

— HOW TO FIND A —

OFFSHORE JOB



DRILLING RIG PLATFORM, OFFSHORE
RECRUITMENT, OIL AND GAS, PETROLEUM, SEA CAREER

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How to Find a Offshore Job

A job offshore typically involves working on an oil platform that extracts natural resources from beneath the ocean floor. These structures are essentially self-contained mini-cities. They offer a wide range of jobs from highly skilled engineering and supervising positions, to manual labor jobs with colorful names such as roustabout and roughneck. There are also many support positions that involve cooking, janitorial work or transporting crew members. For those willing to make the commitment to working away from home for extended periods, finding one of these jobs is mostly a matter of having the right attitude and knowing where to look.

1.

Research the offshore industry to better understand the job opportunities and the unique demands involved. For example, working offshore often means one day off for each day worked. A "14/14" schedule offers two weeks off after spending two weeks on the rig. The work, however, can be highly demanding and dangerous at times. There are also numerous positions available for all skill levels but many have specific requirements such as obtaining a Transportation Worker Identification Credential or a U.S. Coast Guard Merchant Mariners Document.

2.

Gain a basic understanding of oil drilling operations and other practical experience that will enhance your qualifications for an offshore job. Working in a petrochemical oil field or at a refinery, for example, will be a significant advantage when seeking work offshore. An understanding of seamanship and international maritime law is helpful. Good physical fitness and the ability to climb a ladder are usually essential.

3.

Get a sense of the preferred method for applying and specific qualifications by looking for jobs with that include "offshore," "oil rig" or "oil platform." The application and screening process is usually far more extensive than traditional jobs, so this step will give you a better understanding of the prerequisites and qualifications required.

4.

Look for opportunities published within the offshore industry. Websites such as rigzone.com and offshoreguides.com offer comprehensive job listings and other information that will be useful in your job search. Likewise, companies involved in offshore drilling seek out employees to work on rigs. Houston, Texas-based Parker Drilling, for example, offers job opportunities in the gulf of Mexico and around the world. Eneroil Offshore Drilling, which is based in New Delhi, India, has openings related to servicing oil rig companies in the international offshore oil and gas industry.

5.

Apply for openings using the specific criteria explained in job listing. Be prepared to relocate and undergo an extensive background check including a medical exam and drug test. During the interview process make it clear that

you are emotionally and physically capable of working within the confines of an offshore rig. Understand that the job requires a much greater commitment than a 9-to-5 dry-land job. Make it clear to potential employers that you have your affairs in order and are ready to ship-out on short notice when offered a job working offshore.

Offshore Oil Rig Jobs

For those people who are searching for oil rig job with no experience, it might be very difficult to know where to start. However, it's not as difficult as most people think. Finding and getting the offshore job on oil rig platform isn't particularly complex. It just takes time and effort. Where the real problem lies is in keeping the oil rig job once you get it.

There's a good reason why offshore drilling companies are always hiring workers for their offshore oil platforms – the work is really really tough and many people find they can not take the hardship

So how does a person looking for an oil rig job get it with no experience?

If you really haven't absolutely no experience – never worked at sea, offshore, never worked in construction, never worked on a land oil rig platform – you might only start at the bottom. A slow, steady and sure way is to prepare yourself by spending 1 year or 2 on each of the jobs mentioned above. It will earn you relevant experience and it toughens you up for a real job offshore on an oil rig with no experience. Of course, you might prefer the less certain way of trying for roustabout jobs positions on oil wells in shallow waters near shore.

In the Gulf states where there is a lot of offshore oil drilling platforms, there are offshore oil rigs that operate near land. Such oil rig companies sometimes hire temporary workers with no experience on day rates during periods of high activity.

All that the oil service employer needs from such temp oil workers is a strong back, the skill to follow instructions and the ability to swim so that they do not drown if they fall off the boat transporting them. In lots of the cases, the employer draws these workers from the state unemployment office. It is a good way to gain much needed job experience on an offshore oil rig well and can get you much needed contacts for more permanent employment.

