

Apprenticeship Training Programme

Phase 1: *With Employer*

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

Phase 2: *Delivered in Training Centre (20 week)*

Course Content:
Slabbing, Rendering, Floating & Skimming
External Work
Slabbing, Skimming, Dry Lining & Floors

Phase 3: *With Employer*

Work Based Assessments

Phase 4: *Delivered in Educational Colleges (10 weeks)*

Course Content:
Expanded Metal
External Finishes
Decorative Plasterwork
Pitched Roofs

Phase 5: *With Employer*

Work Based Assessments

Phase 6: *Delivered in Educational Colleges (10 weeks)*

Course Content:
Metal Systems
Advanced Mouldwork
External Finishes
Wall & Floor Tiling

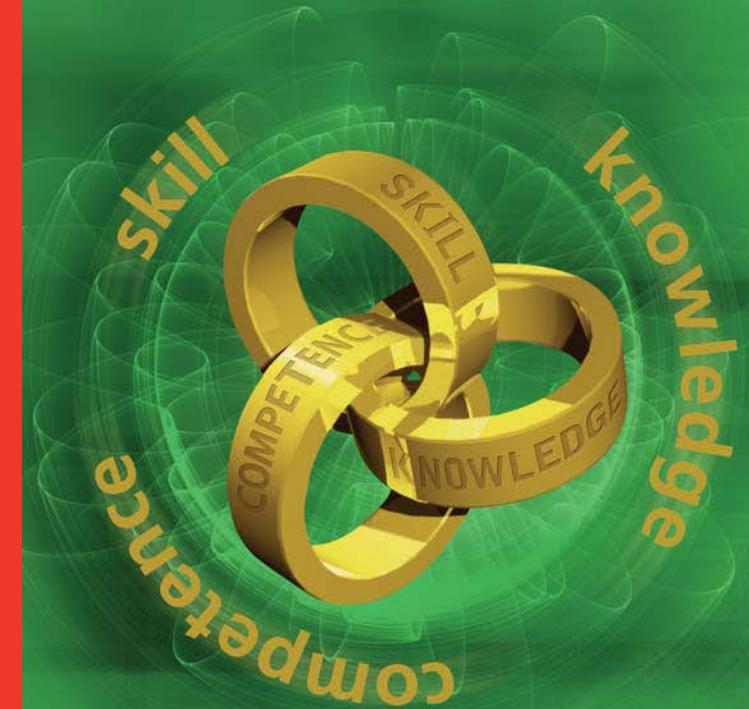
Phase 7: *With Employer*

Work Based 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 – Plastering.

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

The Craft of Plastering



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 **Apprenticeship**

KNOWLEDGE. SKILL. COMPETENCE

Overview

The work of the plasterer includes the application of plaster to interior walls and ceilings in order to produce a fine finished surface. They are also engaged on the application of protective coverings of cement, plaster and similar materials to the outside of building surfaces. The work also involves the preparation of surfaces by fastening metal or wooden laths to hold plaster. In addition, a plasterer may be required to lay the finishing surface of cement floors for houses, factories and garages. Plasterers are generally employed in the construction industry or may be self-employed.

Work activities

Plasterers mix and apply plaster to inside walls and ceilings. They may also apply cement mixes to floors and outside walls or do decorative work. Plasterers use tools such as trowels, floats and hawks.

Plasterers often mix their own materials (from sand and cement) or have an operative do it for them. First they mark the area of wall to be covered. Then they fill in the area with base coat plaster. They level it off and scratch the surface to make a good base for the second coat. The second coat is applied to the required thickness, often one centimetre but sometimes up to 2.5 centimetres on an uneven wall. When the two base coats are dry, plasterers spread on and smooth out a thin coat of plaster.

Outside walls are done by the same method but cement is used instead of plaster. They may make some decorative markings on the wall or use pebble-dash to achieve the required finish.

Floors are built up in layers in the same way as indoor walls. The surface is left smooth to take a floor covering.

Fibrous plasterers work with plaster that has short lengths of fibre added to hold it together while they are working on it. They make ornamental plasterwork and decorative panels by moulding and casting plaster in workshops. The finished pieces are then fixed on-site. Fibrous plasterers may work from architects' designs or copy pieces of plasterwork from artists' drawings or from photographs.

Aspects of Work

- Learning new practical skills
- Being physically active and on your feet
- Learning and developing new craft-related skills, knowledge and competence
- Learning about buildings, roads etc. and how they are built
- Work requiring accuracy and attention to detail
- Lifting or carrying heavy items
- Travelling around from place to place
- Working on ladders or at a height
- Practical skills and theoretical knowledge
- Working outdoors in any weather
- Being well-organised and careful with practical tasks
- Taking responsibility for own learning, including the allocation of study time

Plasterers need to work quickly with the plaster before it dries out. They must finish off their work to a high standard and leave it ready for painters and decorators to work on.

Personal qualities and Skills

You must be physically fit, as the work involves a lot of bending, lifting and stretching.

Plasterers often work at heights using ladders or scaffolding.

Opportunities

Opportunities arise from time-to-time for promotion to supervisor level. Many persons use an apprenticeship as a first step in proceeding to such occupations as instructors, teachers, training advisers, managers and owners of businesses.

Where apprentices and crafts persons have the necessary ability, initiative and basic qualifications, opportunities are available for advancement. These include advanced technological and management courses which are available in Institutes of Technology, Schools of Management, Professional Institutes, etc.

Persons anxious to advance themselves in their careers are advised to discover for themselves what opportunities are available.

Educational 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

You must obtain a job as an apprentice in your chosen occupation. Your employer must be approved to train apprentices and must register you as an apprentice within 2 weeks of recruitment.

In certain crafts, apprenticeship applicants are required to pass a colour vision test approved by SOLAS.