



TRAFFIC OFFICER'S CAREER INFORMATION

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers



SAFE

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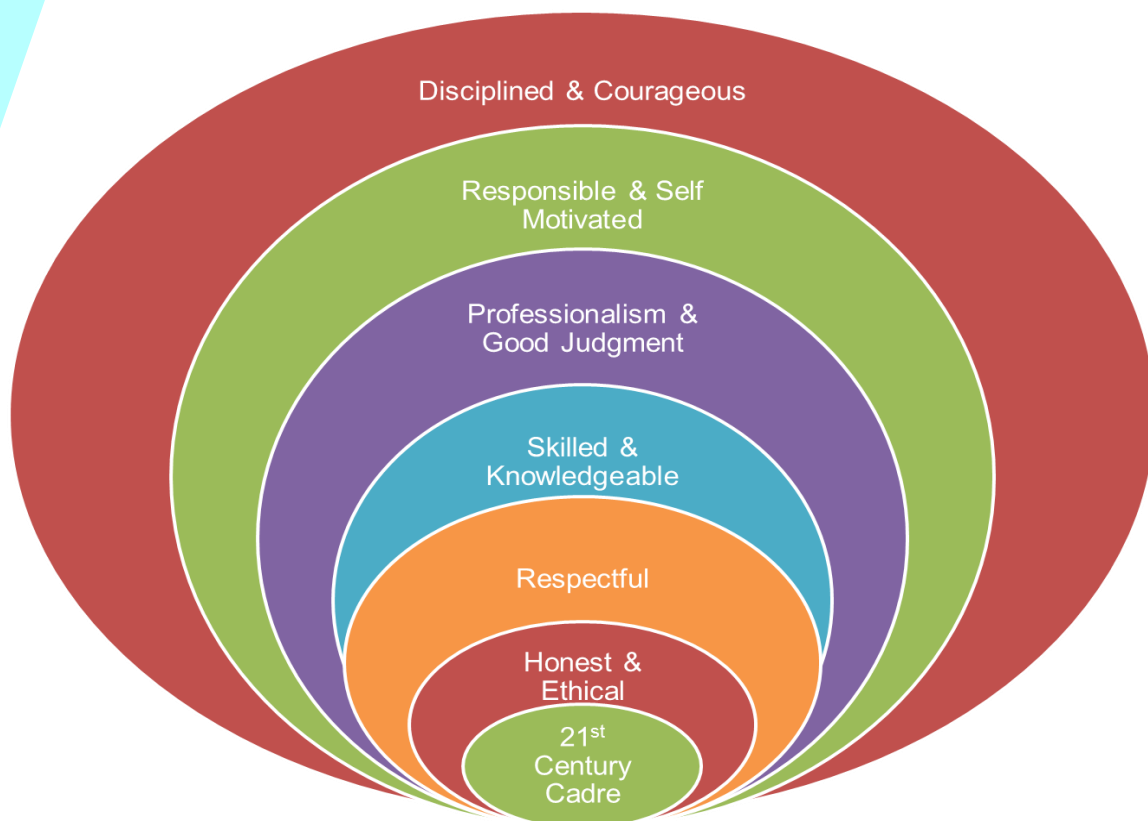
RESPONSIBLE

TRAFFIC OFFICER'S CAREER INFORMATION

1. WHY IS THE CAREER OF TRAFFIC OFFICER'S SO IMPORTANT?

The Road Traffic Management Corporation has committed itself to develop a 21st Century Cadre for Road Traffic Management in South Africa. This Cadre will produce dedicated and skilled Traffic Officers who will enforce the rules of the road; who will protect and serve without fear or favor. They will ensure that all road users, including pedestrians, use our roads in an orderly and safe manner. The key purpose of Traffic Officers is to ensure the safe and free flow of traffic to prevent road crashes and deaths on our roads.

The diagram below illustrates the characteristics of the 21st Century Cadre:



2. WHAT DOES ONE DO IN THIS CAREER?

A distinction is made between Provincial Traffic Officers and Municipal Traffic Officers. Provincial Traffic Officers perform their duties within the boundaries of Provinces and Municipal Traffic Officers perform their duties within the boundaries of Municipalities. Provincial Traffic Officers are also known as Provincial Inspectors. They enforce compliance of the National Road Traffic Act, National Land

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Transport Act and Administrative Adjudication of Road Traffic Offences Act. They control traffic, inspect vehicles for roadworthiness, and enforce road traffic signs and rules of the road.

