



THOROUGHBRED

INDUSTRY ♦ CAREERS



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www.tbindustrycareers.com.au

Photo Credit: Ash Brennan



Turn your passion for horses
into an exciting and rewarding
career in the Thoroughbred
racing and breeding industry.

About Thoroughbred Industry Careers

Thoroughbred Industry Careers (TIC) was founded by Lindy Maurice in 2019 to address the lack of awareness of careers and the skills shortage in the Thoroughbred industry. TIC is a not-for-profit organisation that relies on donations to carry out its work. Arrowfield Stud, Chris Waller Racing, Godolphin, Gai Waterhouse and Adrian Bott Racing, Lindsay Park Racing, The Australian Turf Club and Tony McEvoy Racing are the founding partners and since 2019, other leading organisations, jockeys and individuals have donated time and resources to TIC.

About the Industry

The Thoroughbred industry opens the door to a fulfilling career that can take you around the world. The industry is a major contributor to the economy in more than 70 countries and employs more than 75,000 people in Australia alone. There is a diverse range of jobs providing opportunities for growth and longevity.

The Thoroughbred Horse

The Thoroughbred is the exclusive breed of horse used for gallops racing in Australia. It was developed in England in the 17th and 18th century before being exported to the world. Thoroughbreds are natural athletes, renowned for their speed, stamina, and trainability. While they are bred to race, Thoroughbreds are also sought after for a range of equestrian disciplines.

Equine Welfare

Horses are the most important part of the industry, so their welfare comes first. Strict minimum standards are enforced by stewards and dedicated equine welfare veterinarians and anyone who doesn't meet them faces harsh penalties including being banned from the industry. Quality homes must be found for Thoroughbreds when they retire from racing and the governing bodies in each state run their own programs to assist with this process.



Photo Credit: Ash Brennan

Grace's Journey



2022 TIC graduate Grace McBeath is bound for the British Racing School

Grace McBeath grew up with horses but didn't seriously consider a career in the Thoroughbred industry until she was in year 10. Her high school, Kinross Wolaroi in Orange NSW hosted an information night to help students choose their subjects for year 12, and Lindy Maurice, CEO of Thoroughbred Industry Careers (TIC) was there. The seed was planted and two years later Grace successfully applied for the TIC Explorer Cadetship which is a 12-month education and mentoring program.

"I knew I wanted to do a gap year when I finished school and it made perfect sense to do that with Thoroughbred Industry Careers," Grace said. "The course was the ideal length and provided a pathway into a global industry."

Grace's education began with a 13-week residential course where the basics of horse care, handling, and riding were taught. Many of her classmates had never even touched a horse before but the teachers provided all the guidance and support they needed. Grace was then placed at leading Sydney trainer Chris Waller's stables for four and a half months. She learned how to be an effective stablehand and race day strapper, and towards the end of her stint began riding trackwork.

"This hands-on experience gave me a head start and I was able to pick up so many tips and tricks from the people I worked with," Grace said. "I enjoyed doing some pole work with the yearlings and got to see the legendary Nature Strip."

"It's a great way to build confidence, meet new people with a common interest, and the opportunities are infinite"

The final phase in Grace's training was a four-and-a-half-month placement at Three Bridges Thoroughbreds in country Victoria. She performed stable and stud groom duties, helped with foaling down, assisted in veterinary procedures including geldings, and was involved in two yearling and weanling preparations. Grace impressed the stud's managers so much she was invited to stay on longer to assist with the Adelaide Magic Millions yearling preparation.

Now 20, Grace has been awarded a BASET (The Britain-Australia Society Education Trust) Endeavour Award in partnership with Godolphin, British Racing School (BRS) and TIC which supports deserving young people from Britain and Australia to further develop their career and gain new skills and experience of international practices.

