



Australian Government

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts Australian Antarctic Division

AERODROME PLANT OPERATOR – Wilkins Runway

The typical employment period for Aerodrome Plant Operators varies between approximately 6 to 15 months. During this period you will be required to undertake training in Hobart for up to 8 weeks before departure and remain in Hobart for a debrief of up to 5 days immediately following return from Antarctica.

The AAD is in the process of negotiating a new Collective Agreement which may include the remuneration and general employment conditions which will apply to expeditioner employees. Implementation of the new Collective Agreement is scheduled for August 2009. It is expected that some changes will occur in respect to the current salary structure for expeditioner employees therefore the following figures only give an indication of the possible level of salary and allowances. These are minimum figures and we expect that they will increase once the new Collective Agreement is finalised.

Annual base salary (while in Australia)

\$52,671 (\$2,019 per fortnight before tax) - \$55,840 (\$2,140 pf)

Annual base salary and Antarctic Allowance (while in Antarctica)

\$100,142 (\$3,839 per fortnight before tax) - \$103,311 (\$3,960 pf)

Recreational Leave - You will accrue recreation leave which will be paid on completion of your service if you have not taken any leave during your employment in Australia – leave is not available while you are in Antarctica. This equates to an annual amount of \$4,038-\$4,280.

Superannuation - A generous employer superannuation contribution of 15.4% based on ordinary time earnings will apply where eligibility to join the Public Sector Superannuation Accumulation Plan is established.

This equates to a minimum of \$310 per fortnight while in Australia and \$591 per fortnight while in Antarctica.

Other Benefits - Also remember that under normal circumstances you will be provided with; at no cost to you, all your cold weather clothing requirements, accommodation and when in Antarctica, your food. This has the potential to save you thousands of dollars in costs that you would normally incur working in Australia.

If the above sounds attractive to you, the following will provide you with information which will allow you to decide whether you have the skill set and personal qualities which are required to perform this role.

As an Aerodrome Plant Operator at Wilkins you will be directly involved in the construction and maintenance of the Wilkins runway. You will also have a role in the operation of the aerodrome after receiving appropriate training.

The Wilkins Runway site is remote, some three hours from Casey Station. You will be a member of a small team (6-8 people) who live at this site through the summer period for up to six months. Living in this environment requires all team members to complete a wide range of additional duties that are essential to maintaining the Wilkins accommodation and facilities. Additionally, the austere weather conditions at the site make it difficult for a daily routine to become established. Generally, there are periods of blizzards (high winds) when little work can be completed which are punctuated with windows of fine weather when most productive work is undertaken. During period of fine weather, long work days can be expected (up to 12 hours). Night work or shifts may also be implemented during the season.

What will you actually do on the job?

- Operate a variety of machinery in support of runway construction and maintenance including:
 - Cat D7R Dozer
 - Cat 966G Loader
 - Hagglands all-terrain vehicles
 - Overaasen and Schmidt snow blowers
 - Challenger MT 865B and Case Quadtrac tractors towing compaction rollers and trailers
- Perform operator level preventative maintenance and servicing on plant.
- Manually 'de-blizz' plant and machinery after strong winds.
- Assist mechanics in conducting repairs and servicing to plant and equipment.
- Undertake other construction tasks such as snow harvesting, pot hole repairs, pavement testing, assisting the surveyor, etc
- Undertake common duties necessary for the operation of the camp such as, refuelling generators, 'de-blizz' camp infrastructure, conduct resupply activities, participate in search and rescue training/operations, assist in taking weather observations, water production and operate oversnow vehicles between the runway and Casey station.
- Undertake duties necessary for the operation of the Aerodrome such as assisting in the following tasks; maintaining runway markers, operate and maintain runway lighting equipment, establishing terminal facilities, assisting with VHF/HF/iridium communication schedules, marshalling and supervising passengers, aircraft loading, handling cargo, aircraft marshalling, and responding to aircraft emergencies.

As well as these specific roles you will also be required to, in common with all other expeditioners, perform duties rostered by the station leader or Wilkins supervisor to support the community life of the camp/station, such as general kitchen duties, garbage clearance, water duties, and assisting other expedition members with official programs.

You will have knowledge and experience in the following to allow you to undertake the above functions.

- Significant experience in the operation of plant.
- Hold relevant national licenses or CCF endorsements to operate the plant listed above.
- Experience in the servicing of plant and equipment.

Personal Qualities Requirements

As a member of a small community there are also personal attribute requirements which the Australian Antarctic Division assesses very closely. You will need to meet the personal qualities criteria listed below.

To be successful you will:

- Demonstrate a strong work ethic.
- Demonstrate that you can make a positive contribution to the community and team.
- Demonstrate that you respond to authority and are compliant with the law, legislative requirements and AAD policies and procedures.
- Demonstrate a commitment to Australian Antarctic program specific requirements.

Due to the working conditions at Wilkins there will be special emphasis on you having

- a practical nature and a demonstrated ability to assimilate formal and on site training, and
- a high degree of tolerance for your work and living environment and well developed stress coping mechanisms.

Medical, Psychological and Security Screening

If you are assessed as meeting the above job related and personal quality requirements, you will be required to undergo medical, psychological and security screening. Meeting the requirements of these is mandatory.

Our Polar Medicine Unit will decide on your medical fitness for duty in Antarctica following tests conducted on our behalf by a nominated medical practitioner (currently Health for Industry).

Psychological assessments are conducted on our behalf by the Directorate of Psychology, Department of Defence.

Security checks vary depending on the role required. This may be limited to a police records check.

What happens now?

Do you think that you can meet our requirements? Do you want a job that offers challenges you won't normally face in Australia and provides a working environment and opportunities that you could only dream about?

Why not consider submitting an application to join us?

Please take time to access the **General Information** available on the Job Vacancies page as it contains important information you need to know about remuneration, employment and related issues.

If you would like to talk to someone about applying, please contact, for technical matters Matt Filipowski (03) 62323209 or for general information 1800 030 755.

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