

## **Apprenticeship Routes**

Currently in Northern Ireland, there are four apprenticeship routes available for trainees;

1. Skills For Life
2. Skills For Work
3. Programme-Led Apprenticeship
4. Apprenticeship NI

Our Apprenticeship Route Map also shows these routes towards an apprenticeship and how they work together. We have also detailed the entry requirements for each route, which will help you to decide which apprenticeship scheme is the most appropriate for you.

### **1. Skills For Life**

This route is available for trainees with personal and development needs, who also have additional needs and learning disabilities due to either:

- Physical disability / special educational needs (including the Transitions group)
- or
- Emotional, behavioural or social difficulties (including the 'Not in Education Employment or Training' – NEET – group)

This route will provide trainees with the basic skills required to progress to the Skills For Work scheme. The duration of this route depends on the ability of the trainee.

### **2. Skills For Work**

This route is available for trainees who haven't yet achieved the minimum requirements for the Programme-Led Apprenticeship Scheme.

Skills For Work will enable the trainee to achieve the basic skills and a vocationally-related qualification, to be able to gain employment, progress to either Programme-Led Apprenticeship or Apprenticeship NI, or go on to further education.

During Skills For Work, the trainee will undertake the following;

- A Level 1 qualification in their chosen trade
- Essential Skills in literacy, numeracy and computing
- Employability skills and career guidance

The duration of this route could be between 1 and 3 years, depending on the ability of the trainee.

### **3. Programme-Led Apprenticeship**

The Programme-Led Apprenticeship route will give 16 and 17 year old school leavers (and up to 24 years old for those requiring additional support), the opportunity to gain a full apprenticeship qualification in a chosen skill area. This will be achieved through a combination of simulated off-the-job training and time spent with an employer on a work placement, one day per week.

This route is particularly applicable for those trainees who have yet to secure an employer.

The key elements of the Programme-Led Apprenticeship are as follows;

- 2 to 3 year programme.
- 21 hours over 2 or 4 days, in directed training, including project based skills learning and integrated practical projects that simulate typical industry activity.
- One day per week placement with an industry-appropriate employer in years 1 and 2.
- A Personal Training Plan is completed, which details the progression route for achieving the agreed qualifications.
- A NVQ qualification at Level 2 and working towards an NVQ at Level 3.
- Essential Skills which include literacy, numeracy and computing.
- A technical certificate appropriate to the apprenticeship
- Other shorter industry-related training, such as CSR

### **4. Apprenticeship NI**

The Apprenticeship NI scheme offers the trainee an opportunity to train in their chosen trade and the employer the chance to develop a highly motivated and committed workforce.

Apprenticeship NI offers a range of training opportunities to ultimately achieve an industry-led qualification. An apprentice (who must be with an employer from day 1), can train in areas such as bricklaying, joinery, plastering, painting and decorating and many more. By participating in on-the-job training, the apprentice will complete and achieve a full apprenticeship, acquiring the knowledge and skills to be competent in their chosen career.

The key components of the Apprenticeship NI Scheme are as follows;

- The apprentice must be employed with a Northern Ireland based company to work a minimum of 21 hours, including time for off-the-job training.
- The scheme can take between 2 and 4 years to complete depending on the level of study and the ability of the trainee.
- Leads to a NVQ qualification at levels 2 and 3.
- Completion of an intermediate and Advance Technical Certificate.
- Essential Skills in communication, numeracy and computing.
- A Personal Training Plan is completed, which details the progression route for achieving the agreed qualifications.

## **Entry Requirements**

### *Skills For Life / Skills For Work*

A person eligible to enter either this route or the Skills For Work route, will be as follows;

- One who has attained the minimum school leaving age
- One who is under 18 years of age and is unemployed
- One who has a disability, is under 22 years of age

### *Programme-Led Apprenticeship*

To enter the Programme-Led Apprenticeship Scheme, the trainee must meet the following requirements;

- Minimum of 4 GCSEs grade D-G including Maths and English at grade F;
- Have the potential to successfully complete the requirements of the appropriate Level 2;
- Have achieved any necessary entry academic qualifications (e.g. GCSE or equivalent recognised qualification) determined by the relevant sector / and approved by the Department; and
- Pass any entry tests specified by the relevant sector / and approved by the Department.
- Meet any health requirements (e.g. colour vision) specific to the occupation of their choice;
- Be unemployed

**Note:** All trainees participating on the above apprenticeship routes, will be unemployed and will therefore qualify for a 'Non-Means Tested Educational Maintenance Allowance' (EMA), which is currently £40 per week. They would also qualify for payment of travel, childcare and / or lodging allowance where applicable.

