



December 2024

The pace of growth is accelerating

Transformation training plan for craft apprenticeships in 2025

We are pleased to report that a record 17,000 training places are being provided for craft apprentices at phases 2, 4 and 6 this year. This includes 8,500 phase 2 training places, up from 5,600 places in 2023. As a result of this increase, delays in off-the-job training have been mostly eliminated. A similar number of training places are planned for 2025.

An additional €78m was announced for apprenticeship in the 2025 budget, this will support additional workshops and extra instructors/lecturers around the country and help ensure that apprentices can progress on time through their training.

Ongoing oversight of training demand

Apprentices on most craft apprenticeships are now able to complete their training in the four-year timeframe. This includes Pipefitting apprentices who had experienced significant delays during 2023-2024. Training places to meet

demand is being closely monitored by the National Apprenticeship Office. Additional targeted measures are being put in place for 8 apprenticeships in 2025. These are:

- Construction Plant Fitting
- Electrical Instrumentation
- Heavy Vehicle Mechanics
- Mechanical Automation and Maintenance Fitting (MAMF)
- Motor Mechanics
- Plumbing
- Refrigeration and Airconditioning
- Wood Manufacturing and Finishing

Qualifying in 4 years

Although apprentices may be waiting longer than 6 months to be called for phase 2 training this does not mean that it will take longer than four years to complete training. Where delays have occurred, acceleration of training phases may be arranged. For example, the final phase 7 can be completed in an accelerated time of 1-3 weeks rather than 12 weeks.

Keeping in contact

Along with creating extra training places, we understand the importance of updating apprentices and employers on progress. This December 2024 update has been shared on the national apprenticeship social media platforms and apprentices are encouraged to contact their Training Advisor if they have any questions.

The National Apprenticeship Office coordinates the annual training plan on behalf of SOLAS and the HEA, working with training providers across further and higher education. We will continue to drive forward on the transformation training plan for craft apprentices, whose skills are so important for Ireland's social and economic growth.

Our very best wishes to everyone over the holiday period. We are looking forward to working with all apprenticeship partners in 2025.

