

Overview of our Plumbing and Heating Apprenticeship

The University of Exeter Plumbing and Heating Apprenticeship Scheme will elevate your career as a professional plumbing and heating engineer. Upon completion of the apprenticeship you will have gained qualifications in Plumbing and Heating and will have a diverse range of work experience within a Russell Group, UK top 10, University.

This is a perfect opportunity for you to learn about the plumbing industry and be able to put it into practice whilst working in a diverse role on our campus. You will have an unrivalled experience and will build a wide range of transferable skills.

It is important for a plumbing and heating technician to be able to work independently or as a team and use their knowledge and skills to ensure that both the system and appliances are appropriately selected and correctly installed, often without any supervision, and done so in a safe, efficient and economical manner to minimise waste.

You will receive an excellent educational experience from our training providers, and will be immersed in real time on the job training at the University of Exeter whilst in your day to day role.

It's safe to say that you will have an extremely diverse range of jobs to do, and due to the University being a live teaching and research environment you will be working in a variety of buildings, plant rooms and workshops. If you are practical, dexterous and have an inquisitive mind, this is the apprenticeship for you!

There will also be opportunities to develop yourself through our induction, mandatory training, and by undertaking learning and development at the University.

What are the entry requirements?

Applicants will need at least 5 GCSEs or equivalent. These should include grades A-C(4) in Maths, Science, and English. You will need to complete the Intermediate Apprenticeship (Level 2) before progressing to the advanced apprenticeship (Level 3). You must have a strong interest in Plumbing and Heating if you are applying for this apprenticeship.

What is the duration of my apprenticeship?

Your Plumbing and Heating apprenticeship will last up to 24 months.

What topics could I study?

The Plumbing and Heating apprenticeship is an in-depth, practical approach that provides a solid platform to becoming a qualified professional plumber or heating engineer. As an apprentice you will have a full time job at the University and attend one of our award winning training providers one day a week throughout the programme. You will work towards qualifications which make up your Apprenticeship.

This challenging, academic and work related scheme prepares you for employment or university level education. Modules will include:

- Health and Safety in the workplace
- Preparatory work
- Installation, maintenance, fault finding and decommission of systems
- Air testing
- Airing cupboard installation
- Bathroom installation
- Working with copper tube, low carbon steel and plastic pipework
- Installing radiators
- Pipe bending
- Soldering
- Installation testing
- Building regulations

Your training will ensure that you are able to comply with industry standards and will cover all the skills you will need to conduct your role effectively. The level 3 (Advanced) course will build on your knowledge and skills. This will include more advanced and complex areas such as gas safety, pressurised hot water and water regulations.

Assessment is through our training providers by internally or externally set coursework or examinations. You will be assessed in the workplace to show your competence, knowledge and understanding of business tasks and procedures, and to prove you are able to carry out your job to the required standards.

When on your college day-release, you will be supported by your Skills Trainer/tutors. You will spend the remainder of the week in the workplace. Whilst at work, your Training Officer will visit you and carry out assessments in a variety of styles: observing you; completing knowledge questions; setting practical tasks. They will also help you build your portfolio of evidence for your NVQ.

What is it like to study and how will I be assessed?

During your time studying with our training provider you will be taught by your tutor or skills officer and you will spend the remainder of the week working at the University of Exeter where you will put your new skills into practice. Whilst at work, your skills officer will visit you and carry out assessment in a variety of styles - observing you, completing knowledge questions and setting practical tasks.

What can my apprenticeship lead on to?

Your Plumbing and Heating apprenticeship at the University of Exeter will help you progress in your career as a qualified professional plumber and heating engineer. On successful completion of your apprenticeship there may be opportunities to take up a permanent role at the University.

On completion of the Advanced Apprenticeship you may consider going on to study a Level 3 Diploma in Construction which could lead to university. You will also be fully qualified to work on the installation and maintenance of gas boilers etc.

This could lead your career towards a successful career as a plumbing and heating engineer.