3. WHAT WILL THE WORKPLACE BE LIKE?

Provincial Inspectors and Traffic Officers spent most of their working hours outdoors on the roads. A small portion of their time is spent in courtrooms and offices doing administrative duties. They do their patrol duties mainly in motorcars and some on motorcycles and on foot.

4. WHAT INSTRUMENTS, TOOLS OR MATERIALS WILL ONE WORK WITH?

Speed-measuring apparatus, alcohol test apparatus, measuring tapes, mass-measuring apparatus, summons books, infringement notices etc.

5. WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES AND DRAWBACKS OF THIS CAREER?

- Advantages: Working with people and helping them to obey traffic rules, assisting to reduce the number of road crashes and thus saving lives.
- Drawbacks: Be able to work with people with various personalities, having to work during holidays and weekends on 24-hour shifts. Performing duties in all weather conditions.

6. HOW DO I BECOME A TRAFFIC OFFICER?

You first need to be employed / appointed as a trainee, (permanently or on contract), by a Provincial Department of Transport, a Municipality, or a Government Agency such as the Road Traffic Management Corporation or Cross Border Road Transport Agency. These Authorities normally advertise vacant posts in the Open Media.

You therefore need to check your local and national newspapers on a regular basis. You may also contact any Local or Provincial Authority directly to enquire whether vacancies exist and when posts will be advertised.

7. WHAT ARE THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS TO BECOME A TRAFFIC OFFICER?

- Grade 12 or equivalent (No specific subjects needed)
- No criminal record
- Code B driving Licence (manual transmission)
- Medical Certificate – that a person may do strenuous exercises.
- Applicants shall not be older than 35 years of age

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8. WHERE DO I TRAIN AS A TRAFFIC OFFICER?

Once you are employed as a Traffic Trainee you will be sent to one of the 13 Traffic Colleges approved by the Minister of Transport. Only the following Traffic Colleges and Metro Police Academies may currently train Traffic Officers in South Africa:

NAME OF TRAFFIC COLLEGE	CITY/ PROVINCE	CONTACT NUMBER
1. Limpopo Traffic Training College	Mutale - Limpopo	(015) 967 9300
2. Boekenhoutkloof Traffic Training College	Pretoria - Gauteng	083 676 5133
3. KZN Traffic Training College	Pietermaritzburg – KZN	(033) 394 0202
4. Lengau Traffic Training College	Bloemfontein - Free State	(051) 409 0444
5. Mangaung Traffic Training College	Bloemfontein – Free State	(051) 412 8100
6. Gene Louw Traffic Training College	Cape Town – Western Cape	(021) 983 1501
7. Durban Metro Police Academy	Durban – KZN	(031) 701 0462
8. Johannesburg Metro Police Academy	Johannesburg - Gauteng	(011) 429 5010
9. Tshwane Metro Police Academy	Pretoria – Gauteng	(012) 358 0005
10. Ekurhuleni Metro Police Academy	Springs – Gauteng	(011) 812 8700
11. Port Elizabeth Traffic Training College	Port Elizabeth – Eastern Cape	(041) 390 4501
12. Matjhabeng Traffic Training College	Welkom – Free State	(051) 876 2224
13. Cape Town Metro Police Academy	Cape Town - Western Cape	(021) 447 2366
14. Mkhuhlu Traffic Training College	Bushbuck Ridge - Mpumalanga	(013) 766 4038

9. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A METRO POLICE OFFICER AND A TRAFFIC OFFICER?

Metro Police Officers are trained as Traffic Officers and on certain functions of Police Officers. Before you can become a Metro Police Officer you must be trained and registered as a Traffic Officer. In addition to all their duties as Traffic Officers; Metro Police Officers also focus on crime prevention and the enforcement of Municipal by-laws.

10. CAN I STILL ENROLL ON MY OWN TO BE TRAINED AS A TRAFFIC OFFICER EVEN IF I AM NOT EMPLOYED?

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No, however, you can study Traffic Management related courses at various FET Colleges or Universities. These courses should give you an advantage when Authorities advertise Traffic Officers posts.

11. CAN I BE INVOLVED IN ROAD SAFETY WITHOUT BEING A TRAFFIC OFFICER?

Yes, you can do so by starting to obey all rules of the road yourself. Wear a seatbelt when you are a passenger in a vehicle fitted with seatbelts. Wear bright colour clothes at night when you are a pedestrian and always cross a road at a pedestrian crossing when available.

