

CAREER OF THE WEEK: Tree Surgeon

What does a tree surgeon do?

A tree surgeon is a professional who cares for trees by pruning, trimming, and removing branches. They diagnose tree health, handle emergency situations like fallen trees, and may assist with planting and stump removal. They also ensure trees comply with preservation regulations, and their work contributes to tree health, safety, and aesthetics in various environments including, urban areas, parks, and private properties.



A tree surgeon requires specialist knowledge, skills, and equipment to carry out tasks safely and effectively including, for example a driving license and training in how to safely use ropes and chainsaws. A head for heights is also vital!

A tree surgeon may work for a local authority, a private company, or work for themselves as an independent contractor providing tree care services.

What can I expect to earn as a tree surgeon?

The starting salary for a tree surgeon is in the region of £18,000 to £21,000 per year. This could increase to an average of around £26,000 and, with experience, could reach up to £35,000. Some experienced and qualified tree surgeons earn more than £45,000 per annum.

What subjects should I study to become a tree surgeon?

There are no set academic requirements to become a tree surgeon, but qualifications in maths, English, biology, chemistry, geography, design & technology, IT, and business studies could all be helpful.

How can I start my career as a tree surgeon?

There are several ways that you could start your career as a tree surgeon. You could obtain work helping a qualified tree surgeon and then complete the relevant training and qualifications that you will need. You could also complete an apprenticeship, such as the Level 2 Arborist apprenticeship. Another way to become a tree surgeon is to complete a college course, such as the Level 2 Arboriculture or Level 3 Forestry and Arboriculture course, and then apply for work. You could also study a foundation degree, higher national diploma (HND) or degree in a relevant area, such as forestry, forestry management, arboriculture, or countryside management.

If you are looking to change career and become a tree surgeon, you could complete a relevant distance learning course and undertake volunteering work alongside your existing job.

To research local education and training opportunities that could lead to a career as a tree surgeon, visit our partner website www.logonmoveon.co.uk

Useful websites to find out more about a career as a tree surgeon:

The Arboricultural Association <https://www.trees.org.uk/Careers>

The Royal Forestry Society <https://rfs.org.uk/careers/>

Tree Surgeon <https://www.lantra.co.uk/careers/JobProfile/JobProfileDetails/140>

National Careers Service <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/tree-surgeon>



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