

# > NEW ZEALAND APPRENTICE JOCKEY PROGRAMME

*New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing*



# >INTERNATIONAL APPRENTICE JOCKEYS WORKING IN NEW ZEALAND

*"New Zealand is definitely a great place to live and work"*

## *Why New Zealand?*

**New Zealand offers some of the best opportunities for thoroughbred racing in the world.** Coupled with an English speaking environment, robust training and support mechanisms, New Zealand is definitely a great place to live and work.

What is on offer in New Zealand?

- Fair employment conditions
- English speaking environment
- Internationally recognised apprentice training and qualifications
- Great riding opportunities

In New Zealand each year, we conduct around 2,364 races, with nearly 24,974 starters for a prizemoney pool more than \$90.8 million.

New Zealand lies in a temperate climate conducive to great racing. Flat racing is conducted throughout the year, and the jumps season runs from May to September.

Thoroughbred racing in New Zealand is governed and administered by New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing (NZTR). NZTR licenses jockeys and oversees apprentice jockeys in their training and development.

For detailed information on NZTR and thoroughbred racing in New Zealand more generally, visit: <https://loveracing.nz/NZTR>

For general information about living and working in New Zealand, visit: <https://www.live-work.immigration.govt.nz/>

A keen apprentice jockey with ability and dedication will find New Zealand to be a land of opportunity.



# >APPRENTICE JOCKEY TRAINING

## *A comprehensive programme*

**Jockeys usually begin on a probationer license** and move, when ready, to an apprentice license. This may take up to 12 months or more and will be negotiated between yourself, your employer and the NZTR riding mentor, upon your readiness to race day ride

All Apprentice Jockeys embark on the same programme of training and development which comprises:

- Approval of the Apprenticeship with a NZTR licensed Class A Trainer, who is chiefly responsible for your day-to-day development and well-being.
- A four-year apprenticeship period
- A claim system based on 140 Raceday wins with a sliding weight-claiming scale.
- Achievement of appropriate industry training qualifications – specifically New Zealand Certificate in Equine Level 3 and Level 4 (Jockey), and
- Up to 60 hours annual off-job training including riding mentor instruction. There is no additional direct cost to you for this training.

NZTR provides a range of personnel providing pastoral care and career development to all Apprentice Jockeys. These include:

- Racetrack Welfare personnel
- Tutors
- Riding Mentors
- Stipendiary Stewards, and
- High performance sports personnel

The New Zealand apprentice programme has the following key requirements for international riders:

- An IELTS score of 5.5 or more on entry to New Zealand. If this is not achieved, NZTR may agree a language development plan to be put in place, as a condition of your apprenticeship.
- A \$6,900 License Fee (inclusive of NZ Goods and Services Tax) paid to NZTR for on-going support mechanisms for international apprentices.

An international apprentice is a non-New Zealand resident/citizen.



# >APPRENTICE JOCKEY TRAINING

## *Recognised Industry Qualifications*

### *New Zealand Certificate in Equine – Jockey:*

- This is a recognised National Qualification recognised by the government's New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA).
- This qualification sits at Level 4 on the New Zealand National Qualifications framework.
- This qualification is also recognised internationally.
- The qualification can take up to 3 years to complete.
- Skills and competencies are assessed both through completion of Apprentice Academy theory assessments (off-job assessment), and through practical skills assessment in conjunction with your employer (on-job assessment).
- For apprentices who do not remain in New Zealand for the full three years of formal training, there is an exit point after two years where an apprentice may be awarded a limited qualification to acknowledge the training they have undertaken during their stay.

### *Apprentice Academy:*

Attendance at apprentice school is compulsory. Apprentices must attend 12 three weekly classes per year from the months of February to November.

- At the Apprentice Academy, apprentices work with an equine tutor to achieve their Jockey Qualification.
- They also work with a local NZTR Riding Mentor working on technical and tactical skills that attribute to the skill development of an apprentice jockey.
- High performance sports personnel provide fitness, nutrition, media, financial and lifestyle guidance for the overall development of the apprentice jockey.
- The academy tutors provide close guidance and personal interest in the development of apprentices.
- Racetrack welfare personnel are present at apprentice school to assist with any welfare concerns

All involved take pride in student achievement.





