

## OVERHEAD LINES TECHNICIAN

### EDUCATIONAL PATHWAYS

#### Entry Level

Employers require applicants who have completed at least Year 10 but most prefer applicants who have successfully completed Years 11 & 12 or a School Based Apprenticeship / Traineeship, Curriculum Framework Course or a Pre-Apprenticeship Course.

After successfully completing UEE220111 Certificate II in Electrotechnology (Career Start) applicants commencing an apprenticeship as an overhead lines technician would enrol into one or more of the following four qualifications depending on their job role.

#### [UET30621 - Certificate III in ESI - Distribution Overhead](#)

This qualification provides the skills and knowledge to work in the electricity supply industry (ESI) as an Overhead Distribution Line worker. This qualification covers the installation, maintenance and inspection of poles, structures, hardware, electrical apparatus and the use of support plant, tools and equipment.

#### [UET30521 - Certificate III in ESI - Transmission Overhead](#)

This qualification provides the skills and knowledge to work in the electricity supply industry (ESI) as an Overhead Transmission Line worker. This qualification covers work on transmission overhead powerlines, including the installation, inspection and maintenance of towers, poles, structures, conductors and hardware.

#### [UET30721 - Certificate III in ESI - Rail Traction](#)

This qualification provides the skills and knowledge to work in the electrical supply industry (ESI) as a Rail Traction Line worker. This qualification covers the installation, maintenance and inspection of overhead poles/structures, conductors, cables, and rail traction wiring systems, including associated equipment used in the rail traction industry. It also includes the maintenance of bonds and the operation of rail traction height access equipment.

#### [UET30821 - Certificate III in ESI - Distribution Underground](#)

This qualification provides the skills and knowledge to work in the electricity supply industry (ESI) as a Distribution Underground Cable Jointer. This qualification covers the installation and maintenance of low voltage (LV) and high voltage (HV) underground cables, services and electrical equipment.

#### [UET40421 - Certificate IV in ESI - Network Systems](#)

This qualification provides the skills and knowledge to work on network systems in the electricity supply industry (ESI). This qualification covers work on the network systems in the specific fields of live line transmission, live line distribution, live line rail traction and/or installation and maintenance of specialised underground cables. These roles may lead or supervise work teams and work in transmission, distribution, rail or cable jointing.

For further information or advise contact

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### EDUCATIONAL PATHWAYS

#### [UET40521 - Certificate IV in ESI - Power Systems Substations](#)

This qualification provides the skills and knowledge to work in power system substations in the electricity supply industry (ESI). This qualification covers selecting, installing, setting up, testing, fault finding, repairing and maintaining electrical systems and equipment in buildings and premises. It also provides a career in installation and maintenance of substations, such as the maintenance of high voltage (HV) power system, including circuit breakers and transformers. It includes substation switching, inspection and diagnosing and rectifying faults. Options are available for skills to be obtained in high current direct current switchgear and equipment, installation of HV plant and equipment and/or the maintenance and commissioning of discrete protection and control systems.

#### [UET50221 - Diploma of ESI - Power Systems](#)

This qualification provides the skills and knowledge to work in the electricity supply industry (ESI) as a High Voltage (HV) Substation Project Manager or a Senior Systems Operator (ESI) or a Power Systems Technical Officer. This qualification covers overseeing the construction of electrical substations and related projects within the ESI. It also includes managing personnel, the business aspects of projects and giving specialist advice to deal with day-to-day issues and problems.

#### [UET50321 - Diploma of ESI - Power Systems Operations](#)

This qualification provides the skills and knowledge to work in the electricity supply industry (ESI) as a Power Systems Technical Officer, a High Voltage (HV) Substation Project Manager or a Senior Systems Operator. This qualification covers designing new overhead and underground powerline systems, overseeing the construction of electrical substations and related projects. These roles may also manage personnel, the business aspects of projects and give specialist advice to deal with day-to-day issues and problems

#### [UET60221 - Advanced Diploma of ESI - Power Systems](#)

This qualification provides the skills and knowledge to work in the electricity supply industry (ESI) as a Power System Senior Technical Officer or a Power Distribution System Engineer.

This qualification covers high-level managerial, design, testing and system operation functions in the transmission and distribution sectors of the ESI. These roles may also install, commission, maintain, diagnose, and repair the hardware and software of complex power system protection, control, and metering systems.

