

Apprenticeship Training Programme

Phase 1: With Employer

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

Phase 2: Delivered in Training Centre (21 weeks)

Course Content:
Benchwork and Welding
Electrical and Electronics
Engine
Fuel System
Transmission
Steering and Suspension
Brakes
Team Leadership
Communications

Phase 3: With Employer

Work Based Training and Assessments

Phase 4: Delivered in Educational Colleges (11 weeks)

Course Content:
Electrical and Electronics
Engine
Fuel System
Transmission
Steering and Suspension
Brakes
Vehicle Body and Chassis
Team Leadership
Communications

Phase 5: With Employer

Work Based Training and Assessments

Phase 6: Delivered in Educational Colleges (10 weeks)

Course Content:
Electrical and Electronics
Fuel System
Transmission
Steering and Suspension
Brakes
Hydraulics and Pneumatics
Team Leadership
Communications

Phase 7: With Employer

Work Based Training and Assessments

You will be assessed throughout your apprenticeship by a range of assessment instruments. These include theory, practical, portfolio and coursework 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 – Heavy Vehicle Mechanics.

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The Craft of Heavy Vehicle Mechanics



For further information please contact your local Education & Training Board Training Centre or log onto www.SOLAS.ie



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Apprenticeship
Real-life Learning

What is a Heavy Vehicle Mechanic?

Heavy vehicle mechanics carry out routine servicing and repair on commercial vehicles such as trucks/trailers, vans, jeeps, buses and coaches. Many work for road haulage companies. Usually the work is based around servicing, diagnostics and repairs. As well as routine servicing, major overhauls are undertaken at regular intervals. Faults are diagnosed and the defective components are repaired or replaced as necessary.

Vehicles are serviced after a specified length of time or kilometres, to replace, repair or adjust any worn parts and generally check, tune and adjust for good performance. As part of a routine service, mechanics check and change oil, check and adjust brakes and steering. Parts for heavy vehicles are often more expensive than those for light vehicles, so mechanics usually have to repair rather than replace any faulty items they find.

Mechanics usually cover the mechanical, electrical/ electronic, hydraulic and pneumatic aspects of vehicles. Heavy vehicle mechanics require many skills including:

- Working with a variety of specialised hand and power tools and measuring devices
- Working with jacks and hoists to lift and move heavy items
- Knowledge of a range of vehicle systems
- Performing a range of technical tasks
- Interpreting technical drawings and working with technical manuals and specifications
- Planning and organising work schedules
- Inspecting and testing of systems and fault diagnosis
- Performing routine maintenance and repairs on in-vehicle systems

Personal Qualities and Skills

As a Heavy Vehicle Mechanic you will need to be physically active and to be able to work with your hands. An awareness of health and safety and good housekeeping is essential as well as attention to detail.

Aspects of work

- Learning and developing new craft-related skills, knowledge and competencies
- Working with and learning from experienced Craftspersons
- Comply with Health and Safety requirements
- Working with vehicles
- Accepting responsibility for the quality of own work
- Being physically active
- Using the special service tools, materials and equipment
- Reading and interpreting technical instructions and diagrams
- Diagnose and repair mechanical and electrical systems
- Dismantling, examining and re-assembling mechanical systems and components
- Testing electrical and electronic systems and components
- Record and communicate accurate work records or reports
- Taking responsibility for own learning, including the allocation of study time
- Passing all your phase exams (theory, practicals, skills demonstrations)
- Earning as you learn

The Heavy Vehicle Mechanic must have the ability to:

- Plan and organise
- Communicate effectively
- Solve problems
- Work independently and as part of a team
- Show a positive attitude
- Recognise the need for good customer relations
- Demonstrate good work practices including time keeping, tidiness, responsibility, quality awareness and safety awareness

How to become an Apprentice

- You must obtain employment as an apprentice in your chosen occupation.
- The employer must be approved to train apprentices.
- The employer must register you as an apprentice within two weeks of recruitment.
- In certain crafts, apprenticeship applicants are required to pass a colour vision test approved by SOLAS.

Entry 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

It should be noted that these are the current approved **minimum educational requirements** for apprenticeship programmes, however, previous experience of the following subjects would be an advantage but not essential: Mathematics, Technical Drawing/Graphics, Metalwork, Technology and Physics

Opportunities on Qualification

On successful completion of the apprenticeship programme, apprentices are qualified to work within the recognised trade or profession.

Where apprentices and craftspersons have the necessary ability and initiative, opportunities are available for advancement.

These include advanced technology courses and management courses which are available in Institutes of Technology, Schools of Management and Professional Institutes.

Many apprentices use their apprenticeship qualification as a platform to launch careers such as engineers, managers, owners of businesses, teachers and instructors amongst others.