

Farrier

What is it?

A Farrier is a skilled professional who specialises in the care and treatment of horses' hooves. Their primary responsibility is to trim, shape, and fit horses with shoes to ensure their health, comfort, and performance. Farriers work with a variety of horses, including those used for riding, racing, or working, and must be able to diagnose and treat hoof problems.

Qualifications/Experience Required:

There is no formal academic qualification required, but most Farriers gain their expertise through a work-based apprenticeship. A National Diploma in Farriery (level 3) is common and typically requires 3-4 years of training through an apprenticeship or training program at a Farrier College or an equivalent institution. GCSEs in Maths, English, and Science are beneficial for progression to training programs

What the Work Involves:

Checking for signs of injury, infection, or disease in the hooves, and referring the horse to a vet if necessary. Treating problems such as thrush, abscesses, or laminitis, and providing advice on maintaining good hoof health. Working with heavy equipment such as rasps, hammers, and anvils, as well as lifting and handling horses. Communicating with horse owners about the condition of their horses' hooves and providing maintenance advice.

Future Prospects – Labour Market Information:

There is consistent demand for Farriers, especially in rural areas, and with increased interest in horses, racing, and equestrian sports, the need for skilled Farriers remains strong. With experience, Farriers can specialise in certain areas, such as competition horses or corrective farriery (treating hoof problems). Career Progression: Experienced Farriers can progress to becoming a Master Farrier and take on more complex cases, including hoof surgery.

Annual Salary £15,000 - £40,000

Typical weekly hours: 40 hours

Type of person who may be suited to this job:

Have a strong interest in working with animals and enjoy physical, hands-on work. Are comfortable working independently and making decisions on the spot. Are patient, calm, and good at handling horses safely. Can work in all types of weather conditions and enjoy outdoor work.

Money/Wage Guide:

Starting salaries - Apprenticeships range £10,000 to £15,000 per year

Qualified Farriers can earn between £25,000 and £35,000.

Experienced/Established Farriers may earn over £40,000

Related Opportunities:

- Equine Veterinary Technician:
- Equine Physiotherapist:
- Equine Groom
- Horse Trainer/Instructor:

Further Information:

Farriers Registration Council (FRC)

<https://www.farrier-reg.gov.uk/>

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