Grace's scholarship will see her travel to Newmarket, the heart of British racing, where she will initially undergo intensive training at the British Racing School. She will then complete a six-month racing stable placement between Sir Mark Prescott at Heath House Stables, and Andrew Balding at Kingsclere Park House Stables, two of the best equipped private training establishments in the United Kingdom. She aims to learn as much as she can and improve her riding before returning to Australia and becoming a certified trackwork rider.

"The opportunities in this industry are endless and I am so grateful I have been guided down this path," Grace said. "If you have even the slightest interest in any part of the industry, just give it a go. If you're nervous about leaving home for the first time this is a great way to do it while building confidence, developing skills, and meeting new people. Everyone's path and experience is different but it's worth it."



Roles within the Thoroughbred racing and breeding industry

There is a job to suit almost every interest and skill set in the Thoroughbred industry. The main roles are hands on, but there are plenty of important ancillary opportunities that don't require any experience with horses.

Photo Credit: Joan Faras



Hospitality and Entertainment

Sponsorship and Sales Executive

Generates money for race clubs by selling race naming rights and hospitality packages. They find creative ways to boost sales and develop special offers close to race day. Good relationship building and negotiating skills are essential for this job.

Social Media

Works alongside the event manager to promote and advertise raceday events across social media and online campaigns. All major organisations within the industry have a social media manager.

Event Manager

Plans and executes events from start to finish. They develop ideas to enhance the event, work with clients to deliver their requests, book suppliers, balance budgets, and ensure the event runs smoothly. Major racing carnivals have multiple event planners working on them months in advance.

Chef/Caterer

Designs the menus and cooks the meals for race days and events. At major carnivals the hospitality is one of the most important aspects of the day after the racing program.



Administration

Stallion Nominations

Based at stud, the main role is taking bookings for stallions that are standing there. They strive to attract the highest quality mares to the stallion and help with marketing and stallion parades for prospective breeders.

Racing Administrator

Works for a horse racing or breeding governing body such as Racing Australia, Australian Stud Book, or Racing Queensland. There are many positions in a range of departments including horse registrations, industry licensing, finance, stakes payments, bonus schemes, workers compensation, training, and general administration.

Racing Programmer

Develops the racing schedule for their state based on the needs of the local horse population. They program appropriate lead up races into features and reschedule delayed or abandoned meetings.

Accountant / Finance Officer

Responsible for the management of budgets, debts and working capital position. They are required to process invoices, post day books and undertake group consolidation and reporting. Advanced Excel skills are required, as is a relevant university degree.



Racing Manager/ Secretary

Responsible for entering horses from the stable into the correct races before the deadline, listing which equipment they will be wearing, and managing acceptances and scratchings. They also book jockeys and liaise with owners. Attention to detail is essential.

Handicapper

Assesses previous race and applies weight and benchmark points to horses to ensure a competitive race.

Jockey Manager

Studies the form and strategically chooses the best rides for their jockey and co-ordinates the booking with the trainer or owner. A deep understanding of racing and good relationship building skills are required.

Stewards

Are the police of the racing industry and enforce the rules and regulations. They ensure races are run fairly and decide when penalties need to be applied. They also investigate complaints/ incidents involving licensed people such as trainers, jockeys, and stablehands. Betting stewards monitor markets for any abnormal patterns or sudden changes, so integrity is maintained.

Stud Secretary

Involves a variety of duties including liaising with owners, handling accounts and maintaining records. It's a fast-paced role and the main purpose is to ensure the stud runs smoothly. Strong client management and communication skills are required as well as a logical mind and meticulous attention to detail.

Sales

Auctioneer

Announces horses being sold at a live auction with the aim of encouraging more bids and achieving the highest possible price. Confidence in front of a crowd and a strong voice are essential.

Syndicator

Purchases quality horses and sells small shares to buyers who want to be involved in racehorse ownership. They choose a trainer for the horse and maintain communication with the owners. A license is required to syndicate a horse.

Pedigree Analyst

Similar to a bloodstock agent but focuses on the bloodlines most likely to produce a superior racehorse.

