

Careers Information

Job title: Airport Baggage Handler

Entry Requirements

Explore the different ways to get into this role.
You can get into this job through:

- A college course
- An Apprenticeship
- Applying directly

College

You could do a college course, which would teach you some of the skills and knowledge you need in this job. Relevant courses include the Level 2 Certificate or Diploma in Aviation Environment.

Entry requirements

You'll usually need:

2 or more GCSEs at grades 9 to 3 (A* to D), or equivalent, for a level 2 course

Apprenticeship

You could train for this role through an intermediate apprenticeship as an aviation ground operative or an aviation ground handler.

This will usually take 12 months to complete. You'll do on-the-job training and spend time at a college or training provider.

Jobs may be advertised on the websites of airport authorities and agencies, recruitment agencies and in local newspapers.

Skills You'll need:

- Customer service skills
- Physical skills like movement, coordination and dexterity
- Patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations
- The ability to work well with others
- The ability to work on your own
- knowledge of public safety and security
- The ability to accept criticism and work well under pressure
- Excellent verbal communication skills

- To be able to carry out basic tasks on a computer or hand-held

What you'll do

In this job, you may:

- Transfer luggage from check-in areas to departure areas
- Make sure luggage gets onto the right plane
- Move luggage to and from aircraft holds using trucks, cargo loaders and conveyor systems
- Store cargo in warehouses
- Load luggage onto conveyors in the arrivals hall
- Report baggage that's damaged or suspicious

Career path and progression

With experience, you could work as a 'lead ramp hand', lining up planes ready for the next flight. You could also train staff on equipment and procedures.

You could move into supervisory management or passenger handling operations.

Related courses

Aviation Operations Level 3 Diploma - South Essex College

Diploma in Aviation Operations on the Ground (QCF)

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