

What does an electrotechnology pre-employment course mean?



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Electrotechnology trainees from pre-employment courses at polytechnics around New Zealand will soon be finishing their courses and looking for apprenticeships. For employers looking at taking on an apprentice, they're worth considering. But what exactly are these courses and what skills can employers expect those who've completed them to have?

The content of pre-employment courses varies depending on which polytechnic is offering the training. Typically a pre-employment course covers the first year of off-job training in an apprenticeship at Level 2. This covers workplace safety unit standards, along with electromagnetism theory, mathematics, and knowledge of e.m.f production. Many polytechnics now include basic employment skills and, to build on the practical component of their courses, an increasing number of polytechnics are including workshop skills too. By the time a trainee's finished a pre-employment course, they should have an understanding of workplace safety, possess basic tools skills and be able to identify TPS.

A pre-employment course also identifies the trainee's ability to cope with the kind of study that's required for an electrical apprenticeship. Despite gaining many introductory skills, it's important that employers conduct the same thorough recruitment processes as they would taking on any apprentice. It's a good idea to call their tutors, who can establish their suitability for an apprenticeship.

It's also important to keep in mind that a pre-employment course covers only the first year of the apprenticeship [which is solely off-job based]. So while trainees coming from a pre-employment course will have one less year of theory to complete, they still require the same amount of workplace assessment as if they'd come straight from school.

Many pre-employment trainees look for placements with an employer while they study, by taking on one of these trainees, not only will you provide them with industry insight, it can be a great way to conduct a 'working interview.'

If you'd like to know more about pre-employment courses, contact your ETITO training manager.