

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 (21 weeks)

Course Content:
Induction
Conversion of pre-sawn timber and hand tools
Furniture, Veneering and Jig Making
Profile Sanding
Carcass manufacture and CNC (Computer Numerical Control)

Phase 3: With Employer

Work Based Training and Assessments

Phase 4: Delivered in Educational Colleges (10 weeks)

Course Content:
CNC programming and use
Construction products
Furniture products

Phase 5: With Employer

Work Based Training and Assessments

Phase 6: Delivered in Educational Colleges (10 weeks)

Course Content:
Furniture technology
Stair construction and CNC
Machine Technology

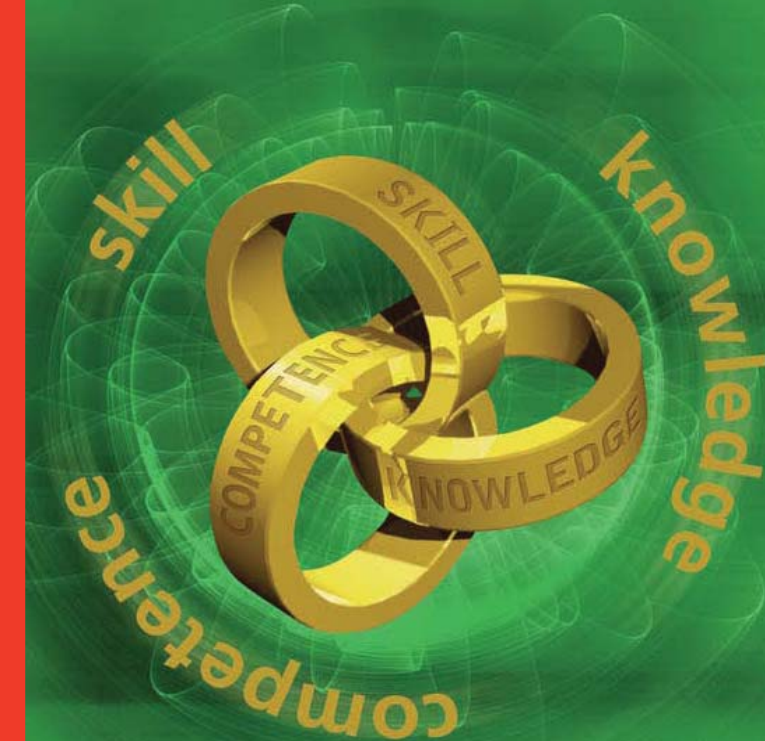
Phase 7: With Employer

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 – Wood Manufacturing and Finishing.

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The Craft of Wood Manufacturing & Finishing



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



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Apprenticeship
Real-life Learning

What is a Wood Manufacturer and Finisher?

The Wood Manufacturer and Finisher cuts, shapes and joins wood and wood based products using wood working machines, power tools and hand tools to manufacture furniture and construction components, eg tables, chairs, doors and stairs.

Wood Manufacturer and Finishers require many skills including:

- Working with a variety of specialised hand and power tools
- Knowledge of setting out, production and assembly of furniture and construction components
- Knowledge of a CAD/CAM (Computer Aided Design and Computer Aided Manufacturing) software for CNC (Computer Numerical Control) programming
- Performing craft calculations and selecting materials to meet design requirements
- Interpreting technical drawings and specifications
- Planning and organising work schedules
- Liaising with other professions and clients
- Performing routine maintenance and repairs on machines

The environment is often noisy and involves the use of equipment and machinery so due care and adherence to Health and Safety regulations is mandatory.

Personal Qualities and Skills

As a Wood Manufacturer and Finisher 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 and an eye for the aesthetic.

The Wood Manufacturer and Finisher 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

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
- Understanding technical drawings and diagrams
- Working with wood and wood based products
- Working with hand tools and power tools
- Operating, controlling and adjusting equipment / machines
- Accuracy with numbers in counting, measuring and arithmetic
- Accuracy and attention to detail
- Being well organised and careful with practical tasks
- Working in a workshop or factory
- Lifting or carrying heavy items
- Comply with Health and Safety requirements
- Being physically active
- Taking responsibility for own learning, including the allocation of study time
- Passing all your phase exams (theory, practicals, skill demonstrations)
- 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, Materials Technology and Construction Studies.

Opportunities on Qualification

On successful completion of the apprenticeship programme, apprentices are qualified to work within the recognised trade or profession.

Where craftspersons have the necessary ability and initiative, opportunities are available for advancement. These include advanced technology courses and management courses which are available in Institutes of Technology, Schools of Management and Professional Institutes.

Many craftspersons use their qualification as a platform to launch careers such as managers, owners of businesses and instructors amongst others.