

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 (20 week)

Course Content:
Induction
Welding/Fabrication
Panel Repairs (Bench)
Basic Vehicle Alignment
Mechanical
Spray Painting
Damage Assessment, Crash Repairs, Valeting
Related Theory

Phase 3: With Employer

Work Based Training and Assessments

Phase 4: Delivered in Educational Colleges (10 weeks)

Course Content:
Welding/Panel Repairs
Engine Management Systems
Automobile Electricity/Electronics
Chassis Alignment & Repair
Spray Painting
Related Theory

Phase 5: With Employer

Work Based Training and Assessments

Phase 6: Delivered in Educational Colleges (10weeks)

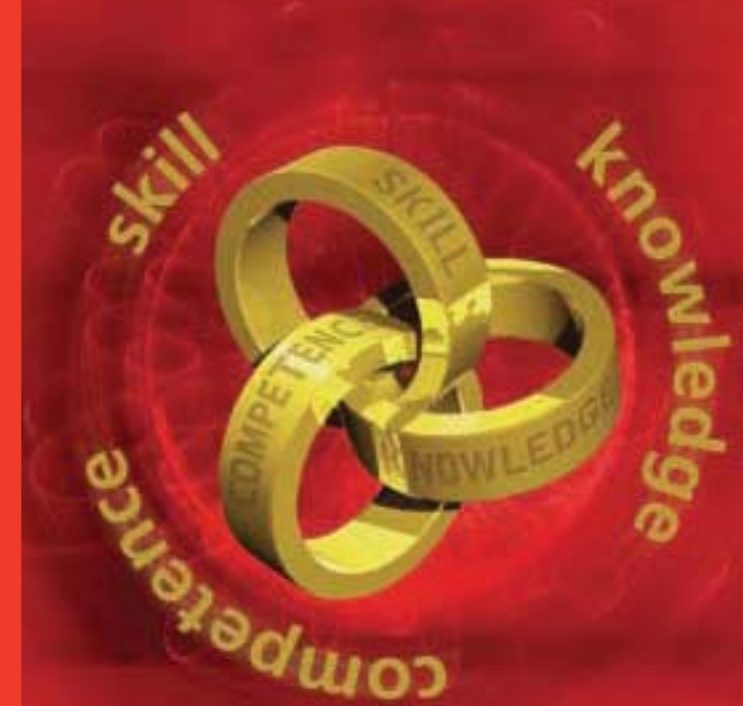
Course Content:
Mechanical
Major Structural Repairs
Aluminium Vehicles Bodies
Replacement of Major Structural Units
Steel Welding
Spray Painting
Related Theory

Phase 7: With Employer

Work Based Training and 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 – Vehicle Body Repairs.

The Craft of Vehicle Body Repairs



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



What is a Vehicle Body Repairer?

A Vehicle body repairer, repairs damage to the bodywork of cars, trucks and coaches, ranging from scratches, dents and rust to major accident damage. This may involve hammering out dents or filling with body solder or plastic fillers.

Vehicle body repairers are employed in the motor industry in garages with vehicle repair facilities and in 'specialised' repair shops. The vehicle body repairer requires a comprehensive knowledge of vehicle body construction and the work involves assessment of damage and preparation of estimates, body panel repair and replacement, body alignment, spray painting and customised alterations.

Computerised and electronically-controlled systems are an important aspect of a vehicle body repairer's job.

Vehicle body repairers require many skills including:

- Working with a variety of specialised hand and power tools
- Fabrication of part panels and shaping sheet metal on a workbench themselves before welding it into place.
- Application of primers such as etch primer, filler primer and surface primers.
- Spray painting and preparing new or repaired panels as per manufacturer's instructions.
- Paint finishing and polishing as per manufacturer's instructions.

Personal Qualities and Skills

As a Vehicle Body Repairer 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.

The Vehicle Body Repairer 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

Note: If you suffer from an allergy or skin complaint, the chemicals that you use may affect you

Aspects of work

- Learning and developing new practical craft-related skills, knowledge and competence
- Working with and learning from experienced Craftspersons
- Seeing a job through from start to finish
- Comply with Health and Safety requirements
- Working with vehicles
- Operating equipment
- Being accurate with numbers in counting, measuring and arithmetic
- Working with technical drawings and diagrams
- Using hand skills to shape metal
- Using tools or machinery to fabricate components
- Accuracy and attention to detail
- Being well organised and careful with practical tasks
- Lifting or carrying heavy items
- Taking responsibility for own learning, including the allocation of study time
- Working in a noisy environment
- Being physically active
- Passing all your phase exams (theory, practicals, skills demonstration)
- Earning as you learn

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.

Opportunities for advancement are available for apprentices and craftspersons that have the necessary initiative, ability and basic qualifications.

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, self-employed business owners, technical trainers, instructors, lecturers, teachers amongst many others