

Factsheet 8

Construction

National Apprenticeship Service

Overview

Beyond the current recession the construction industry is expected to recover and continue to grow. Some of the growth will come from the increase in housing stock as well as infrastructure improvements such as schools, roads and hospitals.

In 2005 2.41 million people were employed in construction. Construction Skills¹ expect the number to increase to approximately 2.8 million by 2012. Construction is a multi-billion pound industry that deals with developing and building anything from a housing estate to a bridge. Few industries are as wide-ranging, or offer so many different career pathways.

This is one of the broadest Apprenticeships available, covering a range of occupations from bricklaying and plant maintenance to civil engineering and joinery. With a construction Apprenticeship, you could be working on various sites in your region and beyond – there are also plenty of opportunities to work abroad, as many of the largest construction companies operate around the world.

Starting salary (once qualified):
£17,000 - £20,000.

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

- Painter and Decorator
- Joiner
- Carpenter
- Plasterer
- Bricklayer
- Surveyor

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.

¹ www.constructionskills.net The Sector Skills Council for Construction.

Competence Element

Apprenticeship – NVQ Level 2 in chosen route

Advanced – NVQ Level 3 in chosen route

Technical Element

Apprenticeship/Advanced Apprenticeship – Diploma in chosen route from the following;

- Painting and Decorating
- Bricklaying
- Maintenance Operations
- Craft Masonry
- Bench Joinery
- Shop Fitting Bench
- Site Carpentry
- Wood Machining

Skills Element

Apprenticeship –

Communication Level 1

Application of Number Level 1

Advanced –

Communication Level 2

Application of Number Level 2

Other Additional Study

Employment Rights and Responsibilities

Occupational specific qualification

Apprenticeships Available

- Apprenticeship (2-3 Years) ✓
- Advanced Apprenticeship (3-4 Years) ✓
- Higher Apprenticeship ✗

Progression Routes

- Advanced Apprenticeship
- Further Education
- Higher Education
- Supervisory and management positions

Options within the Framework

- Decorative Finishing and Industrial Painting
- Maintenance Operations
- Trowel Occupations
- Wood Occupations

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.constructionskills.net

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