

Security Officer



Alternate title Bodyguard; Bouncer; Crowd Controller; Gatekeeper; Mobile Patrol Guard; Security Agent; Security Guard; Security Provider; Store Security Officer; Watchman

Description Security officers protect people and property, and maintain crowd control.

Security officers usually do shift work and may work at nights, on weekends and public holidays.

- Typical duties**
- patrol areas and check doors, gates and windows for signs of unauthorised entry; watch for irregularities (e.g. fire hazards, leaking water pipes, lights left on, malfunctions of equipment or machinery, unlocked security doors) and report incidents or problems to the appropriate authority;
 - record times of inspections and presence of authorised persons;
 - respond to alarms, sound alarms, check alarm systems, provide armed escort for payroll deliveries;
 - observe and report suspects to police, or apprehend offenders when appropriate and detain them until police arrive;
 - monitor computer alarm systems, Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) systems and communicate by radio with mobile units to attend alarms;
 - issue security passes, give directions and make security arrangements for authorised visitors;
 - check travellers and their hand luggage to detect concealed weapons and explosives;
 - detect and report fraud, shoplifting and other unlawful acts of employees or patrons of business establishments;
 - provide armed protection for specific organisations (e.g. banks);
 - provide assistance to the public and clients.

- Personal requirements**
- physically fit (may be required to pass a medical examination prior to employment)
 - good hearing and eyesight (may be corrected);
 - keen observation abilities, alertness;
 - responsible and trustworthy;
 - able to deal with members of the public in an official capacity;
 - good communication and negotiation skills;
 - age limits apply for the carrying of firearms;
 - able to pass a police check;
 - Australian citizenship, or eligibility for citizenship, for Australian Protective Service Officer positions.



An Australian Government Initiative



- Qualification**
- Certificate I in Security Operations
 - Certificate II in Security Operations
 - Certificate III in Security Operations
- Entry pathway**
- To become a security officer you usually have to complete a Certificate in security operations. Entry to these courses usually requires at least Year 10 and may require a pre-training criminal record check. As subjects can vary between institutions, you should contact your chosen institution for full details.
- You can also become a security officer through an Australian Apprenticeship in Security Operations.
- On completion of training, you can apply for a licence from the respective State licencing agency. You must be over 18 and have police clearance.
- Job prospects**
- Security officers are employed by private security firms, banks, large department stores, industrial and commercial organisations and property companies that own office blocks and hotels.
- Employers generally prefer people with a mature attitude for this occupation because of the responsibilities involved. There is an adequate supply of workers seeking to become security officers, but there is also a relatively high rate of staff turnover. In recent years there has been growth in the numbers of security officers employed and this is expected to continue.
- Security officers may be promoted to supervisory or managerial positions or to central control duties, checking that visits or patrols have been undertaken. Opportunities for promotion are generally better with larger organisations, although it is possible to move from a small employer to a more senior position with another firm. It is a very large occupation with good employment opportunities.
- Specialisation**
- Australian Protective Service Officer
 - Bodyguard
 - Crowd Controller
 - Gatekeeper
 - Mobile Patrol Guard
 - Store Security Officer
- Related Jobs**
- Correctional Officer
 - Police Officer - State
 - Police Officer - Australian Federal Police
 - Private Investigator
 - Security Adviser
- Further information**
- Australian Security Industry Association Ltd [www.asial.com.au]
 - National Australian Security Providers Association [www.naspa.com.au]