

Factsheet 26

Plumbing

National Apprenticeship Service

Overview

This Apprenticeship covers training in a range of plumbing systems, components and their installation. The plumbing industry is a key part of the UK's construction industry and is a competitive field that employs skilled craftspeople.

As a Plumbing apprentice, you will learn about the installation and maintenance of plumbing systems and components, and take a certificate in basic plumbing skills, covering safety, water systems, sanitation and central heating.

Job prospects are good, with scope for progression to self-employment following the development of skills and experience. About 60% of the workforce are self-employed or work in small businesses, 22% are employed in sectors outside the construction sector such as the prison service, local government, or the health service. Over 50% of the workforce is aged 35-59. Employment within the sector is expected to increase.

Starting salary (once qualified) ranges from £17,000 - £21,000.

What is an Apprenticeship

An Apprenticeship is a mix of real work and learning. Apprentices earn a wage and get experience whilst working towards a number of qualifications. An Apprenticeship follows a Level 2 programme and can lead onto an Advanced Apprenticeship which is a Level 3 programme.

Example Job Roles as an Apprentice

- Plumber
- Ductwork Installer
- Refrigeration Engineer
- Air conditioning Engineer
- Service and Maintenance Engineer

Apprenticeship Framework

There are a number of elements to each Apprenticeship and this is called the framework. Each Apprenticeship framework has three main strands:

- competence based element
- technical element
- skills element

The three strands are sometimes accompanied by additional qualifications to give the most relevant skills and knowledge required for the job.

Competence Element

Apprenticeship – NVQ Level 2 – Mechanical Engineering Services – Plumbing
Advanced – NVQ Level 3 – Mechanical Engineering Services – Plumbing

Technical Element

Apprenticeship –
Level 2 Certificate: Basic Plumbing Skills
Advanced –
Level 3 Certificate: Domestic Plumbing Studies or Level 3 Award in Plumbing Industrial and Commercial

Skills Element

Apprenticeship –
Application of Number – Level 2
Communication – Level 2
Advanced –
Application of Number – Level 2
Communication – Level 2

Other Additional Study

A range of optional outcomes to be selected

Apprenticeships Available

- Apprenticeship ✓
- Advanced Apprenticeship ✓
- Higher Apprenticeship X

Progression Routes

- Advanced Apprenticeship
- Higher Diploma
- Higher Level Apprenticeship – level 4
- Self Employment

Options within the Framework

To be agreed in line with employer and role

Already Employed?

Are you currently employed but not working towards qualifications? Speak to your employer about converting to an Apprenticeship and ask them to call 08000 150 600 for more information.

For more Information and to Apply

Visit:

www.apprenticeships.org.uk

www.summitskills.org.uk

If you require further advice or support on Apprenticeships please contact your local Connexions or Careers Advice Service.