

Training

Hands-on installers get theory to back it up

By Raewyn Court

Experienced applicants working in the industry can gain prior-learning credits

With many insurance companies now requiring electronic security work to be done by a qualified installer, the National Certificate in Electronic Security (Installer) Level 3 has recently become attractive to installers who've been working in the industry for some time.

The course, which has been around for 15 years, covers the theory and practical knowledge required to install and maintain electronic security systems.

Training for new installers is dependent on landing an apprenticeship with an employer and an apprentice will work alongside an electronic security technician to achieve the practical component of the national certificate, while completing the theory component through a training provider.

Etito has a nationwide network of training managers who offer practical support in the workplace to help apprentices and their employers.

Etito provides a subsidy for the cost of training, at about 60 per cent of course costs.

If someone has been working in the industry for a while, they can complete the qualification through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL). This involves supplying a portfolio of evidence that matches the unit standards in the qualification.

At the end of the qualification, apprentices sit a regulations exam and a theory exam with the Electrical Workers Registration Board, the body that grants practising licences to New Zealand electrical workers.

A qualified electronic security technician can install anything from a basic household intruder alarm to a complete security system for a large corporation with access control systems (swipe cards, fingerprint readers), camera systems, intruder alarms and intercom systems.

The job often involves cabling, mounting equipment, programming



Garth Coombes learnt the differences between systems in South Africa and New Zealand. Picture / Ted Baghurst

systems and performing routine maintenance and back-up services, such as monthly checks of a bank's security system.

Applicants must have that "practical knack", problem-solving skills and good-enough maths and English skills to get through the theory.

After the course, graduates can continue training at Level 4 or branch out into another electro-technology area such as the National Certificate in Electrical Engineering (Level 4) (Electrician for Registration).

The Graduate

Garth Coombes, 39
Senior alarm technician, Garrison Alarms

I have been working in the security industry for 20 years but when I arrived from South Africa I found some differences in the way things are done.

In South Africa, we used power packs or plug-in transformers. Here, systems are often wired directly into the mains.

Electronic Security

National Certificate in Electronic Security (Installer) Level 3

Contact: Etito; 09 525 2590; info@etito.co.nz; www.etito.co.nz

Entry requirements: No entry requirements but a good grounding in Year 11/NCEA Level 1 English, maths and science is recommended. Candidates must be of working age. **Cost:** About \$1500-\$2200.

Application dates: All year round. **Campuses:** The Electro Technical Education Centre (E-Teo) and Wellington Institute of Technology (Weltec) offer training nationwide. **Course length:** Three to four years.

Employment outcomes: Graduates can work for themselves servicing a small group of clients or can be employed by a large organisation and work in banks, shopping centres and commercial buildings. They could also work for international security firms.

Although I had studied electrical engineering in South Africa, I decided to do the course to increase my understanding of electrical work in New Zealand.

I did it through RPL so they could take my previous study into consideration. I was given a half-day practical test to see what I had learnt, understood, and could remember. I then went through another day and a half of practical lessons, some block courses, a national exam and a few tests to complete the course. Because of my previous qualifications and experience I was able to complete the course in only eight months, compared to an apprenticeship of around four years.

Another reason for doing the course was so I could gain the licence required to legally work on electrical circuits for security systems.

Two months after starting work for a security company in New Zealand, a rumour went around that the company was being sold and that the future was uncertain.

I was not willing to wait around and find out my fate, so when I saw

the job opportunity at Garrison Alarms I jumped at it. I'm very pleased I did as they are a great bunch of people.

My job with Garrison involves installing and maintaining security equipment. The course helped prepare me for the job by teaching me how to correctly isolate the electrical circuit to connect into and how to test the connection.

The Employer/Manager

Ray Sadler
Managing director, Garrison Alarms

Having trade accreditation in this industry is rare and well respected.

Garth's qualification is important because it holds weight – other technicians are obliged to follow his instructions – and it allows him to teach junior technicians the correct way to do things.

