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Mechanical Technician Apprenticeship

About the NETTS Program

The National Energy Technician Training Scheme (NETTS) is a collaboration between Programmed and energy organisations – including Santos, Shell, Woodside, and Jadestone – to build a skilled workforce for the future.

NETTS is specifically designed as an entry pathway into the energy sector which requires no previous experience. Programmed and your host company provide ongoing support, mentoring and guidance throughout the apprenticeship, and you will also gain a range of life skills, safety knowledge and industry-specific training. Throughout your time in the program, you will gain exposure to multiple sites across the energy industry and supplier contractor facilities.

About the Role

As a Mechanical Technician Apprentice, you will learn to use a range of fault-finding methods and engineering techniques to maintain, repair and rebuild mechanical process plant equipment. The equipment that you will be working on is essential in the operation of processing oil and gas.

Where will you be working?

The first 12 months of the program are based at the ACEPT South Metro TAFE Campus in Munster, WA. You will also attend Rockingham TAFE for certain Mechanical units. During this time, you will also be seconded to external mechanical workshops across the Perth metro area, to gain additional mechanical experience.

You will then transition onto a FIFO roster at one of the NETTS host company facilities. These facilities are both on- and off-shore WA and interstate. As an example, you may spend some time at onshore at a Gas Plant or you might be working on a Platform or Rig off the coast of Karratha. You will still be required to return to TAFE at regular intervals for further electrical training in between your FIFO swings.

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What type of equipment will you be working on?

During your apprenticeship you'll get the opportunity to work on a wide range of plant equipment and machinery, including:

- Gas turbines: used to drive and rotate larger generators, compressors and pumps
- Compressors: used to compress gases and increase the pressure in the process
- Electric motors: used to drive and rotate pulleys, pumps and fans
- Diesel engines: used to drive and rotate back-up generators and fire water pumps
- Hydraulic systems: used to supply mechanical force to actuators, cranes and valves
- Piping and valves: used to distribute, isolate and control the process for each unit
- Pumps: used to move liquids through the process units and equipment

What type of tools and equipment will you use?

Mechanical Technicians use a wide variety of hand tools, power tools and machinery including:

- Spanners, ratchets, sockets, screwdrivers, hammers, hacksaws and pliers
- Punches, chisels, hand files, oil stones, tapes, dies, pipe wrenches and pry bars
- Micrometres, rulers, tape measures, Vernier callipers, dial indicators and gauges
- Drills, grinders, welders and laser alignment equipment
- Forklifts, Elevated Work Platforms, hoists and hydraulic rams

What training will be provided?

Over the four-year apprenticeship you will receive:

- Regular Training and Assessment at SMTAFE ACEPT Campus as you work towards completion of:
- Certificate II Process Plant Operation
- Certificate III Mechanical Engineering
- Additional training in a variety of safety and trade-related courses and tickets & licences, including:
- Forklift, Dogging, EWP, Working at Heights, Confined Space Entry, Gas Test Atmospheres
- First Aid, Industry Safety Induction (ISI) and Helicopter Survival & Emergency (BOSIET)
- Additional training in various life skills including mental health & resilience, communication, cultural awareness, finances and much more

What requirements are there to become a Mechanical Apprentice?

- Completion of Year 12 (by course commencement) with a capacity to apply English, Maths and Science knowledge to your studies/work
- A strong desire to work in the energy industry with a willingness to learn new concepts
- The ability to work as part of a team
- The ability to work a FIFO roster in remote locations, working 12 hour shifts
- The ability to pass a pre-employment medical and regular drug & alcohol screening tests
- Australian Citizenship/Permanent Residency

For more information and to apply, visit:

programmed.com.au/nettswa