Grounds and Maintenance

Depending on the size of the sales ground, there can be a variety of positions within a grounds and maintenance team. You are required to work in all weather conditions and ensure the facilities remain in superb condition all year round.

Insurance Broker

Sells insurance packages to owners, breeders, and trainers based on their needs. A good insurance broker identifies the risks and tailors coverage to mitigate them. A solid understanding of problems that can arise in breeding, transport, management, and general operations is essential.

Bloodstock Agent

Analyzes the pedigrees, bloodline crosses, and physical attributes of horses, then purchases according to their clients needs and specifications.

Yearling Manager

Responsible for the care of young stock and their development from weaned foals into sale-ready yearlings. The role will include monitoring the yearlings' welfare, nutrition, and exercise program, regularly assessing their conformation, and liaising with veterinary professionals and the farrier to ensure they arrive at the yearling sales in peak physical condition.



Photo Credit: Inglis

Equine Health *and Care*

Equine Dentist

Takes care of a horses' teeth and mouth. Horses need an annual checkup, float, and balance. This is important because poor oral health can affect behaviour.

Equine Nurse

Is involved in all aspects of veterinary care. Like a human nurse they dress wounds, administer medicine, prepare horses for surgery, maintain equipment, and assist the head veterinarian.

Veterinarian

A university-educated doctor for horses. They monitor horses' health, treat any issues, and administer medication. On race day, veterinarians are on site to check horses and make sure they have recovered properly and don't have any injuries. They also work with stewards to perform blood and urine tests.

Physiotherapist

The aim of this job is to help reduce pain, improve mobility and prevent recurrence or injury in animals. They use non-invasive techniques to rehabilitate injured horses, prevent further injuries or improve performance in equine athletes. A qualification in equine physiotherapy is required for this role.

Equine Practitioner

Provides supplementary care to ensure the horse is in top condition. These include equine physiotherapists and chiropractors as well as massage, pulse and cryo therapists.

Nutritionist

Develops a horse's diet plan to suit their age, breed, and energy requirements. This includes recommending supplements to balance any deficiencies. The aim is to keep horses fit, happy and healthy. A qualification in equine nutrition is required for this role.

Farrier

Provides essential hoof care including trimming and shoeing. They help identify hoof and leg issues and use corrective shoeing to fix the problem. Horses generally need to see the farrier every six weeks.

Hands on with horses

Pre Trainer

Prepares horses to enter a racing stable for the first time and to return to racing after a spell (time off). Pre trainers introduce young horses to the saddle, ride them for the first time, and teach them all the basics they will need for their racing career. Advanced horsemanship skills and patience are essential.

Strapper/Stablehand

Provides care for horses including feeding them, grooming them, cleaning their boxes and rugging them. They accompany horses to the races, apply all their gear, ensure they are well presented and lead them into the mounting yard.

Stud Groom

Cares for horses and prepares them for sales. This role includes basic jobs like feeding horses, mucking out stables, grooming them and teaching them how to lead and walk properly.

Stud Manager

Oversees the smooth running of all aspects of the stud farm. They manage rosters and staffing, feeding programs, breeding activity and maintain pasture standard.

Trainer

Develops exercise and feed programs and trains horses with the intention of winning races. They identify which distance is most suitable for the horse and target those races.

Truck Driver

Safely transports horses between locations in a timely manner. Horses are always on the move between stud farms, sales, stables, the races, off site training facilities, veterinary clinics and spelling farms.



Photo Credit: Ash Brennan

Riding Roles

Trackrider

Rides horses in trackwork to improve fitness and prepare them for the races. They report on the horse's condition and movement to the trainer. Track riders don't have to be as light as jockeys.

Clerk of the Course

Rides a horse (usually a grey) and is responsible for keeping the racehorses calm and safe before, during and after a race or trial. They lead nervous or agitated horses out to the barriers and catch any horses that break free or throw their jockey. Excellent riding and horsemanship skills are required.