## >PASTORAL CARE & LIFE SKILLS

### *Support extends far beyond the classroom*

#### *NZTR Education and Training team*

NZTR provides an Education and Training team to oversee all aspects of your development and welfare while you are training to become a licensed senior jockey. They cover things such as;

- ensuring the welfare of apprentices and their good employment relations with their respective trainer employers,
- employment and licensing issues,
- raceday riding concerns,
- health and safety,
- supporting training and attendance at Apprentice Academy,
- providing support if needed on race days or trial meetings, and
- assisting at times where the apprentice may feel distressed or vulnerable.

#### *Medical Advisor*

In cases of injury, including concussion, all NZ jockeys require assessment and clearance from NZTR's Medical Advisor prior to resumption of riding.

#### *Expert Tuition*

Academy Tutors, Riding Mentors and High-performance sports personnel will facilitate group or personal sessions with various experts.

These sessions will include:

- Accounting / Taxation advice
- Diet & physical wellbeing
- Media and interview skills
- Fitness training
- Sports psychology

#### *Apprentice Employers (Horse Trainers)*

All apprenticeships must be approved by NZTR and only Class A Trainers can employ an Apprentice Jockey.

Employers provide ongoing mentoring and training and provide trial and race day rides or help arrange rides with other horse trainers.

NZTR Training and Education team, work with Approved Employers to ensure the Apprentice Jockey is fully supported, and that employment arrangements are compliant and adhered to.

*NZTR is committed to providing broad support for Apprentice Jockeys throughout the four year period of apprenticeship.*



# >BEGINNING YOUR JOCKEY CAREER IN NEW ZEALAND

## *Before leaving your home country*

**Before landing** in New Zealand you need to:

- Contact NZTR (via contact details provided in this booklet) who will help you with all aspects of licensing, race riding and training.
- Secure employment with a Class A trainer, an employment contract and obtain a New Zealand working visa.
- If you have been licensed by a racing authority in your home country, arrange a letter of clearance, addressed to NZTR, along with a medical declaration of your weight.
- If English is not your first language, you must take an IELTS test. These tests are commonly available to the public in most countries. NZTR requires an IELTS result of 5.5 or over. If you do not achieve this rating, please contact NZTR directly, as an English language skills development plan may be agreed as a condition of your apprenticeship.
- Make payment of your Overseas Apprentice Education Fee to NZTR (see box).
- Apply for NZTR probationer or apprentice license. Make sure you include your IELTS test results with your application.

### *Overseas Apprentice Education Fee*

NZTR requires payment of an Education Fee of NZD \$6,900 (including GST of 15%) for international apprentices\* entering a Jockey Apprenticeship with NZTR.

This is a flat one-off fee payable by the prospective apprentice, and no further payments are due over the four year full period of apprenticeship.

An international apprentice is a non-New Zealand resident/citizen.



# >BEGINNING YOUR JOCKEY CAREER IN NEW ZEALAND

## *On arrival in New Zealand*

**On arrival** in New Zealand, as well as all the usual things to do when moving countries such as getting to know your employer and workmates, getting your accommodation set up, setting up a bank account, registering for taxation, make sure you also:

- Contact NZTR as soon as practical and let us know you have arrived. We will arrange for a member of the education and training team to visit you and make arrangements for your training.
- You will need to have a Track work riders license or a stable hand license in order to ride or work with any registered thoroughbreds in New Zealand. Ensure this has been granted before you start work.
- Make sure you have a signed employment contract with your employer. This is a New Zealand legal requirement.

### *Considering other equine career options?*

If you have thoughts of other career options in the New Zealand thoroughbred industry, please contact NZTR as we may be able to assist with visa requirements and placement with employers.

Options include:

- Trackwork Rider
- Stablehand
- Thoroughbred Breeding, and
- Track Maintenance

Each career option includes opportunity for formal training and recognised international qualifications, check out <https://careers.loveracing.nz/>





## >CONTACT DETAILS

### Licensing Enquiries

Phone: +64 27 2074734

Email: [licensing@nztr.co.nz](mailto:licensing@nztr.co.nz)

### Education, Training and Recruitment

Phone: +64 27 5615787

Email: [amy.johnson@nztr.co.nz](mailto:amy.johnson@nztr.co.nz)

### General Enquiries:

Email: [office@nztr.co.nz](mailto:office@nztr.co.nz)

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