



## Signalman Job Description

Our signalmen operate the signals and points that help make sure trains run safely and on time. You'll be a guardian for safety and will be responsible for maintaining safety standards not just when the railway is running normally but also when there is disruption or failures of both trains and equipment.

- You'll be the focal point of operations in the area controlled by your signal-box, as part of the team of staff that manages safety and operates trains on the railway. As well as being responsible for the safety of our passengers and staff, you must be calm, methodical and analytical, so you can make your decisions accurately after proper consideration.
- You'll be expected to take the lead in your duties, being assertive and in command of many different situations, so good communication skills are key. This includes written communications as accurate record keeping and event recording are also an essential element of the role.
- Sign on for all rostered duty's on-time, fit for work and with all relevant equipment.
- Be smartly dressed for your role, we suggest a shirt and tie as a minimum.

### Training:

- To train up as a Signalman you need to do a minimum of 20 turns shadowing a qualified and experienced signalman to gain knowledge and learn how to undertake the role.
- You'll be expected to attend a signalling school run by the railway to learn about the basic principles of railway signalling.
- You'll also have to do a written test, rules test and a practical assessment as well as a Medical before being passed out as a qualified signalman.
- Once qualified you'll be expected to do biennial re-assessment and quarterly written tests to ensure your competence is maintained. You'll also be expected to attend regular training days and courses throughout the year.

### Requirements:

- Excellent communications, a strong sense of responsibility, an ability to work under pressure and make systematic decisions in a timely fashion.
- As well as good hearing, eyesight and normal colour perception you'll need good concentration skills too, and a minimum level of physical fitness. There will be times when you need to maintain your attention even when there is not much happening and other times when you need to focus on the detail to make sure an activity is performed correctly or switch between many different activities, for example when train operations are disrupted.
- You must be able to pass a medical assessment by our medical practitioner to ensure you are fit for you duty.



- You must be able to assess situations and think through the outcome of your actions, sometimes under pressure. In most cases you'll be the only one in your signal box, so self-motivation and the ability to work alone are essential.
- Not everyone is suitable for the role of signaller. The essential qualities required have been described above and you need to be aware of some of the things both training for and carrying out the role involves.
- A good hand writing ability to keep legible and accurate written documents of all events.

#### Ideal skills/previous experience/things to know:

- It's not a 9 to 5 job, and can often involve early starts and late finishes, the usual sign on time is 08.15.
- You must stay for the duration of your rostered duty.
- You can work from the relative comfort of the signal box, with the opportunity to rest your legs and sit down but beware you could be needed to leap into action at a moment's notice.
- You'll be working in the signal box on your own predominantly so will need to be self-motivating and be able to handle pressurised situations by yourself.
- If, in the unlikely event, something goes wrong you will hold the responsibility for dealing with that situation and co-ordinating a response, often working with the Responsible, Duty and Incident Officers.
- If there is an incident you will be expected to stay late to help finished the clear up operation.