



Apprenticeships - Frequently Asked Questions

How often does SA Power Networks advertise for apprenticeship vacancies?

Subject to demand, apprentice recruitment may occur once or twice during the first and/or third quarter of the year.

Applications for apprenticeships must be made online and will only be accepted during the advertising period.

To avoid missing opportunities, we recommend setting up a **Job Alert**. Instructions [here](#).

How do I apply?

Applications for apprenticeships must be made online and will only be accepted during the advertising period. When positions are advertised, you will be required to apply online via the website:

www.sapowernetworks.com.au > Corporate > Current Vacancies

or via the 'Apply Now' button next to the Seek Ad.

Can I swap my apprenticeship once joining SA Power Networks?

It is not possible to swap from one apprenticeship to another (i.e. start as a powerline apprentice and swap to an electrical apprenticeship)

Can I apply for more than one apprenticeship?

No. At each intake you can only apply for one type of apprenticeship and only in one region.

Do you accept mature aged apprentices?

Yes, SA Power Networks employ mature age apprentices. Adult apprenticeships are available for applicants 21 years or older.

Is there a maximum age limit for applicants?

No. Applications are open to anyone who meets the essential criteria regardless of age.

What types of apprenticeships does SA Power Networks offer?



Powerline Apprenticeship

As a powerline worker, your main role will be to construct and maintain overhead and underground electrical lines and structures (the poles and wires you see in the streets as well as the underground network). At the completion of a Powerline apprenticeship you will receive a restricted electrical workers licence.



Powerline Transmission Apprenticeship

This type of powerline transmission work is at heights above 13 metres and up to 120 metres. The work is usually heavier than Distribution type work and carried out with higher tensions. Transmission requires the operation of specialised equipment and there are opportunities to develop specialist skills in live work and plant operation. Please note that this work entails working across the state and can involve living away from home for periods of time.



Electrical Apprenticeship

When you complete an Electrical apprenticeship, you will be awarded the nationally recognised Certificate III Systems Electrician qualification. You will be eligible for an electrical workers licence that allows you to build and work on domestic and commercial electrical installations. At SA Power Networks you will be given additional training to enable you to work on the high voltage equipment in substations. On completion, apprentices will have the required skills and knowledge to work as an Electrical Tradesperson in the areas of Substation Construction and Maintenance, Transformer Maintenance, Customer Connection and Emergency Supply Restoration.



Electrical with Telecommunications Apprenticeship

When you complete an Electrical with Telecommunications apprenticeship, you will be awarded the nationally recognised Certificate III Systems Electrician qualification. You will also undertake additional Telecommunication modules. On completion, you will have the required skills and knowledge to work as an Electrical/Telecommunications Tradesperson on our telecommunications and SCADA network.

For more detail on each type of apprenticeship, visit our website:

www.sapowernetworks.com.au > Corporate > Careers > Apprenticeship Program

What are the rates of pay?

Current base rates are listed below. Appropriate allowances and 10.5% superannuation also apply.

Type	Weekly Amount	Yearly Amount
Apprentice (Under 21)	\$600.38	\$31,320
Adult Apprentice (21 & over)	\$860.22	\$44,875

Am I eligible as an adult to receive the Adult Australian Apprentices Initiative?

No, you aren't. As we pay above the award rate you aren't eligible to receive this payment.

What are the hours of work?

Apprentices are required to work a 36 hour week, comprising of 8 hour days over a 9 day fortnight. Working hours may be altered in line with operational requirements and our Enterprise Agreement. Working days are generally between the hours of 7 am to 4 pm (as a guide, depending on work group).

What other working hours may occur?

In the later years of your apprenticeship and certainly once you are qualified, there may be the requirement to work a reasonable amount of overtime, be on "stand by" or placed on an availability roster. SA Power Networks is required to provide essential services to its South Australian customers 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. As a result, a trade skilled employee or an employee who is required to perform rostered availability duties as outlined in their Job Description may be required to undertake rostered availability duty as part of their employment.

"Stand By" means that employees may be requested by an authorising officer to be on call or "stand by" to work after ordinary hours. Planned overtime work may also occur when the business requires.

