

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q. What is the Level 3 Plumbing & Domestic Heating Technician Apprenticeship?

A. It's a new apprenticeship that's been specially developed by employers to meet your needs as an employer in the plumbing and heating industry.

Q. Why has it been introduced?

A. For various reasons, there are skills gaps within the plumbing and heating trade in England. The new Level 3 apprenticeship has been designed to make this happen by training the next generation of skilled plumbing and domestic heating technicians.

Q. How long does the Level 3 apprenticeship take to complete?

A. It will typically take up to 48 months for apprentices to complete.

Q. What's different about the new apprenticeship ?

A. There are 4 main differences from the old apprenticeships. These are:

- The apprenticeship will last for up to 48 months
- There is only a level 3 apprenticeship
- Apprentices will need to pass an End-Point Assessment to qualify
- The new apprenticeship is graded, so they will be awarded a Pass, Merit or Distinction grade

Q. What will the apprentice learn?

A. In short, they'll learn everything they need to become a valuable and productive member of your team. This includes the very latest skills and knowledge around core aspects of domestic plumbing and heating. They'll study one area in-depth from the following, to suit your business needs and aspirations: natural gas, oil, solid fuel or environmental technologies. The course also covers 'best practice' behaviours such as team-working and quality focus. You can read the full apprenticeship standard [here](#).

Q. Who will deliver the apprenticeship?

A. The Level 3 Plumbing & Domestic Heating Technician Apprenticeship will be delivered by various training providers/colleges across England. We recommend that you 'google' and contact your local college or training provider to find out availability for this apprenticeship

Q. How much will an apprentice cost me?

A. You must pay your apprentice at least the national minimum wage, which is currently £3.90 per hour for apprentices aged under 19 and/or in the first year of their course. However, it may be in your best interests to look at paying the best hourly rate you can afford in order to attract the best potential candidates. Once an apprentice reaches 19, or

starts their second year if they're already 19 or over, the national minimum wage for their age will apply. Find out more [here](#).

Q. Is there any funding available for training?

A. Yes! There's potentially up to £21,000 of funding available from the government. Your training provider or college will explain how much funding you can get and how it all works. More information can be found at <https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/>

Q. What help, advice and support will I get?

A. Your training provider will give you all the help you need with funding, admin and paperwork. We want to make it as easy as possible for you to benefit from a Level 3 apprentice and focus on running your business at the same time.

Q. What if the apprentice sets up in competition with me when they've qualified?

A. We appreciate that this can be a worry. But a government survey revealed that a third of businesses found apprentices to be more loyal than their other staff.

Q. What do other employers think about taking on apprentices?

A. Here are some [government statistics](#) from employers in all sectors:

- 78% said taking on an apprentice increased productivity
- 74% said their product or service quality improved
- 83% would recommend apprentices to other business owners

Q. How can I find more about the ? Level 3 Plumbing & Domestic Heating Technician Apprenticeship

If you'd like more information about the new Level 3 apprenticeship please visit the Institute for Apprenticeship website <https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/plumbing-and-domestic-heating-technician/>.

Q. What is the Plumbing & Heating Skills Partnership (PHSP)?

A. The PHSP was established by the APHC, BPEC and SNIPEF. The key focus of the PHSP is to support plumbing and domestic heating employers in developing and driving forward the industry's skills agenda by working with other key stakeholders to deliver and/or facilitate the plumbing and heating industry's skill needs.

One of our activities has been to conduct a marketing campaign to promote the business benefits of apprenticeships to employers. This initiative has reached out and included a wide range of key stakeholders across the plumbing and heating industry and include:

- Association of Plumbing & Heating Contractors (APHC)
- BPEC
- EAL
- The British Association of Construction Heads (BACH)
- The Chartered Institute of Plumbing, Heating & Engineering (CIPHE)
- City & Guilds
- Joint Industry Board for Plumbing, Mechanical & Engineering Services (JIB-PMES)
- JTL
- The Worshipful Company of Plumbers
- The National Association of Plumbing Teachers (NAPT)

This PHSP initiative is a positive collaboration of organisations working together to benefit training in the plumbing and heating industry as a whole. You can read more about PHSP and their work at www.phsp.org.uk.