

# 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 (26 weeks)*

Course Content:  
Banker Stonecutting  
The stone built environment  
Technical drawing & craft calculations  
Fabrication and fixing  
Lettering techniques  
Stone carving  
Conservation

## Phase 3: *With Employer*

Work Based Assessments

## Phase 4: *Delivered in Training Centre (10 weeks)*

Course Content:  
The stone built environment  
Technical drawing & craft calculations  
Science and technology  
Banker stonecutting  
Fabrication and fixing  
Lettering techniques  
Relief carving  
Conservation

## Phase 5: *With Employer*

Work Based Assessments

## Phase 6: *Delivered in Training Centre (10 weeks)*

Course Content:  
Engraving and carving  
Fixing  
Conservation and restoration  
Ecclesiastical architecture

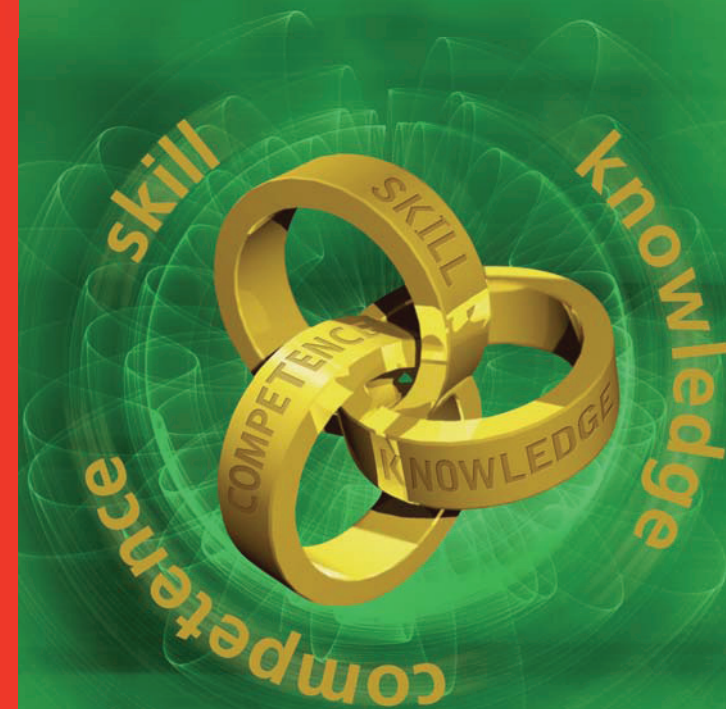
## Phase 7: *With Employer*

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 – Stonecutting & Stonemasonry.

For further information please contact your local Education & Training Board Training Centre or log onto [www.SOLAS.ie](http://www.SOLAS.ie)

# The Craft of Stonecutting & Stonemasonry



Ireland's EU Structural and  
Investment Funds Programmes  
2014 - 2020

Co-funded by the Irish Government  
and the European Union



EUROPEAN UNION

Investing in your future  
European Social Fund

 **Apprenticeship**

KNOWLEDGE. SKILL. COMPETENCE

## Overview

The trade of a Stonecutter & Stonemason services the follow areas; Stonecutting, Extraction and Processing, Conservation and Restoration.

The work carried out by a Stonecutter & Stonemason is wide and varied. It encompasses a range of skills, from the extraction and process of stone, to carving, restoration and monumental work.

## Work Activities

The Stonecutting & Stonemasonry specialists, work in a cross-section of domains within the overall craft, such as:

- Cutting stone with hand tools and stonecutting machinery
- Stonecutting, stone finishing, monumental stone engraving, lettering techniques, stone carving, decorating and restoring stone
- Mechanical fixing and coping stones for piers,
- Conservation and restoration of stone
- Extracting and quarrying techniques

## Personal Qualities and Skills

To be a Stonecutter & Stonemason you must have good eye / hand coordination and good dexterity. Stonecutters and Stonemasons need strong practical skills and a logical, well-organised and thorough approach to their work. They also need the ability to follow technical drawings. You must be able to work safely in a hazardous environment.

## Aspects of Work

- Learn new practical skills
- Practical skills and theoretical knowledge
- Understanding drawings and diagrams
- Work requiring accuracy and attention to detail
- Learning and developing new craft-related skill, knowledge and competence
- Taking responsibility for own learning, including the allocation of study time

The environment is often noisy and can be dangerous so you need to be careful when using equipment and machinery.

Physical fitness is necessary as the work involves a great deal of bending, kneeling, standing, heavy lifting and working in cramped and awkward spaces

You must enjoy seeing a job through from start to finish.

## Opportunities

Opportunities arise from time-to-time for people to progress their careers. Many persons use an apprenticeship as a first step in proceeding to such occupations as instructors, teachers, 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 technology courses and management courses which are available in Institutes of Technology, Schools of Management, Professional Institutes, etc.

## 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 over 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 trade applicants are required to pass a colour vision test approved by SOLAS.