Metal Fabricator

Level: 3
Duration: 45 months

Metal Fabricators use their skills to create, assemble, and install metal components for everything from bridge structures and heavy machinery to architectural handrails and high-precision ducting.

Apprenticeship overview

Core skills, knowledge and behaviours you will learn

- How to interpret complex engineering drawings and CAD (Computer-Aided Design) specifications
- How to select and prepare materials, including carbon steel, stainless steel, and aluminium
- High-level marking out, cutting, and drilling techniques
- How to shape and bend metal using press brakes and rollers
- Thermal cutting and joining techniques (primarily MIG, TIG, and MMA welding)
- Quality inspection, including dimensional checks and structural integrity testing

Where you might work

- Marine and shipbuilding yards
- Aerospace and automotive manufacturing
- Construction and civil engineering firms
- Offshore oil, gas, and renewable energy sectors
- Specialist architectural workshops

Typical job roles

- Fabricator
- Plater
- Sheet Metal Worker
- Welder-Fabricator
- Metal Worker

Good to know

You will often work in large-scale industrial workshops or "on-site" in all weather conditions

Precision is critical—components must often fit together perfectly to ensure structural safety

The role is physically active and involves using heavy lifting equipment and overhead cranes

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