As senior technician, Garth's ability to communicate well with clients and gain their confidence by being knowledgeable and helpful is also very important.



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2011 Election Electorate HQ Managers

Electoral Commission

The Electoral Commission conducts New Zealand's general elections, by-elections and referenda and is currently preparing for the 2011 general election, which will also include a referendum on the voting system.

Returning Officers for each electorate are looking for experienced Operations Managers and Human Resources Managers to assist them deliver the 2011 general election and referendum. This is an exciting opportunity to be at the heart of the democratic process.

The roles are fixed-term. The Managers Operations and Human Resources roles involve intermittent work from mid August to mid October and are full time for approximately 12 weeks during the election period.

The ideal applicant will have a relevant tertiary qualification or experience to the equivalent level. Impartiality and integrity are essential. Flexibility and an ability to travel to training and regional meetings are required.

Manager Operations

Your role is to assist the Returning Officer plan and deliver the general election in their electorate. You will help manage the complex operational processes, a large team of electorate headquarters and election day staff, and post-election day processes.

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To apply online go to our website www.elections.org.nz
Alternatively to obtain an application pack email recruitment@elections.govt.nz or telephone 04 498 2313. (Packs posted from Wellington).

Applications close Friday, 15 April 2011.

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Group Financial Controller

Ref: FINAN05

- Help steer a market leader
- Pivotal leadership role

Reporting to the CFO this key role is responsible for the financial policies, processes and controls of the group, including production of regular financial and management accounting information, internal and external financial and compliance reporting, treasury operations, budgeting and financial planning systems and capital structures.

You will bring a hardened skill set in process efficiency. This role will challenge you within a very dynamic environment so someone who can adapt, help bridge any gaps and influence through sound technical guidance and strong leadership will suit nicely. You will demonstrate core experience in understanding and improving commercial performance throughout your career to date.

Reporting and Analysis Manager

Ref: FINAN04

- Dynamic role providing business information in a complex environment
- Consolidate and improve existing reporting presently carried out across the group

You will have significant experience in high level financial analysis, the conduct of robust financial evaluations/feasibilities of major new business and reviews of existing businesses. Your analysis will enhance the understanding of commercial value drivers, and identification of actions that will improve bottom line profitability.

Our executive team need key performance information to understand how the business is performing. This role will provide regular and ad hoc reports to enable the easy identification and monitoring of underlying performance and trends.

You will have developed and standardised reporting to highlight performance in a succinct and usable format. This will help us consolidate/integrate, develop trending and benchmark performance.

Manager, Management Accounting


Ref: FINAN03

- Lead a new function
- Join this performance driven dynamic organisation


This new role is accountable for ensuring that the Board and Executive Team receive timely, accurate and insightful information relating to all significant Group activities. Key areas of focus include analysis and reporting of monthly operating results with significant emphasis on margin, co-ordination of the annual budgeting process, analysing financial and operational performance against budgets and forecasts. The role will also undertake data analysis to identify and help explain trends and drivers of commercial performance, and presenting financial analysis in a logical, accessible and relevant manner.

Please apply online at www.foodstuffs.careercentre.net.nz/jobcentre quoting the job reference number. For further information and enquiries, please contact Lane Felise at TalentPoint on (04) 815 9428 or email lane.felise@talentpoint.co.nz

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Product Training Manager

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Based from our Auckland office, the successful applicant will be responsible for designing and implementing product training programmes for our Consumer Sales team and supporting them in training our dealer network.

This is an excellent position for someone who has had experience in sales and is looking for their next career step. The successful candidate must be able to demonstrate high levels of drive and initiative, as well as have the ability to build strong relationships and be well organized. A passion for technology is essential and an understanding of doing business in the consumer electronics sector would be advantageous.

The successful candidate will be required to work independently as some out of town travel will be required, but must also work well as part of a team. For individuals with the talent and commitment to achieving results, this position offers excellent career prospects within a dynamic business environment.

A job description is available on our website: www.panasonic.co.nz
To apply, please email your CV to: careers@nz.panasonic.com
Applications close 1st April 2011