## **Programme-Led Apprenticeships and Apprenticeship NI working together**

The Programme-Led Apprenticeship provision will run parallel to the 'employer-led' Apprenticeship NI programme. If at any time the Programme-Led apprentice becomes employed, they can transfer onto the Apprenticeship NI Scheme. Similarly, if an Apprenticeship NI apprentice is made redundant they can transfer onto the Programme-Led Apprenticeship and continue with their training.

How these schemes work together is detailed in the [Apprenticeship Route Map](#).

# Apprenticeship Route Map

## APPRENTICESHIP NI

### YEAR 1

**Consists of;**

- 7 hrs in class + 4 days work placement
- Work towards achieving an Intermediate Construction Award
- Work towards achieving a NVQ Level 2
- Achieve Essential Level 1 in Communication, Numeracy and Computing

### YEAR 2

**Consists of;**

- 7 hrs in class + 4 days work placement
- Achieve an Intermediate Construction Award
- Achieve a NVQ Level 2
- Achieve Essential Level 2 in Communication, Numeracy and Computing

### YEAR 3

**Consists of;**

- 7 hrs in class + 4 days work placement
- Work towards achievement of an Advanced Construction Award
- Work towards achievement of a NVQ Level 3

### YEAR 4

**Consists of;**

- 7 hrs in class + 4 days work placement
- Apprentices moving from the Programme-Led Apprenticeship should already have achieved an Advanced Construction Award
- Achieve an Advanced Construction Award
- Achieve a NVQ Level 3
- Complete full framework in chosen occupational area

## PROGRAMME-LED APPRENTICESHIP

### YEAR 1

**Consists of;**

- 21 hrs in class over 3 or 4 days + 1 day work placement
- Work towards achieving an Intermediate Construction Award
- Work towards achieving a NVQ Level 2
- Achieve Essential Level 1 in Communication, Numeracy and Computing
- Undertake a programme of Employability, Enterprise and Careers Education Tuition

### YEAR 2

**Consists of;**

- 21 hrs in class over 3 or 4 days + 1 day work placement
- Achieve by week 78 an Intermediate Construction Award
- Start an Advanced Construction Award
- Achieve a NVQ Level 2 by week 104
- Achieve Essential Level 2 in Communication, Numeracy and Computing
- Undertake a programme of Employability, Enterprise and Careers Education Tuition

## EXTENDED PROGRAMME-LED APPRENTICESHIP

### YEAR 3

**Consists of;**

- 21 hrs in class + 1 day work placement
- By week 130 achieve an Advanced Construction Award
- Work towards achievement of a NVQ Level 3 gathering evidence for assessment in Year 4
- Undertake a programme of Employability, Enterprise and Careers Education Tuition

# Apprenticeship Flow Chart

**Start here.** Answer the questions and follow the route to determine which apprenticeship is right for you.

**Do you meet all of the following criteria?**

- A minimum of 4 GCSEs Grade D-G including English and Maths at Grade F
- Any necessary entry academic qualifications (e.g. GCSE or equivalent recognised qualification) specific to the relevant sector of your choice and approved by the Department for Employment & Learning (DEL)
- Passed any entry tests specified by the relevant sector of your choice and approved by the DEL
- Meet any health requirements (e.g. colour vision) specific to the occupation of your choice

Yes

**Do you have an employer?**

Yes

**The route for you is:**  
**Programme-Led Apprenticeship**

This programme will enable you to progress through the first three years of an apprenticeship without securing an employer. However, you must secure an employer before year 4 in order to transfer to the Apprenticeship NI route and complete your apprenticeship. You can transfer from a Programme-Led Apprenticeship over to Apprenticeship NI at **any** stage during the first three years, once you have secured an employer.

No

**The route for you is:**  
**Apprenticeship NI**

This scheme offers those trainees who have secured an employer, the opportunity to achieve an industry-led qualification. By participating in on-the-job training, you will complete and achieve a full apprenticeship, acquiring the knowledge and skills to be competent in your chosen career.

No

**Are you one of the following?**

- Someone who has achieved the minimum school leaving age
- Someone who is under 18 years of age and is unemployed
- Someone who has a disability and is under 22 years of age

No

**Unfortunately you do not meet the entry requirements for an apprenticeship route and you may wish to consider alternative options**

Yes

**Do you have personal and development needs plus have additional needs and learning disabilities due to either;**

- Physical disability / special educational needs (including the Transitions group); or
- Emotional, behavioural or social difficulties (including the 'Not in Education Employment or Training – NEET – group)

Yes

**The route for you is: Skills For Life**

Completion of this programme will qualify you to begin the Skills For Work programme

No

**On Completion**

**The route for you is: Skills For Work**

Completion of this programme will qualify you to begin either a Programme-Led Apprenticeship or Apprenticeship NI scheme

On Completion