

## 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 (26 weeks)*

#### Course Content:

Induction  
Banker Stonecutting  
The stone built environment  
Technical drawing & craft calculations  
Fabrication and fixing  
Lettering techniques  
Stone carving  
Conservation

### *Phase 3: With Employer*

Work Based Training and Assessments

### *Phase 4: Delivered in Educational Colleges (10 weeks)*

#### Course Content:

The stone built environment  
Technical drawing & craft calculations  
Science and technology  
Banker stonecutting  
Fabrication and fixing  
Lettering techniques  
Relief carving  
Conservation

### *Phase 5: With Employer*

Work Based Training and Assessments

### *Phase 6: Delivered in Educational Colleges (10 weeks)*

#### Course Content:

Engraving and carving  
Fixing  
Conservation and restoration  
Ecclesiastical architecture

### *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 – Stonecutting & Stonemasonry.

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# The Craft of Stonecutting & Stonemasonry



For further information please contact your  
local Education & Training Board Training Centre  
or log onto [www.apprenticeship.ie](http://www.apprenticeship.ie)



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**Apprenticeship**  
Real-life Learning

## What is a Stonecutter and Stonemason?

The work carried out by a Stonecutter and Stonemason encompasses a range of skills, from the extraction and processing of stone, to carving, restoration and monumental work.

The trade of a Stonecutter & Stonemason services the following areas; Stonecutting, Extraction and Processing, Conservation and Restoration.

The Stonecutting and Stonemasonry specialists, work in a cross-section of domains within the overall craft, such as:

- Cutting stone with hand tools and stonecutting machinery
- Interpreting technical drawings and diagrams
- Stonecutting, stone finishing, monumental stone engraving, lettering techniques, stone carving, decorating and restoring stone
- Mechanical fixing and coping stones for piers
- Conservation and restoration of stone
- Extracting and quarrying techniques

## Personal Qualities and Skills

As a Stonecutter and Stonemason 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 Stonecutter and Stonemason 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 drawings and diagrams
- Working outdoors
- Using tools or machinery
- Accuracy and attention to detail
- Being well organised and careful with practical tasks
- Working at heights
- Lifting or carrying heavy items
- Taking responsibility for own learning, including the allocation of study time
- Being physically active
- Stretching, bending and kneeling
- Working in cramped and awkward spaces
- 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: Art, Technical Drawing/Graphics, Technology, Construction Studies and Mathematics.

## 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.