There is also the possibility of away work (for which extra allowances are paid in line with our Enterprise Agreement).

How long is the apprenticeship?

Apprenticeships are over a 4 year period, comprising of both on-the-job and off-the-job training at SA Power Networks Training Centre, located at Angle Park, and at TAFE SA. You must be prepared to enter into and complete a full 4 year apprenticeship.

Can I obtain Recognised Prior Learning (RPL) for parts of the apprenticeship?

Where, by the presentation of suitable evidence, it can be demonstrated that an apprentice has satisfied specific competencies in previous study or work experience, it may be possible to have the achievement of competency recognised by applying for recognition of prior learning (RPL). However the decision to recognise RPL will be solely based on the evidence presented and recognition will be at the discretion of the relevant Registered Training Organisation (RTO).

Please note that even if you receive RPL and it reduces the number of TAFE modules you are required to complete, the length of the apprenticeship remains at 4 years.

Do you accept applicants part-way through a current apprenticeship?

SA Power Networks has previously taken on apprentices who've already commenced an apprenticeship. However please be aware that for us to take you on you will need to have proof of your terminated Contract of Training before we can consider you.

What are the essential criteria I must meet to apply?

- I am an Australian Citizen or permanent Australian resident
- I have a current and valid driver's licence (either full, learners, probationary)
- I am willing to undergo a medical (including a drug and alcohol test) and police check
- I have sound English and Maths skills

Do I have to address the essential criteria?

Yes, when applying for a position, you must address the essential criteria. Please note that applications **will not** be eligible for consideration if you do not meet the essential criteria.

Which region or depot should I choose?

Regions are a way we divide the state for the purposes of apprentice recruitment. In this intake we have three metro regions - Metro North, Metro South, Metro Central. We have various depots located within these metro regions. We also have vacancies in this intake at some of our regional depots. The best region or depot for you to choose is generally the closest one to where you live. Please keep in mind that the selection you make is a guide and over the duration of your 4 year apprenticeship you may be required to rotate through different locations in order to complete your apprenticeship requirements.

What are the different steps of the apprentice recruitment process?

Step 1 - Online application: Submit an online application form via SEEK. You will be asked a series of questions to support your application and may be asked to upload evidence for the minimum criteria below:

- I am an Australian Citizen or permanent Australian resident
- I have a current and valid driver's licence (either full, learners, probationary)
- I am willing to undergo a medical (including a drug and alcohol test) and police check
- I have sound English and Maths skills

Step 2 - Aptitude assessment: Complete an online assessment of your verbal, numeric and mechanical abilities along with a behavioural safety assessment

Step 3 - Online interview: You may be required to complete a short online interview to show us how you would be a great fit for an SA Power Networks apprenticeship

Step 4 - Face to face interview: This step involves a face to face interview and possibly a verification aptitude assessment

Step 5 - Heights & dexterity assessment: You will be required to test your dexterity while working at heights

Step 6 - Medical assessment: Complete a full medical assessment, including a drug and alcohol assessment

Step 7 - Final checks: A police clearance and reference checks may be required

You will be provided further information and instructions at each stage if successful.

Who do I address my cover letter to?

Address your cover letter to "Recruitment Team". Your application will be viewed by members of our HR team as well as relevant Hiring Managers.

What is a (USI) Unique Student Identifier Number?

Effective 1 January 2015 all students who commence any accredited Training across Australia must hold a Unique Student Identifier Number. Please note it is not essential for you to have a USI number to apply for an apprenticeship with us. For further information regarding the Unique Student Identifier please go here: <http://www.usi.gov.au/About/Pages/default.aspx>

Who should my referees be?

Where appropriate it is recommended that your referee be your current supervisor. For previous positions or employment, your referee should be a previous supervisor or someone who can comment on your work performance.

If you have not previously held a job, you can use a sporting coach, teacher or a community group leader. No personal referees will be accepted. It is also recommended that you advise a referee before you apply for a position. Your referee contact/s must be current.

How can I enhance my application?

The most suitable "pre employment" course relevant to our business is a Certificate II in Electrotechnology which is run by TAFE SA.