

Pastry chef

A Pastry Chef works to make sweets-desserts that will appeal to both eye and taste.

Pastry Chefs are employed in a variety of settings such as Hotels, Restaurants, and Pubs. They make dishes for a limited number of customers as they usually work with fairly small quantities.

Pastry Chefs mostly do their work by hand. They weigh and sift the ingredients, knead the dough either by hand or with an electric mixer creating delectable pastries. In larger establishments the Pastry Chef may have an assistant to help. The Pastry Chef is supervised by the Head Chef who is in charge of the entire kitchen.

Being a Pastry Chef requires a lot of hard work, mentally and physically. The job requirement includes the ability to pay close attention to detail and pride in one's work.

Pastry chef training

Becoming a Pastry Chef, formal training: (in some instances certain establishments will accept a person who has had on-the-job-training and worked at the job for a number of years) with developed culinary skills and a strong desire to cook. These are the requirements for a successful career. Also a Pastry Chef needs to possess creativity in order to successfully create new types of pastries.

Once a Pastry Chef is established in his/her career for a number of years, they may be expected to supervise apprentices and also teach coursework.

Working conditions

Pastry Chefs work and stand by hot ovens most of the day. Kitchens should be well lighted and convenient to use. They are also responsible for making sure that the kitchen remains clean and supervised.

Hours of work

You'll probably have to work split shifts and at least 40 hours a week.

What qualifications do you need?

An established Pastry Chef will have notable experience and qualifications obtained through internal training programs or HND / SVQ's gained at college. The Pastry Chef will have expert knowledge of patisserie and bread preparation.

What sort of salary can I expect?

A Pastry Chef salary is circa £20,000 to £35,000 per annum, depending on the establishment and the size of the brigade.

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