

Apprenticeship Training Programme

Phase 1: *With Employer*

Induction Training
Introduction to Health & Safety Training
Introduction to Tools & Equipment
Introduction to Basic Skills

Phase 2: *Delivered in Training Centre (20 week)*

Course Content:
Thermal Processes & Mild Steel Pipefitting
Domestic Hot and Cold Water Services
Domestic Heating/MMA (Manual Metal Arc) Welding

Phase 3: *With Employer*

Work Based Assessments

Phase 4: *Delivered in Educational Colleges (10 weeks)*

Course Content:
Thermal Processes & Mild Steel Pipefitting
Advanced Copper & Plastic Pipework
Oil Fired Boilers & Heating Systems
Pipework Systems

Phase 5: *With Employer*

Work Based Assessments

Phase 6: *Delivered in Educational Colleges (10 weeks)*

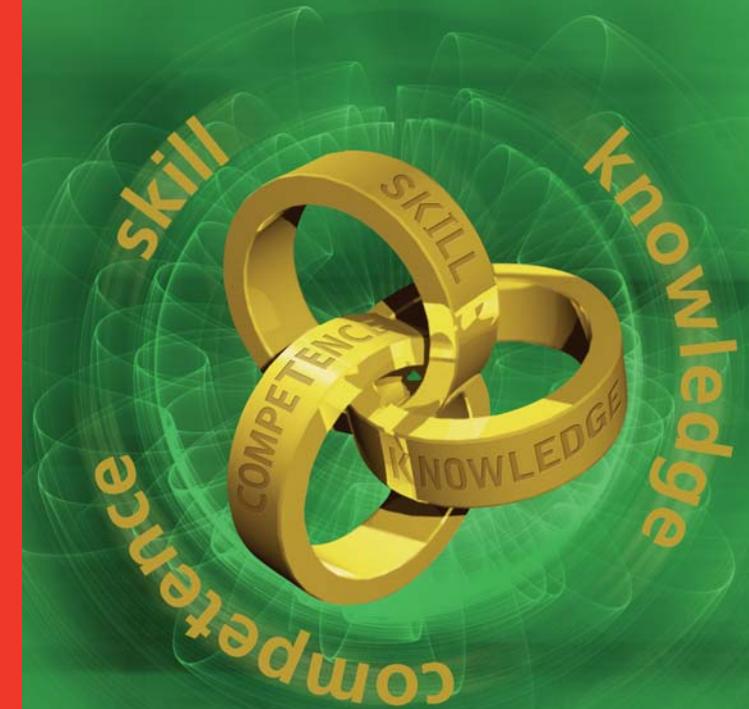
Course Content:
Thermal Processes & Pipefitting
Advanced Pipework, Water & Waste Water Systems
Heating & Air Conditioning
Gas Installation Safety
Plant and Process Systems

Phase 7: *With Employer*

Work Based Assessments

The overall duration of this apprenticeship is a minimum of 4 years provided all phases are successfully completed. On successful completion of the programme the learner is awarded a Level 6 Advanced Certificate Craft - Plumbing.

The Craft of Plumbing



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 **Apprenticeship**

KNOWLEDGE. SKILL. COMPETENCE

Overview

Plumbers install, maintain and repair the water supply, drainage and central heating in houses and other locations. Installation work includes central heating systems and their controls, pipe-work, sanitary systems, drainage systems, guttering and rainwater systems and large refrigeration systems for industry. Maintenance and repair work includes routine servicing and emergency repairs, which involves finding faults, replacing or repairing damaged parts, carrying out tests and ensuring that the system works properly.

Work activities

Plumbers install, maintain and repair hot and cold water systems, sanitary services, heating systems, and pipework and controls for gas supply. They may also apply weather-proofing to roofs.

Plumbers work in a variety of locations including houses, industrial and commercial buildings, ships and aeroplanes.

They use a variety of hand and power tools including wrenches, spanners, saws, cutters and welding gear.

They cut, bend, join and fix materials such as lead, copper, aluminium, plastic, zinc and iron.

Installation work includes central heating systems and their controls and pipework, sanitary systems, drainage systems, guttering and rainwater systems, and large refrigeration systems for industry. When the equipment has been installed, the plumber tests it to make sure that it is working efficiently and safely.

Plumbers work on such technologies as underfloor heating systems, solar heating and geothermal heating systems.

Maintenance and repair work includes routine servicing and emergency repairs. Repair work involves finding faults, replacing or repairing damaged parts, carrying out tests and making sure that the system works properly. Plumbers may be called out at short notice to do emergency repairs, especially in winter if pipes freeze.

Aspects of Work

- Learning new practical skills
- Learning and developing new craft-related skills
- Learning about buildings, roads etc. and how they are built
- Lifting or carrying heavy items
- Travelling around from place to place
- Being physically active and on your feet
- Practical skills and theoretical knowledge
- Understanding technical drawings and diagrams
- Being accurate with numbers in counting, measuring and arithmetic
- Work requiring accuracy and attention to detail
- Using tools or machinery to shape metal
- Working evenings or weekends
- Working outdoors in any weather
- Working on ladders or at a height
- Taking responsibility for own learning, including the allocation of study time

Personal qualities and Skills

As a plumber you will need good practical skills and you must work carefully, following specifications and often interpreting plans and drawings.

You need to be physically fit. The work involves a lot of bending, kneeling and working in cramped and awkward spaces. Plumbers use sharp and powered cutting tools and sometimes, work at height on roofs, so you must not suffer from any medical condition, such as frequent blackouts or dizziness, that could be a danger to yourself or others.

Opportunities

Opportunities arise from time-to-time for promotion to supervisor level. Many persons use an apprenticeship as a first step in proceeding to such occupations as instructors, teachers, training advisers, managers and owners of businesses.

Where apprentices and crafts persons have the necessary ability, initiative and basic qualifications, opportunities are available for advancement. These include advanced technological and management courses which are available in Institutes of Technology, Schools of Management, Professional Institutes, etc.

People anxious to advance themselves in their careers are advised to discover for themselves what opportunities are available.

Educational Requirements

The minimum age at which the employment of an apprentice may commence is 16 years of age.

The minimum educational requirements are:

1. Grade D in five subjects in the Department of Education & Skills Junior Certificate Examination or an approved equivalent,
or
2. The successful completion of an approved Pre-Apprenticeship course
or
3. Three years' work experience gained over sixteen years of age in a relevant designated industrial activity as SOLAS shall deem acceptable.

You must obtain a job as an apprentice in your chosen occupation. Your employer must be approved to train apprentices and must register you as an apprentice within 2 weeks of recruitment.

In certain crafts, apprenticeship applicants are required to pass a colour vision test approved by SOLAS.