

Train Driver

A train driver drives the engine of a passenger or goods train. The engine may be diesel, electric or diesel-electric.

The Work

You could be:

- inspecting the train – especially the brakes – before starting the journey
- checking – perhaps on computer – that everything is working correctly and safely on the train before a journey begins
- controlling the speed of the train, observing speed limits, weather and track conditions whilst ensuring the train runs safely and on time
- making announcements to passengers
- identifying and dealing with any problems that arise on the train or track
- keeping in touch with control centres by radio
- combining driving with guard duties
- maintaining records of journeys, reporting problems and handing over to the next shift driver.

Pay

The figures below are only a guide. Actual pay rates may vary, depending on:

- where you work
- the size of the company or organisation you work for
- the demand for the job.

ScotRail pay is £32,968 during the first year of intensive training. As a newly qualified driver the salary is £45,828, after 6 months £48,944 and after 9 months £52,566 a year. On successful completion of all training and the probation period, the salary is £58,028 a year.

There is also free or reduced rail travel for yourself and your family.

Conditions

- You might drive on long or short journeys.
- You would spend a lot of time sitting in the driver's cab, usually alone.
- Conditions in the cab are usually reasonably comfortable, but it may be noisy.
- You would have to wear a uniform.
- You would work shifts, including evenings, nights and weekends.
- You might also have to work overtime.
- You are required to live within 45 minutes travel from the depot you are based at.

Getting In

- A good general education is useful. Some employers may prefer you to have some subjects at National 4 or 5, including English, Maths and a scientific or technological subject.
- The application process includes sitting a series of psychometric and aptitude tests.
- If your application is short listed, you attend two assessment days, followed by an interview day.
- You will also need to pass a medical examination to check fitness, eyesight, colour vision, hearing and any misuse of alcohol or drugs.
- You may also have to undergo a psychometric test, to see if your characteristics are suited to the job.
- You will require a satisfactory criminal record check from Disclosure Scotland to show that you are suitable for this type of course. Contact [Disclosure Scotland](#) for details on the type you would need.
- By law you must be over 21 to drive a train, although you can begin training at the age of 20.
- You may be able to start with a train operating company as a conductor and be accepted later for driver training.
- Having a driving licence can be advantage but it is not essential.

What Does It Take

You need to be:

- very reliable and responsible
- aware of health and safety matters
- alert and observant
- smart in appearance.

You need to be able to:

- concentrate for long periods
- communicate clearly
- understand and remember complicated systems and regulations
- work alone
- keep calm and deal with emergencies quickly and efficiently.

Training

- Train operating companies provide comprehensive training for trainee drivers. This could last between 18 and 24 months.
- The training includes classroom sessions on topics such as types of train, company rules and regulations, signalling systems, safe working practices and emergency procedures.
- You would also practice driving under the supervision of an instructor, and learn routes by going out with experienced drivers.
- You would have regular assessments to make sure that you keep up to the necessary standards.

Getting On

- With experience and further training, you may move on to drive high-speed or international trains.
- You may wish to consider becoming a train driving instructor.
- You may also be able to move into a supervisory role or into more general management within the rail

industry.

Contacts

Scotrail

Website: www.scotrail.co.uk/about-scotrail/careers

X: @ScotRail

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ScotRail

Statistics

Employment Status UK %

100.00%
FT Employee



Past Unemployment - Scotland

No Claimant statistics available for Scotland.

LMI data powered by [LMI for All](#)

Predicted Employment Statistics : Not available this career.