Technical abilities are also another path on to get an oil rig job. There are posts for welders, electricians and mechanics onboard an offshore oil platforms. It will help if you've worked on a land rig platform before, but actual offshore experience is often not necessary. You might make from US\$55,000 to US\$60,000 for one year and this is about double than the wages on land. However, one disadvantage of such jobs is that career promotion prospects are very limited. A common roustabout might work his way up the ladder to roughneck, derrick hand, assistant driller and driller. An experienced driller on a deep water oil rig platform might expect to make US\$100,000 for one year or even more. On the other hand, trade skills tend to be easier to transfer among land and sea, so it all evens out. There are lots of paths to offshore oil rig jobs with no experience. What is important is your

determination and for you to keep an open mind when search for oil rig job with no experience.

How To Get A Job

An increasing demand for energy has created an unprecedented number of jobs in the oil industry. From roustabout roles for those with no formal qualifications to oil engineer roles for those with engineering degrees, this industry boasts a broad range of job opportunities.

Job Roles

Roustabouts

Roustabouts perform unskilled manual labouring jobs on oil rigs and platforms. They help to keep the rigs and platforms working efficiently by moving supplies and equipment to work sites and keeping drilling equipment in working order.

Technicians

Technicians play a crucial role in the production of oil and in maintaining the systems used in its extraction. They may work under supervision to start up, control and monitor oil production processes or may help to maintain complex mechanical, electrical and instrumental control systems.

Engineers

Oil engineers evaluate sites that contain oil, calculate the amount of oil that can be recovered, and supervise operations until oil wells are exhausted.

Entry Qualifications

The entry qualifications for offshore oil industry jobs vary, depending on the tasks to be carried out.

Roustabouts

Prospective roustabouts can enter into employment in the absence of formal academic qualifications. However, many employers seek people with relevant work experience, such as that gained through working in the construction industry. Roustabouts receive at least two weeks' onshore training before being provided with further on-the-job training on an offshore oil rig or platform.

Technicians

Prospective technicians can secure themselves a place on an apprenticeship called an Upstream Oil and Gas Industry Technician Training Programme. Such programmes are run by colleges and training providers in Edinburgh, Middlesbrough and Aberdeen on behalf of the Offshore Petroleum Industry Training Organization and the Engineering Construction Industry Training Board. Applicants are usually required to have least four GCSEs, including English, maths and science. Some people choose to enter the training programme following completing science A levels or BTEC National Awards in Engineering. Upon completion of an Upstream Oil and Gas Industry Technician Training Programme, workers are awarded a Higher National Certificate (HNC) and an NVQ Level 3 in Engineering Maintenance or Processing Operations: Hydrocarbons.

Engineers

Entry to oil engineer work is usually with an honours degree in offshore engineering or a related discipline. However, many employers seek people with a relevant postgraduate qualification. Entry to an honours degree course in engineering is usually with at two A levels in maths and science subjects and five GCSEs, including maths, science and English. Degrees with placements can be very helpful for those desiring careers in the oil industry. Newly qualified graduates wishing to become oil engineers usually join graduate training programmes. Engineers are almost always encouraged to work towards chartered engineer status, for which an accredited master's degree in engineering is essential.

Ensure you meet the minimum qualifications for employment on almost any oil rig. They are the following:

- You are over 18 years of age.
- You are very physically fit. You should also be mentally fit. You will be required to pass a physical exam before being hired.
- To work offshore, you must pass an offshore survival and firefighting course, also known as emergency response training, or basic offshore induction and emergency training (BOSIET).
- You are willing and able to take on the unusual schedule of an oil rig worker. You should be open to working nights, and you should be able to work many days on end without weekend breaks.

Gain experience as a mechanic. Many oil rig workers have mechanical jobs. You can also seek training as an electrician, cook, medic and engineer to become a valued part of the auxiliary oil rig staff.

Get in touch with friends, family members or acquaintances who are oil rig workers. If you do not know anyone, ask around. This contact will help you to understand the work and give you valuable contacts in the industry.

- If you can't find any connections to current oil rig workers, go online and look at industry chat boards. You may find important information on the best employers, the worst employers and who is looking for workers at the moment. Make sure not to take all Internet chat seriously, as many people use it for a way to complain or argue.

Research the oil industry. Take a community college course, an online course or simply go to the library and check out books about oil drilling, oil workers and the newest information on the changes and regulations in the petroleum industry.

