



Overview on Education and Training Practices for Adults

Training Inventory — Plumbing — Ireland

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Introduction

Today, the world of work and professional careers are increasingly characterised by changes of occupation. In a dynamic labour market, employees have to adjust to labour demand and find and take on job opportunities in occupations which do not correspond to their initial education. To fill vacancies and dissolve skill shortages, employers have to rely on workers whose track record in terms of qualification and experience does not exactly match the required job profile.

However, successfully mastering an occupational change calls for investments in re-qualification and appropriate (re-)qualification measures. Consequently, there is a need for adult education programmes geared towards persons intending to work in a job not strictly corresponding to the occupation they have initially been trained for. Such courses have to meet requirements which are different from initial education and take into account the specific target group (e.g. with regard to training periods, time schedules, prices etc.). This holds in particular as far as persons are concerned who are strategically preparing an occupational change while being in employment.

Among the wide variety of the available vocational and adult education measures there exist several training instruments that better satisfy the exigencies of (re-)qualification in the context of an occupational change. The present inventory aims at pinpointing training courses assessed as adequate for people wishing to develop their competence base in order to being able to start a second career specifically in the field of **plumbing**.

The presented initiatives do not necessarily constitute an exhaustive list of all training measures available for acquiring the relevant skills. They have been selected according to the following criteria:

- The training measure provides a broad and practically applicable qualification for the considered occupation, can be completed in a reasonable time period and can be attended alongside normal work obligations (e.g. evening or weekend classes).
- The measure is well accessible in terms of the training location, eligibility criteria (e.g. prior knowledge) and costs.

The following pages provide practical information on selected training measures, i.e. a short description of the contents covered and the teaching method applied, the duration and costs of the measure as well as the contact details of the training provider. In this way, it is intended to help individuals as well as employers when searching for appropriate qualification programmes in the context of occupational change.

Plumbing apprenticeship – FÁS (the national training and employment agency)

Description of the measure

The plumbing craft is designated for Apprenticeship Training and as such is governed by the Statutory Apprenticeship rules that have been developed by FÁS. The plumbing apprentice is required to follow a specific course of training and to undergo a series of assessments to confirm that the required standards have been reached.

The apprenticeship normally consists of seven phases of training both on-the-job with the employer and off-the-job in a FÁS Training Centre and Educational College.

Technical Training (Off-the-Job)

This form of training involves learning practical skills together with the theoretical elements including maths, science, technical drawing and personal development skills.

Apprentices will be required to pass a series of Modular Assessments (tests) throughout this training. These will consist of practical tests, short answer and/or multiple choice knowledge tests and coursework assessments. An examination fee is paid to Institutes during phase 4/6. Where attending off-the-job training necessitates living away from the trainee's residence FÁS pays a contribution towards accommodation expenses.

Practical Training (On-the-Job)

This form of training is with the employer where the apprentice gets practical training and experience of doing the job. In addition to the skills and knowledge gained, the apprentice will develop competence, confidence and the ability to perform to industrial standards. The apprentice is assessed on the ability to perform specified tasks to pre-set standards.

Target group

The minimum age at which the employment of a plumbing apprentice may commence is 16 years of age.

The minimum educational requirements are:

1. Grade D in five subjects in the Department of Education & Science Junior Certificate Examination or an approved equivalent,

or

The successful completion of an approved Pre-Apprenticeship course

or

Be over 18 years of age, have at least 3 years work experience approved by FÁS

2. The applicant must obtain employment as an apprentice. The employer must be approved by FÁS and must register the applicant as an apprentice within 2 weeks of recruitment.

Applicants who are over 18 years of age and have at least 3 years work experience approved by FÁS may gain access to an apprenticeship.

The plumbing apprenticeship is offered throughout the country on a continuous basis throughout the year. The location of the off-the-job training will depend on availability of places in both the FÁS training centres and the educational colleges.