Breaker

Responsible for educating young horses in the basics required for them to begin training. This can include familiarizing them with the gear and tack they are going to wear, going under saddle for the first time, having a rider on their back and experiencing race track related moments for the first time. Excellent riding skills and horsemanship knowledge is required for this role.

Thoroughbred Re-educator

Retrains retired racehorses for other pursuits off the track such as showjumping, dressage, showing, trail riding, barrel racing, cattle mustering, equine therapy and more. physiotherapy is required for this role.

Jockey

Rides horses in races. They take riding instructions from trainers and owners but need to be strategic thinkers to guide their mount into the best position to win.



Photo Credit: Joan Faras

Race Day

Bookmaker

Takes bets on which horse will win each race. They set the odds based on how likely they think a horse is to win. There are on course bookmakers who take bets in person at the races. Corporate bookmakers mostly take bets online via an app or website.

Barrier Attendant

Part of a team responsible for safely loading horses and jockeys into the barriers before the start of a race or trial. They often work as stablehands as well.

General Manager of Racing & Wagering

Liaises with key stakeholders to build a world class racing offering for their club. This includes maintaining relationships with trainers, owners, and race clubs to attract the best horses both domestically and internationally, and working with on course bookmakers to ensure a positive experience for punters.

The Starter

Signals the start of each race by pressing a button to open the barriers. They oversee all horses, riders, and racecourse personnel in the lead up to each race to ensure a fair start in accordance with the Rules of Racing.



Photo Credit: Ash Brennan



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Racecaller / Commentator

Accurately announces horse positions and what's happening in a race and builds excitement towards the finish. This is particularly important for radio or other situations where the listeners can't see the horses clearly. Top race callers have a sharp memory and clear, strong voice.

Clerk of the Scales

Checks the jockeys are wearing the right silks and weighs them to ensure they are carrying the correct weight before heading out for a race. They weigh them again when they return to confirm correct weight for the official results.

Racecourse Manager / Track Curator

Maintains the grass and ensures it is in top condition for race day. They mow regularly, control weeds, monitor soil samples, decide when to irrigate, and provide updates to the media team who then share the track information.

Racehorse Owner Experience Manager

Facilitates the best possible experience for racehorse owners. In the lead up to a race day they ensure owners are provided with clear information about ticketing, access, hospitality options, and benefits. They are on hand on race day to guide owners, particularly winners, in the right areas and answer any questions.

Media Marketing and Communications

Form Analyst

Studies all aspects of previous races and trials including track conditions, distance, weight, other circumstances like interference, and the field to identify which horses will be most competitive in an upcoming race. They often provide tips for a publication.

Journalist

Works in print, radio, television, and online. Covers a range of topics from race previews to reviews, sale insights and results, industry news, leadership changes and other interesting stories.

TV Presenter

Researches topics, conducts interviews, and presents the key information on camera. They must constantly seek the most interesting angles and content to attract and retain viewers. Presenters can be on live television such as SkyRacing or pre-recorded media such as a YouTube channel.

Marketing Manager

Develops and actions a plan to promote their area of the industry. This includes advertising and all aspects of social media marketing such as providing live instagram coverage of race results and on-track entertainment.

Media Manager

Is the contact between the media and organisations such as race clubs, studs, stables, and auction houses. They inform the media of upcoming events and significant news such as a track gallop with a star horse. They also manage photograph and film opportunities and conduct interviews with industry talent. They try to get as much coverage as possible and minimize the negative stories.

Photographer

Takes high quality photographs of significant moments such as race finishes, horses being offered for sale, stallions, social events and more. There are professional photographers at every race meeting so owners can buy pictures of their horses winning. Some photographers are employed directly by a race club, auction house, a media outlet, or agency. Others are self employed.



Australian Racing by Numbers:

19,000+
Races annually

35,103
Active racehorses

12,000+
Foals born annually

387
Race clubs

811
Jockeys

4078
Trainers

524
Standing stallions

93,000+
Racehorse owners

\$9.5billion
Annual contribution
to the economy

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