You can also register as a Voluntary Public Traffic Observer (VPTO) at www.rtmco.co.za. The participation by members of the Public in this project is entirely voluntary - As a voluntary public Traffic Observer (VPTO), you will be required only to observe, record and submit the required information to the RTMC. A VPTO will undertake this voluntary task as inconspicuously as possible, for their own safety and security reasons, and will at no time be entitled to stop and/or confront a suspected or alleged traffic offender - Persons registered as Traffic Observers (VPTOs) will not be compensated in any manner for this voluntary service - VPTOs will not receive privileges of any nature and no special markings for their vehicles will be provided for their own safety and security reasons. Any VPTO wishing to lay formal charges against a fellow road user who committed an offence, must follow the normal procedures and approach their nearest Traffic Authority or Police Station for further advice in this regard.

12. WHAT CAN I DO IF I AM A PASSENGER IN A VEHICLE AND I NOTICE THAT THE DRIVER OR THE VEHICLE DOES NOT COMPLY WITH THE RULES OF THE ROAD?

Phone the RTMC's Call centre Number: **0861 400 800** (Not toll free) with full particulars of the vehicle and its location. A Traffic Officer will be requested to assist where possible.

13. I GRADUATED FROM AN APPROPRIATELY RECOGNIZED TERTIARY TRAINING INSTITUTION, WHICH IS PROPERLY REGISTERED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION. IT SEEMS AS IF METRO POLICE AND TRAFFIC DEPARTMENTS DO NOT TAKE MY DEGREE COURSE INTO CONSIDERATION WHEN THEY APPOINT PERSONNEL. WHY IS THIS THE CASE AND WHAT MUST I DO?

Firstly, make sure you meet the requirements for the position that you applied for.

All Tertiary Training Institutions, registered with the Department of Higher Education, may develop their own training courses. The Traffic Fraternity is many times consulted to provide input into the curriculums and course content of these courses. The traffic fraternity has no jurisdiction over

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Tertiary Institutions. Tertiary Institutions enroll students in terms of their own regulations and successful students will graduate with fully recognized Diplomas / Degrees.

All Local Authorities, Provincial, and Metro Police Departments are autonomous with regard to the appointment of officials to various positions. Each Department will decide individually on their appointments. Higher qualifications should put you in a better position to compete for employment should you meet the requirements of advertised posts.

Candidates who meet the entry requirements of advertised posts/internships are encouraged to keep on applying for these positions. Candidates must pay particular attention to how they compile their CV's and application letters. Interviewing and Short listing-Committees disregard many applications due to candidates not completing the application forms properly, not signing when necessary, not certifying documents when necessary, not including all documentation as per the advert, etc.

14. WE ARE STRUGGLING TO FIND THE POST REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION FORMS. I VISITED YOUR WEBSITE BUT WAS NOT SUCCESSFUL.

Note that each Traffic Department will have their own requirements. The Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC) sets the minimum requirements. You are therefore encouraged to contact your local Municipal Traffic Department or Provincial Traffic Department for these requirements or application forms.

The RTMC will advertise any posts in the national newspapers, should posts become available in the Corporation. Also check the website of the Corporation for posts on www.rtmco.co.za and click on the vacancies tab.

15. CAN ONE BE OFFERED A BURSARY & HOW MUCH IS THE TRAINING FEES?

The Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC) does not offer bursaries for the basic Traffic Officer's Course at present. However, Local and Provincial Authorities normally pay the costs related to the training of Traffic Personnel, including a monthly stipend to trainees.

16. WARNING

It should be noted that the Local or Provincial Authorities normally pay the training fees to Traffic Colleges electronically. Learners must take caution and not pay any individual to secure "a space" at a Traffic Training College. Applicants are advised to ensure that the Colleges that they use for the Basic Traffic Officer's Course is indeed a Traffic College, which is fully registered, accredited **and approved in terms of the National Road Traffic Act**. For further information the Road Traffic

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Management Corporation (RTMC) may be contacted on telephone number 012 999 5200 or visit our website on www.rtmc.co.za .

IMPORTANT:

Kindly contact your nearest, or any Traffic Department, Metro Police or Provincial Department of Transport directly to find out about available vacancies / the next intake of traffic trainees and to obtain the relevant application form.

Enquiries:

RTMC: Traffic Training

Ms Jamela Shingange

Tel: 012 999 5242

E-mail: CynthiciaS@rtmc.co.za

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