

What is an

IRONWORKER?

An Ironworker Generalist is trained and works in both Reinforcing & Structural Steel. As an Ironworker you are responsible for rigging, handling and placing all the re-bar, post tensioning and structural steel on a construction site. This would include columns, beams, joist, girders, canopies, stairs, handrails and precast segments. Ironworkers in BC work on High-Rises, Commercial Buildings, Bridges, Tunnels, Dams, Mines, Industrial Mills, Stadiums, Skytrains and Seismic Upgrades to name a few. Ironworkers would also be involved in the demolition of those same projects.

IRONWORKERS

- Connect steel members, check alignments and join them by bolting, pinning and welding
- Read blueprints & specifications to lay out work locations, elevations and to field fabricate steel members
- Assemble rigging, jacks and rollers to move and install heavy equipment & materials
- Attach rigging to members & direct cranes operators with hand signals & radios
- Select, cut, bend, position and secure reinforcing bars and wire mesh to reinforce concrete
- Erect & install all types of cranes & hoisting equipment
- Assemble and erect pre-fabricated metal structures and pre-cast concrete members
- Install ornamental / architectural and other metalwork such as curtain walls, specialty metal stairways & railings



TRAINING TO BECOME AN IRONWORKER

APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING



Ironworker training in BC is done at BCIT. Those interested in the ironworker trade should consider attending the Ironworker Foundation Class at BCIT. Ironworkers Local 97 accepts apprentices from this program that meet our minimum standards.

Apprentices must attend Level 2 & 3 of the Generalist Program and gain 4200 hours in the trade to complete their apprenticeship. Local 97 is the largest supporter of ironworking apprenticeship in BC with a 90% success rate. Other paths exist for Ironworkers with experience.

RECOMMENDED HIGH SCHOOL PREREQUISITES

Two years of education in English in an English-speaking country with:
- English 12 (50%) or Communications 12 (67%) - Math 10

SKILLS & ABILITIES

Successful Ironworkers enjoy developing their expertise by doing precise work in a broad range of industries and locations. They enjoy the outdoors and like travelling and working with different crews.

To be successful in their trade, Ironworkers need:

- very good muscular coordination, agility and balance
- to be mechanically inclined, able to work with their hands
- to work in all types of weather
- to be able to work at heights
- the ability to lift in excess of 25 kilograms
- awareness of surroundings
- ability to act quickly and decisively in emergencies & identify dangerous situations quickly