

## NORTHERN IRELAND



## GRANTS - are you missing out?

The CITB-ConstructionSkills NI Grant Scheme is designed to encourage training and assessment in the industry. The construction industry needs a skilled and qualified workforce. Whether you need to train your site and office staff, you want to develop your skills, or you're looking to start a career, CITB-ConstructionSkills NI can help you reach your goals.

We offer grants to support a wide range of training and qualifications, from apprentices, qualifying your existing workforce and business improvement for recognised third-party accredited management systems for the whole of the business.

Through our Training Support Team and continuous employer engagement we help employers decide what training is right for the business and which grants can help pay for it. We regularly speak to our registered employers to find out the key issues that affect them, not only to be aware of the attitudes to training in the construction industry but also to try and do something about it.

This research has highlighted that, whilst the economic downturn is the biggest issue, over two-thirds of those surveyed had provided training in the last 12 months. However not all employers are claiming a grant.

This year we have allocated £1.6million in grant funding to registered in-scope

employers to contribute to the cost of training. We are the only sector in Northern Ireland to still benefit from such a system, but employers are not making the most of it.

### HOW TO CLAIM

Claiming Grants is easy. Employers complete and return a grant claim form with attached copies of attendance or achievement certificates and copy of invoice as soon as training is completed

Claiming as you train makes the process easier for the employer - with our unique ID numbers you can keep track of what you have claimed and how much return on your levy investment you are getting.

Grant applications must be received within three months of attending training and/or of being advised of qualification achievement. Send your applications to us even if all the necessary supporting information is not available at the time of application.

To speed up claiming and payment of grants an online facility is now available to all employers along with the capability to have your grant payments paid directly into your bank account. To be eligible for grant support all training should be based on a recognised occupational standard or accredited by an appropriate recognised body.

Log on to [www.citbcnsni.org.uk/grants.aspx](http://www.citbcnsni.org.uk/grants.aspx) for more information.

## New additional grants for industry support

In light of the current economic climate, we are offering additional grant assistance to support all registered in-scope employers to help encourage training and development throughout the industry.

### GRANTS AVAILABLE NOW:

£1,000 apprentice anniversary grant is available to employers who have an apprentice and who has reached their third consecutive year in employment and is progressing to NVQ Level 3 within the September 2010 - August 2011 training year.

Industry Placement Grant of £100 per week over a 10-week placement period, is available to all registered in-scope employers who offer a construction related industry placement to apprentices currently enrolled on a Programme Led Apprenticeship programme, which requires work experience to complete their recognised qualification. This is normally on a three-day per week basis over three to six months.

For further information on CITB-ConstructionSkills NI Grants contact a member of the Training Operations Support team on 028 9082 5466 or e-mail [info@citbcnsni.org.uk](mailto:info@citbcnsni.org.uk)



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CITB-ConstructionSkills NI  
Nutts Corner Training Centre, 17 Dundrod Road,  
Crumlin, County Antrim, BT29 4SR.  
Tel: 028 9082 5466

# Communication is essential to progression

A group of students from St Patrick's College, Ballymena, have been the first to be involved in an integrated pilot programme for vocational education and Essential Skills sponsored by CITB-ConstructionSkills NI and delivered by Northern Regional College (NRC). The students have been studying Occupational Studies at NRC and have successfully achieved Essential Skills certificates for communication and literacy work on construction related themes. This CCEA Level 2 qualification focuses on construction related activities including wall tiling, brickwork and carpentry and joinery and is equivalent to GCSE level.

Barry Neilson, Chief Executive, CITB-ConstructionSkills NI, said, "It is fantastic to see the students achieving this Essential Skills qualification as part of this project. "Not only are they focusing on vocational topics relevant to construction but they are incorporating the life skills of communication to interpret and implement their learning. This is a perfect example of education and industry working successfully together." Tom Heaney from NRC said, "It is a pleasure



St Patrick's, Broughshane pupils proudly displaying their Essential Skills certificates with Linda Beattie, Amanda Stevenson, CITB-ConstructionSkills NI and Tom Heaney, NRC.

to be involved in the delivery of this project. Through class discussions, project work and activity based learning the key areas of communication have been related to construction.

"This means they are working hard towards their overall Occupational Studies qualification and have achieved the Essential Skills Certificate which will bode well for their

other subjects at GCSE level."

The students of St.Patrick's are to be congratulated on their achievements to date. Through detailed career guidance the students understand the benefits of completing the Essential Skills qualifications and have commented that they have found it useful to their mainstream GCSE English qualification.

## FUNDING AWARD to boost local traditional building skills

CITB-ConstructionSkills NI has secured funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund through its Skills for the Future Programme to provide high quality, work-based training and skills development opportunities across the province.

The funding will be used to equip people for a career in the built heritage sector or for those already working in the sector to expand and improve their knowledge and skills sets. There is a notable lack of opportunity for traditionally skilled crafts people and a lack of co-ordinated formal training provision in this area. The funding will be used to provide a total of 28 placements and training development opportunities for a range of traditional building craft skills including brickwork, stonemasonry, dry stone walling and thatching.

The funding will support 12-month placements for six general and three specialist crafts people, the delivery of three weeks of 'Training the Trainers' programme for up to 15 further education lecturers and the training of four 'Heritage Ambassadors' to act as advocates and mentors for the traditional building skills programme across the province.

Barry Neilson, CITB-ConstructionSkills NI Chief Executive, said, "We are delighted to receive this generous funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and we are pleased to be working in partnership with them in addressing a key need within the built heritage sector."

Paul Mullan, Head of Heritage Lottery Fund, NI, said, "We are delighted to be able to support the project as it is critical to ensure we have a skilled workforce for the future to protect the very best heritage from our past."

