

IRONWORKER



GENERALIST

ANNUAL SALARY: \$57,000 - \$78,000* | NOC: 7236 | Nova Scotia Designated & Red Seal Trade¹

*Based on a 40-hour work week at current collective agreement rates for journeypersons. Does not include benefits.

WHAT WE DO

Ironworkers are broken down into three categories: generalists, structural/ornamental, and reinforcing. Generalists perform all of the same tasks as structural/ornamental and reinforcing ironworkers. They conduct installations of structural and ornamental steel components and precast concrete pieces, place reinforcing steel in commercial, institutional, and residential buildings, and erect pre-engineered buildings and ornamental ironwork.

Generalists' specific tasks include reading blueprints and specifications, unloading and positioning steel units, and assembling scaffolding, hoist equipment, and rigging. They will also align steel pieces for buildings and assemble prefabricated metal structures, position and secure steel bars or metal mesh in concrete forms to reinforce the same structures, and install curtain walls, metal stairways, and railings. Occasionally, they may have to examine structures and equipment for deterioration or defects, perform tear-downs, or determine non-compliance with job specifications in building projects.²

Generalists must be prepared to **work outdoors and at heights, lift heavy materials, travel**, and work on a **sometimes seasonal basis** and under **poor weather conditions**. Suitable job candidates are **good planners** with **physical stamina, agility, safety awareness, mechanical aptitude, physical strength, coordination, and math and artistic ability**.³

PREPARATORY WORK

- Research the labour market, job shadow or take a test drive in a trade
- 500 hours toward apprenticeship can be obtained from approved public school programs and experiences like Cooperative Education, Skilled Trades, the Options and Opportunities (O₂) Program, and Building Futures for Youth. 16- to 19-year-olds can become a Youth Apprentice.⁴
- Take youth health and safety courses where offered in the province of NS
- High School Diploma or Equivalency⁵

DIRECT ENTRY

- Gain employment in a workplace and optionally register as an apprentice with the NS Apprenticeship Agency (NSAA) under a certified journeyperson⁶
- Complete 7500 hours as a structural/ornamental ironworker and 4500 hours as a reinforcing ironworker⁷ and technical training in block releases of 5, 7 and 8 weeks⁸ if an apprentice
- Can write your Red Seal Interprovincial Standards Examination and obtain a Certificate of Qualification in the trade from the NSAA upon completion of those requirements⁹
- Other options for training are available through the International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers, Local 752¹⁰

¹ <http://nsapprenticeship.ca/trades>. Certification/apprenticeship is not presently needed in this trade in NS, but encouraged.

² <http://www.red-seal.ca> and <http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca>

³ <http://www.careersinconstruction.ca/en/career/ironworkerstructural-metal-fabricator-and-fitter> and <http://careers.novascotia.ca/occupation/355>

⁴ <http://nsapprenticeship.ca>, <http://www.ednet.ns.ca>, <http://www.workitns.ca> and <http://www.buildingfutures.ca>

⁵ <http://gov.ns.ca/just/regulations/regs/atqgenrl.htm>

⁶ <http://nsapprenticeship.ca>

⁷ <http://gov.ns.ca/just/regulations/regs/atqirongeneralist.htm>

⁸ http://www.nsapprenticeship.ca/sites/default/files/docs/pubs/Training_Schedule.pdf

⁹ <http://www.nsapprenticeship.ca/skilled-workers/red-seal>

¹⁰ <http://www.ironworkers.org/get-involved/find-a-local?u=272>

IRONWORKER (GENERALIST) CAREER PATHWAY

Cooperative Education: Grades 10, 11 and 12 and at least 16 years of age to be eligible. Provides 100 apprenticeship hours per course credit.

Skilled Trades: High school courses satisfying academic requirements and providing 110 apprenticeship hours per course credit (Grades 10 and 11) and a 100-hour co-op placement.

O₂ Program: In-school learning and on-the-job training through 100-hour co-op placements. Available in select high schools. The *Building Futures for Youth Program* is offered primarily for students already enrolled in O₂ or cooperative education and provides upwards to 300 apprenticeship hours in 3 co-op credits.

Youth Apprenticeship: Ages 16-19. Paid hours that can be counted toward trade designation. Find a certified employer and register with the province (\$14.89 fee for identification). May overlap with co-op placements in high school.

Grade Twelve Diploma or Equivalent

Direct Entry:

Obtain employment on own or by contacting a union for indenturing and register with NSAA for \$148.18 (if not previously enrolled as a youth apprentice and continuing under the same employer).

0-5000 hours of employment as a structural/ornamental ironworker (refer to pathway for structural/ornamental ironworker)

Includes structural/ornamental ironworker technical training (\$90.20 per week)

0-3000 hours of employment as a reinforcing ironworker (refer to pathway for reinforcing ironworker)

Includes reinforcing ironworker technical training (\$90.20 per week)

2500 additional hours of employment as a structural/ornamental ironworker

1500 additional hours of employment as a reinforcing ironworker

Interprovincial Standards Examination for Designation as an Ironworker (Generalist)

7500 structural/ornamental hours and 4500 reinforcing hours (\$148.18)*

* Ironworker (Generalist) Trade Regulations for NS

Note: 6 months of full-time work is considered equivalent to approximately 1000 credit hours. If a program is taken that is pre-approved for advanced credit, an apprentice may be credited with equivalent on-the-job hours upon registration as an apprentice. The NS apprenticeship registration and technical training fees are current as of April 2015. If an individual applies to be certified on past experience, they must go through the trade qualification program (<http://nsapprenticeship.ca/sites/default/files/docs/forms/TQGP.pdf>) at a cost of \$740.77.