

Welder

Welders work in different industries, cutting, shaping and joining sections of metal plate and pipes.

ANNUAL SALARY

£16,000 to £35,000

WORKING HOURS

35 to 40

FUTURE EMPLOYMENT

▼ 5%

There will be 5% fewer Welder jobs in 2023.

In your local area



What's it all about?

What you'll do

You'll work with metals and alloys, and cut and join composite materials, such as plastics, using specialist welding methods. You'll need an understanding of safe working practices.

Your day-to-day tasks may include:

- setting out the materials to be cut or joined
- following engineering instructions and drawings
- inspecting and testing cuts and joins, using precision measuring instruments
- operating the semi-automatic spot-welding equipment used in high volume production lines

You'll usually work in the construction and engineering, transport, aerospace and offshore oil and gas industries.

Entry requirements

College

You could take a welding qualification at college before applying for a job as a trainee welder. Relevant courses include:

- Level 1 Award in Introductory Welding Skills
- Level 2 Certificate in Fabrication and Welding Practice
- Level 3 Diploma in Fabrication and Welding Engineering Technology

You may need:

- 2 or fewer GCSEs at grades 3 to 1 (D to G) for a level 1 course
- 2 or more GCSEs at grades 9 to 3 (A* to D) for a level 2 course
- 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C) for a level 3 course

Apprenticeship

You can get into this career through an intermediate or advanced apprenticeship in welding or engineering manufacturing.

You'll usually need:

- some GCSEs, usually including English and Maths, for an intermediate apprenticeship
- 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), including English and Maths, for an advanced apprenticeship

Other Routes

You could take a course in welding techniques or inspection work through [The Welding Institute](#). You'll normally be working in engineering to do this.

You could join [The Welding Institute](#) for professional development and training opportunities.

Employment by region

South West Wales, Yorkshire and the Humber, South East, North West, West Midlands, Scotland, East Midlands, East of England, Northern Ireland, London, North East

Region	Jobs
South West	6,298
Wales	4,252
Yorkshire and the Humber	7,838
South East	8,018
North West	8,791
West Midlands	11,774
Scotland	4,488
East Midlands	6,151
East of England	6,863
Northern Ireland	2,740
London	5,395
North East	3,316

Salary

£16,000 to £35,000

Starter salary: £16,000 to £19,000

Experienced salary: £20,000 to £30,000

These figures are a guide.

Working hours

35 to 40

38 hours a week is usual, but you may be expected to work shifts and overtime.

You might be repairing manufacturing equipment and machinery. You'll wear protective clothing, an apron, face-shield and gloves. You'll use breathing apparatus for underwater welding work or a safety harness when working at height.

You may have to work in cramped conditions or bad weather, like when making repairs underneath a ship or if working on an offshore pipeline.

Career path and progression

With experience, you could be promoted to a supervisory role or be a workshop manager.

You could also work in welding inspection, testing and quality control or, with commercial diver training, underwater welding.

Further information

You can find out more about welding careers through the [Engineering and Construction Industry Training Board](#) and [The Welding Institute](#).

What skills are required?

You'll need:

- to understand technical plans
- to be able to concentrate for long periods
- maths and measuring skills
- technical skills like knowing how to choose the right welding method for the job