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## OVERHEAD LINES TECHNICIAN

### CAREER PATHWAYS/SPECIALISATIONS

Career options as a line technician other than working for an energy company may include –

#### Telecommunications:

You may want to work in telecommunications installing fibre optic cables and telephone lines for National companies. Many of the skills will be the same but you will be working with communication wires rather than electrical wires though many times these services may run together in the same formation or be in proximity.

















#### State Rail:

Overhead line workers employed by State Rail are electrically qualified to perform routine maintenance, renewals, reactive maintenance, system alterations, upgrades, new works and other tasks on the overhead network. This includes work conducted on high voltage and low voltage electrical apparatus, on alternative current and direct current electrical circuits flowing through the overhead network.

#### Mining industry:

Once you have gained several years of experience as a line technician you may consider working for a mining company installing, repairing and maintaining overhead power lines and transmissions. This industry will pay above award wages and generally consists of fly in fly out rosters at various locations.

For further information relating to this job. Search the following web sites. Either click on the logo to open the web page or click on the QR code with your app.

		
NECA 	Ausgrid 	Endeavour Energy 
		
Essential Energy 	Energy Networks 	Skills One TV 
		
NSW Utilities & Electrotechnology Industry Training Advisory Body (NSW UE ITAB)	NSW UE ITAB	MAE 

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## OVERHEAD LINES TECHNICIAN

### HINTS ON HOW TO APPLY FOR THIS JOB

**The 11 steps below outline the process you could follow to assist you to secure an apprenticeship as an overhead lines technician -**

**Step 1.** identify your strengths and weaknesses, especially in maths and literacy as these are essential to being successful in an electrical Career. Intermediate maths with a solid pass mark is the minimum. Additionally, subjects like technical drawing and metalwork, woodwork or engineering will give you some basic hand spatial and situational awareness skills that employers look for.

**Step 2.** decide where you want to work; are you willing to relocate to get your dream job? There may be more opportunities in cities than in regional areas.

**Step 3.** do some research, as to who the key employers are in the power industry and choose the electrical specialisation that you most like then make enquiries to see if they will take on apprentices.

**Step 4.** research information about these employers or companies that you would like to work for; find out what the entry requirements or essential criteria are that must be met; such as do you need to complete an aptitude or other entry test before getting an interview?

**Step 5.** make a shortlist of potential prospective employers to contact. You may also like to chat to your job search agent or search some of the online employment agencies such as SEEK, Jobsearch, Indeed or LinkedIn to find job vacancies for electricians in your region.

**Step 6.** create a quality resume by identifying key elements that should be included therein, and incorporate your academic achievements, experience, interests and passions.

**Step 7.** identify and practice some interview skills with friends, parents or career advisors to learn tips on how best to perform in an interview.

**Step 8.** contact potential employers by writing or directly calling them to demonstrate your interest and communication skills. Prospective employers highly value self-starters and prospective career aspirants with initiative who take such steps to seek for themselves employment as an apprentice.

**Step 9.** talk with the prospective employer about the work they do and if they would be interested in taking you on as an apprentice. If you are still at school, you may be able to take up a school-based apprenticeship. There are opportunities available in some schools that allow you to take on a part-time apprenticeship known as a School-Based Apprenticeship or Traineeship (SBAT). Ask your school if they support this government initiative and ask the employer if they would be interested in such an arrangement. SBATs are a really good way to allow you to finish school and at the same time learn and earn as an apprentice.

**Step 10.** Your employer should contact the Australian Apprenticeship Support Network (AASNs)  
- <https://www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au/> for further information on how to sign you up.

**Step 11.** sign up to your apprenticeship with your employer (and support of your family if you are under 18 years old) to start "learning and earning" to be an overhead lines technician.

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HAVE YOU CONSIDERED THESE RELATED JOBS?

**Have you considered these related jobs –**

- ⇒ Lift mechanic
- ⇒ Electrician
- ⇒ Electrical fitter
- ⇒ Refrigeration and air conditioning mechanic
- ⇒ Cable jointer
- ⇒ Electronics technician
- ⇒ Communications – broadcast technician / data comms technician
- ⇒ Computer systems technician
- ⇒ Instrumentation technician
- ⇒ Power station operator
- ⇒ Transmission line worker
- ⇒ Asset inspection and testing technician
- ⇒ Gas networks technician



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