Placement opportunities are expected to begin in early 2011 and will be advertised at this time.



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## Praise for CIOB Northern Ireland students at annual awards ceremony

Over 100 CIOB members and guests celebrated the success of local students at the CIOB 2011 Annual Lecture and Awards ceremony held in January and hosted by CITB-ConstructionSkills NI. The presentation focused on 'The Titanic Signature Project, Building an Icon' and was delivered by, Rory Miskelly from EC Harris, Paul Crowe, of Todd Architects, Paul McGettigan, RPS, and Noel Molloy, Harcourt Construction NI Ltd.

Certificates were awarded to over 47 candidates who successfully passed their CIOB examinations last year through CITB-ConstructionSkills NI, Stavley and WYG centres.

Barry Neilson, Chief Executive CITB-ConstructionSkills NI, who presented the students with their certificates, said, "This is a wonderful achievement for these students who have worked incredibly hard to achieve CIOB status.

"CIOB members are skilled managers and professionals with a common commitment to achieving and maintaining the highest possible standards.

"It is poignant to note that this is our last year as an accredited centre for the delivery of CIOB programmes and we are very proud of



CITB-ConstructionSkills NI EPA students receiving their awards from Martin Cushnahan, CIOB and Barry Neilson, CITB-ConstructionSkills NI.

**"Over 98% of those who took part in EPA examinations were successful and should be applauded for such a high and exceptional pass rate."**

the fact that in over 20 years more than 1,000 students have successfully attained CIOB qualifications through our high quality delivery of CIOB training programmes.

"This, in turn, has helped the CIOB in Ireland increase its membership levels in both the Northern and North West centres." Martin Cushnahan, Chair of CIOB Northern Centre, added, "Congratulations to all students for their hard work and dedication and best wishes for the future success in their professional careers. Over 98% of those who

took part in EPA examinations were successful and should be applauded for such a high and exceptional pass rate."

The best overall student for Experienced Practitioner Assessed (EPA) Programme in Northern Ireland was awarded to CITB-ConstructionSkills NI student Stephen Barkley from Ballymoney who is currently employed by Gilbert Ash.

**Anyone interested in supervisory or management level qualifications through CIOB can log on to [www.ciob.org.uk](http://www.ciob.org.uk)**

## Mobile training to help your business succeed

CITB-ConstructionSkills NI works to ensure a safe, professional and fully qualified workforce.

Flexibility is also a key factor and we can actually fulfill a company's training needs on its own premises or sites via the Mobile Training Unit, which provides a convenient and cost effective way of meeting training requirements with minimum disruption to



site work and can cater for groups of all sizes. The MTU is free of charge to all registered in scope employers.

**Telephone 07801 598520**

**Log on to [www.citbcnsni.org.uk](http://www.citbcnsni.org.uk) for training available on the mobile training unit.**

## Scaffolding Update

CITB-ConstructionSkills Northern Ireland offer Tube and Fitting, System Scaffolding and Advanced Scaffolding at Nutts Corner Training Centre.

**Log onto**

**[www.citbcnsni.org.uk](http://www.citbcnsni.org.uk) for course dates, times, duration and cost.**



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The Cross Sector Renewables Group of Sector Skills Councils at the launch of large scale wind turbines research.

## RENEWABLE ENERGY drives commitment to new qualifications

Renewable energy companies in Northern Ireland have voiced their concerns about the lack of experienced and qualified people coming through to work on the growing number of large scale wind turbines in the province.

The comment came from research released by the Cross Sector Renewables group of Sector Skills Councils in Northern Ireland - who have been working to predict future employment trends to support a thriving industry through skills enhancement.

The research, which was funded by the

Department for Employment and Learning, emphasised the opportunity for Northern Ireland to position itself strongly in the field of renewable energy, nationally and globally, and highlighted the jobs that will be needed if the province is to meet Government targets of 40% of energy coming from renewable energy sources by 2020.

The research has paved the way for a new suite of qualifications in wind turbine installation, operations and maintenance, to be rolled out from September this year in Northern Ireland's further education colleges.

## Pay your levy the easy way by signing up for our Direct Debit scheme

CITB-ConstructionSkills NI's Direct Debit scheme is the convenient way to pay your levy, spreading your costs, giving you peace of mind and saving you time. The maximum direct debit period is 10 months from July to October inclusive. However, firms can join up at any time and the payment will be spread over the remaining months.

There is no charge for this service and you will receive notice of how much is payable before any monies are collected from your bank. After you have agreed to pay by Direct Debit instalments, we will do the rest for you. It's as simple as that!

**For further information, telephone 028 9082 5466.**

Please note - Direct Debit Instalments cannot be used by firms which have the levy value estimated.

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## Have you been to one of our FREE Employer Information Events?

Our free employer information events, launched in April 2010, are held in key towns across Northern Ireland to enable employers to find out more about our £1.6million grant scheme, our online services and to be advised of other funded initiatives that are available in the industry. Since the cessation of our Regional Advisory Team, these events are vital as they are the key link between our organisation and employers. Attended by Health and Safety Works NI, these information events give employers the opportunity to find out more and ensure they are getting what they are entitled to. These events are well supported and will be coming soon to a town near you!

### FORTHCOMING DATES:

- **Tuesday June 7**  
The Valley Hotel, Fivemiletown  
6.30-7.45pm
- **Wednesday June 8**  
Manor House Hotel, Enniskillen  
10 - 11.15am
- **Wednesday June 15**  
Waterfoot Hotel, Derry/Londonderry  
10-11.15am
- **Tuesday June 21**  
The Nautilus Centre Kilkeel  
10-11.15am
- **Wednesday August 24**  
Lisburn Enterprise Organisation Ltd,  
Ballinderry Road, Lisburn  
10-11.15am

