



Department for the
Economy
www.economy-ni.gov.uk



SCHOOL LEAVERS' GUIDE TO HIGHER LEVEL APPRENTICESHIPS



Higher Level Apprenticeships will suit someone who:

- Is willing to commit to further study but would prefer a more practical and work-related approach to learning
- Is ready to start work and be based in the workplace most of the time
- Is well organised and able to cope with the competing demands of work and study at the same time
- Is ready to be assessed through a combination of assignments and written work, including essays, reports, practical tasks, end tests and exams.



Benefits to a Higher Level Apprentice

As a Higher Level Apprentice you:

- Are employed and paid a wage throughout the programme
- Will gain a head start in your chosen profession
- Do not incur any course costs for the programme.

For further information or advice on Higher Level Apprenticeships, please visit www.swc.ac.uk/hla

Or contact:

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HLA Co-ordinator

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Information for those who have completed A-Levels (or equivalent Level 3 qualification)

www.swc.ac.uk/hla

SKILLS
TO SUCCEED

APPRENTICESHIPS



Higher Level Apprenticeships available at South West College

- Architectural Engineering & Energy**
 Building services engineers develop the systems that bring buildings and structures to life which includes power supply, ventilation, heating and cooling, water and drainage systems, lighting, and communications.
- Construction Engineering with Surveying**
 Designed to prepare you for a career in the modern construction industry – building, land and quantity surveying.
- Civil Engineering**
 Civil engineering is everything you see that has been built around us. It's about roads and railways, bridges, schools, offices, hospitals, tunnels, water and power supply and much more.
- Manufacturing Engineering**
 Manufacturing engineers are responsible for the design, manufacture, implementation and monitoring of everything from hair straighteners to aircraft. In order to be a successful manufacturing engineer, you should possess strong analytical, communication, technical and organisational skills.
- Mechatronic Engineering**
 Mechatronic engineering unifies traditional mechanical engineering and electrical/electronic engineering. The engineers who design the systems need not only the mechanical knowhow but also the electrical knowhow.
- Energy, Environment & Sustainability**
 Sustainability, energy and the environment are at the forefront of current business and policy priority areas. You will learn about renewable energy technologies and efficiency, investigate strategies for waste and resource management and develop business and entrepreneurial skills.
- Computing**
 Students will be equipped with comprehensive IT skills based on the themes of hardware infrastructure, software engineering, databases and information systems and will gain a thorough understanding and skills relating to the IT/Computing Industry.
- Accounting Technicians Ireland**
 Students develop practical skills working alongside accountants producing reliable financial information and gain knowledge to perform a wide range of finance roles. Students develop skills in cutting-edge accounting software used in business.

Eligibility

To be eligible for a Higher Level Apprenticeship, an individual must be:

- Employed by a NI based company (apprentices can work elsewhere for periods)
- In paid employment and supported by their employer (private not public company)
- Newly appointed to a job, or have a significant change to their current job role
- Paid at basic minimum wage or above (not apprenticeship rate)
- Paid for hours of study at college in addition to the time paid for at your place of work.

Entry requirements

- Minimum 48 UCAS Tariff Points (some courses have higher entry requirements)
- Minimum of GCSE English & Maths at Grade C or above (some courses have higher entry requirements)
- Interview.

How long does it take to complete a HLA?

The duration of a HLA is will vary depending on the programme. It will take a minimum of 2 years to complete.

www.swc.ac.uk/hla



What is a Higher Level Apprenticeship?

A Higher Level Apprenticeship (HLA) is a work-based programme in partnership between South West College and Northern Ireland based employers which offers the Higher Level Apprentice the opportunity to gain invaluable on-the-job training and a recognised higher qualification (at Level 5) while in paid employment.

Taking part in a HLA gives you the opportunity to gain the skills that employers need and that are relevant to the local economy, thereby improving your prospects of better earnings and sustained employment.

A Higher Level Apprentice is an employee of the company and not a student, therefore not burdened with student debt. In addition, Higher Level Apprentices are not liable for any tuition fees.