- You should be able to prove to employers that you have interest in the petroleum industry and that you are willing to do the work needed to be a valuable employee. You will not seem like such a

novice if you are well versed in important topics. You can also quiz your oil rig contacts on topics or employers you should research.

Search for job postings online and in newspapers. Go online to large job search sites like Monster, CareerBuilder and Indeed to find current listings for oil rig workers. Study those listings to ensure you have all the qualifications to start in on an oil rig.

- Titles of oil rig jobs may include: Derrickman, Safety man, Driller, Assistant Driller, Sub Sea Engineer, Storekeeper, Crane Operator, Mechanic/Electrician, Rig Welder, Barge Engineer, Rig Medic, Toolpusher or Mudman. Sometimes people working hard labor jobs on oil rigs are called "roustabouts."

Search for job postings in newspapers and through contacts in the oil industry. Look for entry-level positions with on the job training.

Create a resume and cover letter. List all the jobs you've had that have skills that might translate onto an oil rig. Highlight any jobs where you have worked as a laborer, worked as a mechanic or electrician.

- A cover letter is traditionally a half page to a full page of text describing in prose why your experience makes you a good choice for the job.
- A resume should be approximately 1 page, but it can be up to 2 pages. Focus on your qualifications and any praise you have received for being a fast learner, team worker or dependable employee. Target your resume to the job that you are applying for, and change it slightly for each application.

Apply for jobs. Try to apply for a number of jobs at the same time, because you will face more competition with entry level work.

Thousands of workers earn a living working at sea atop oil platforms and aboard oil rigs. Drilling companies operate rigs, while oil companies operate platforms, which are constructed at oil-pumping sites. Workers typically spend 12 to 14 hours each day on duty. Companies provide meals, laundry services and free entertainment. In 2012, workers on Shell's Perdido oil

platform earned annual salaries ranging from \$60,000 to \$150,000. The lowest salaries are for young roughnecks who do general labor, while the top salaries are for supervisors. To land a job working an offshore oil job, you need to follow some basic steps.

Summary

1.

Check the qualifications for the work you want to do before you apply, and do your best to ensure that you meet all of the necessary qualifications. This might require a certain amount of education, training or experience working in the oil industry or working offshore. Most companies require you to have at least a high school diploma or its equivalent. You also must be at least 18 years old with eligibility to work in the United States, and you must not have a significant criminal record. Qualifications are lowest for roughnecks, who do much of the manual labor involved in operating an oil rig or platform. Qualifications are much higher for supervisors and engineers.

2.

Make a list of companies that hire offshore oil workers, then visit each company's website or call the company to learn about the application process. Find out about the types of openings the company has and any special requirements needed to qualify. Make notes of the companies that are hiring, and what positions are available.

3.

Follow the necessary steps to obtain an application for employment from each company on your list. Some companies allow you to complete an online form through the company's website. Others might require you to travel to a recruiting office.

4.

Specify on the application the job you are seeking or the division you want to work for. In this case, you want to let them know you are interested in an offshore job. The application might require you to list experience you have in oil drilling and offshore work. If so, list all of your relevant job experience, including your job title, employer, supervisor and contact information for the employer. Applications also typically require you to list your dates of employment and reason for leaving the job. Be aware that companies prefer to hire offshore oil workers who have worked offshore in other capacities and who have experience working in the oil industry at an oil field or similar

environment.

5.

Note your skills and certifications. It will help your chances of obtaining a job if you already have the skills and certification required for the position. Depending on the job for which you are applying, you might need certification in well control, rig operations, first aid, basic survival training, marine emergency response, offshore fire fighting or helicopter underwater egress training. You will probably need to provide proof of your certification before being considered for employment. Also, note on the application whether you possess a U.S. Coast Guard Merchant Mariner's Document (MMD). Many companies require offshore oil workers to have an MMD and will show greater interest in hiring you if you have one.

6.

Submit your application and follow up with a phone call two weeks later. During your follow up, state your name, the position for which you applied and when you applied. Ask if the company is still considering your application and if it is actively hiring for the position. Express your continued interest in working for the company and find out if you should call again to check on the status of hiring. Remember to thank the person who answers the phone.

Offshore Jobs

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