfarriers.co.nz.

To start your apprenticeship journey we would recommend contacting your local qualified farrier and asking if you could spend a day with them to see what the job entails.