The participating FÁS Training Centres are as follows:

Athlone Training Centre, Garrycastle, Athlone, Co. Westmeath

Tel: +353 (090) 6474481

Tel: +353 (090) 6424200

Fax: +353 (090) 6474795

Baldoyle Training Centre, Baldoyle Industrial Estate, Baldoyle, Dublin 13

Tel: +353 (01) 816 7400

Fax: +353 (01) 816 7401

Cabra Training Centre, Bannow Road, Cabra, Dublin 7

Tel: +353 (01) 882 1400

Fax: +353 (01) 838 8788

Cork Training Centre, Rossa Avenue, Bishopstown, Cork

Tel: +353 (021) 485 6200

Fax: +353 (021) 454 1789

Dundalk Training Centre, FÁS Employment Services Office, Coes Road Industrial Estate, Dundalk, Co. Louth

Tel: +353 (042) 935 5700

Fax: +353 (042) 935 5777

Finglas Training Centre, Poppintree Industrial Estate, Jamestown Road, Finglas Village, Dublin 11

Tel: +353 (01) 814 0200

Fax: +353 (01) 834 6336

Galway Training Centre, Industrial Estate, Mervue, Galway

Tel: +353 (091) 706 200

Fax: +353 (091) 753 590

Gaoth Dobhair Na Diore Beaga Training Centre, Leitirceanainn, Co. Dhun na nGall

Tel: +353 (074) 956 0500

Fax: +353 (074) 953 1114

Letterkenny Training Centre, Ballyraine Industrial Estate, Ramelton Road, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal

Tel: +353 (074) 912 0500

Fax: +353 (074) 912 4840

Loughlinstown Training Centre, Wyattville Road, Loughlinstown, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin

Tel: +353 (01) 204 3600

Fax: +353 (01) 282 1168

Shannon Training Centre, Shannon Industrial Estate, Shannon, Co. Clare

Tel: +353 (061) 706 100

Fax: +353 (061) 472 613

Tallaght Training Centre, Cookstown Road, Cookstown Industrial Estate, Tallaght, Dublin 24

Tel: +353 (01) 427 5400

Fax: +353 (01) 427 5401

Tralee Training Centre, Employment Services, Castle Street, Tralee, Co. Kerry

Tel: +353 (066) 712 6444

Fax: +353 (066) 712 3605

Waterford

Sligo Training Centre, Ballytivnan, Sligo

Tel: +353 (071) 915 9500

Fax: +353 (071) 916 9506

The Colleges involved in the plumbing apprenticeship are as follows:

Athlone Institute of Technology, Dublin Road, Athlone, Co. Westmeath

Tel: (09064) 24400

Institute of Technology Blanchardstown, Blanchardstown Road North, Dublin 15

Tel: (01) 885 1000

Fax: (01) 885 1001

Cork Institute of Technology, Rossa Avenue, Bishopstown, Cork

Tel: (021) 432 6100

Fax: (021) 454 5343

Faculty of the Built Environment, Dublin Institute of Technology, Bolton Street, Dublin 1

Tel: (01) 402 3000

Fax: (01) 402 3699

Dundalk Institute of Technology, Dundalk, Co. Louth

Tel: (042) 937 020

Fax: (042) 933 3505

Fermanagh College Fairview, 1 Dublin Road, Enniskillen County Fermanagh BT74 6AE, Northern Ireland

Tel: +44 (0) 28 6632 2431

Fax: +44 (0) 28 6632 6357

Waterford Institute of Technology, Cork Road, Waterford

Tel: (051) 302 000

Email: info@wit.ie

Duration of the measure

The duration of the plumbing apprenticeship is four years from date of registration and providing that all phases are successfully completed. The apprenticeship normally consists of seven phases of training both On-the-job with the employer and Off-the-job in a FÁS Training Centre or Educational College.

Certification

On successful completion of the programme, the learner is awarded a FETAC (Further Education Training and Awards Council) Level 6 Advanced Certificate Craft – Plumbing.

Costs for participants

Under the Irish apprenticeship system, apprentices are paid the agreed Industrial Apprentice Wage Rate by the employer (the actual rate paid may vary depending on the occupation and employer). Generally, rates are based on the year and increase during the apprenticeship. During off-the-job training, all apprentices are paid an Apprentice Allowance by FÁS and, where appropriate, a contribution towards travel or accommodation costs. There are also grants to encourage employers to recruit and register female apprentices.

Contact details

Ms. Julie Mannion, Deputy Manager, Apprenticeship Services, FÁS, 27-33 Upper Baggot Street, Dublin 2, Ireland

Tel: (01) 705 0500

Fax: (01) 607 0608

Email: info@fas.ie

Web: <http://www.fas.ie/en/Training/Apprenticeships/default.htm>