**Career Profile: Transport Manager**

A transport manager organizes and controls the operations of a transportation business and therefore needs a firm grasp of the transport industry, relevant legislation and how road, rail, sea and air modes of transport interact. All of them can be involved in transporting passengers and goods.

Typical activities of a transport manager may include:

* managing a team of supervisors, administrative staff and drivers
* coordinating staff training
* arranging vehicle maintenance
* organizing the maintenance and replacement of vehicles and equipment
* drawing up transportation schedules and dealing with orders and bookings
* ensuring that goods are stored and delivered in ways that protect their quality
* providing vehicles for hire or charter
* making sure that operations are carried out in compliance with laws and regulations that govern vehicle safety, fuel emissions, driver hours, and the transportation of food, livestock and hazardous goods
* ensuring that the way administration and reporting are conducted enables a database for proper planning and running of the department accounting purposes and management reporting.

**Education Requirements**

National Senior Certificate (NSC)

For a career in transport management students are advised to select English and Mathematics, and to add to this a selection from the designated subjects. These are subjects that are particularly suitable for tertiary study.

Bachelor Degree

**Bachelor of Commerce or BAdmin – (3 years)**A three year degree programme that focuses on developing knowledge and skills for entry into careers in the field of transport

**Offered at:**

* [University of Limpopo](http://www.ul.ac.za/index.php?Entity=sch_eco_man_aca)[[1]](#footnote-1) (School of Economics and Management , BAdmin in Transport Management)
* [University of Pretoria](http://web.up.ac.za/default.asp?ipkCategoryID=1086&sub=1&parentid=1055&subid=1082&ipklookid=3)[[2]](#footnote-2) (Department of Business Management, BCom with the option Supply Chain Management)
* [University of South Africa](http://brochure.unisa.ac.za/brochure/showprev.aspx?d=l_3_2&f=p_02011LOG)[[3]](#footnote-3) (College of Ecoomic and Management Sciences, BCom in Logistics)

National Diploma / BTech

**National Diploma (3 years),** followed by **Bachelor of Technology**, a further 1 year. They focus on developing knowledge and skills for entry into careers in the field of transport.

**Offered at:**

* [University of Johannesburg](http://www.uj.ac.za/transport/Home/tabid/694/Default.aspx)[[4]](#footnote-4) (Department of Transport and Supply Chain Management)

**Possible Employers**

* [Department of Transport](http://www.transport.gov.za/)[[5]](#footnote-5)
* [Cargo Carriers](http://www.cargocarriers.co.za/)[[6]](#footnote-6)
* [Imperial Logistics](http://www.imperiallogistics.co.za/)[[7]](#footnote-7)
* [Courier companies such as](http://www.imperiallogistics.co.za/) [DHL](http://www.dhl.co.za/)[[8]](#footnote-8)
* Businesses with a fleet of vehicles

**Find out more**

Find out more about transport management:

* The home page of [Imperial Logistics](http://www.imperiallogistics.co.za/index.php?link=20090114090135)[[9]](#footnote-9) which has over 70 operating companies in Southern Africa and introduces the scale of this type of work. It also has an interesting Graduate Development Programme in Logistics/Supply Chain Management, Industrial Engineering and Financial Management (CIMA)
* The [Road Transport Management System](http://www.nra.co.za/live/content.php?Item_ID=95)[[10]](#footnote-10) is outlined in the Executive Summary. If you want more detail you can explore the rest of the document.
* A press release about the latest [State of Logistics Survey](http://www.imperiallogistics.co.za/userfiles/file/PR030409_5thSOL.pdf)[[11]](#footnote-11). It points to challenges facing the industry.
* An analysis of the [transport and logistics industry](http://www.smartprocurement.co.za/archives/market_analysis_the_south_african_transport_and_logistics_industry_an_industry_in_turmoil.php)[[12]](#footnote-12) which may be demanding but worthwhile reading.
* **Fastmoving.co.za** is a Trade Communication Portal showcasing the [South African FMCG Retail industry](http://www.fastmoving.co.za/retail-services/logistics)[[13]](#footnote-13). It provides the local and international industry with information about products, trends and services. The link provided is to its logistics services.
* Comments from a [seminar for transport managers](http://www.freightnet.com/release/4353.htm)[[14]](#footnote-14) give some idea of the range of responsibilities of the job.
* Information about a certificate course in [Applied Logistics and Supply Chain Management](http://web.wits.ac.za/Prospective/Part-time/CertificateCourses/SupplyChainManagement.htm)[[15]](#footnote-15) offered at the University of the Witwatersrand.
* A Financial Mail article on some [issues facing company fleets](http://secure.financialmail.co.za/report06/fleet06/afleet.htm)[[16]](#footnote-16) new to transport management.

**Are you suited to this career?**

This quick quiz can help you to identify whether you are suited for this career.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Quiz** | **YES** | **NO** |
| Do you enjoy organising work? |  |  |
| Are you committed to achieving set targets? |  |  |
| Do you pay attention to detail? |  |  |
| Are you interested in solving problems? |  |  |
| Do you work well with other people and groups? |  |  |
| Are detail and accuracy in your work important to you? |  |  |
| Are you a good negotiator? |  |  |
| Can you communicate well in speech and in writing? |  |  |
| Are you able to cope with pressure and stress when confronted with obstacles? |  |  |
| Do you believe that transport can make a valuable contribution to companies and the country’s economy? |  |  |

If you have mainly yes answers it may be an indication that this is a career to consider.

1. http://www.ul.ac.za/index.php?Entity=sch\_eco\_man\_aca [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. http://web.up.ac.za/default.asp?ipkCategoryID=1086&sub=1&parentid=1055&subid=1082&ipklookid=3 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. http://brochure.unisa.ac.za/brochure/showprev.aspx?d=l\_3\_2&f=p\_02011LOG [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. http://www.uj.ac.za/transport/Home/tabid/694/Default.aspx [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. http://www.transport.gov.za/ [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. http://www.cargocarriers.co.za/ [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. http://www.imperiallogistics.co.za/ [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. http://www.imperiallogistics.co.za/ [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. http://www.imperiallogistics.co.za/index.php?link=20090114090135 [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. http://www.nra.co.za/live/content.php?Item\_ID=95 [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. http://www.imperiallogistics.co.za/userfiles/file/PR030409\_5thSOL.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. http://www.smartprocurement.co.za/archives/market\_analysis\_the\_south\_african\_transport\_and\_logistics\_industry\_an\_industry\_in\_turmoil.php [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. http://www.fastmoving.co.za/retail-services/logistics [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. http://www.freightnet.com/release/4353.htm [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. http://web.wits.ac.za/Prospective/Part-time/CertificateCourses/SupplyChainManagement.htm [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. http://secure.financialmail.co.za/report06/fleet06/afleet.htm [↑](#footnote-ref-16)