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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

1103 Welsh Apprenticeship Pathway

in

Smart Metering (Dual Fuel)

The content of this Pathway has been agreed by Energy & Utility Skills. This is the only Apprenticeship Pathway in the Energy & Utilities sector approved for use in Wales that is eligible for Welsh Government funding.

More Information can be obtained from:

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DfES-ApprenticeshipUnit@gov.wales
Gwefan • website: www.llyw.cymru
www.gov.wales

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The Learning Programme provision shall comprise of three mandatory elements:

- Qualifications,
- Essential Skills
- On/off the job training

The total minimum credit value required for the Level 2 Pathway Smart Meter Installation (Dual Fuel) is 75 credits.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

There are no set entry requirements for the Smart Metering apprenticeship pathway. Responsibility for the selection and recruitment of apprentices lies with the employer who will have a clear idea of their requirements.

The apprenticeship is demanding, and employers will typically look for applicants who have gained a minimum of 2-4 GCSEs at grade 4 (C) including mathematics and English/Welsh, or equivalent qualifications/experience.

Employers must be confident that the prospective apprentice has the learning potential/capacity, motivation and aptitude to achieve all of the mandatory outcomes of the apprenticeship. However, employers are asked to be flexible when recruiting people onto the apprenticeship.

Cable core identification is often coloured, and in these circumstances, correct colour vision is important. If potential applicants are concerned about colour blindness they should discuss this with the recruiting employer to identify the job role(s) that would be most suitable.

Apprentices will need to have an interest in the gas and power industry and in mechanical/electrical/physical equipment and networks.

APPRENTICESHIP PATHWAY LEARNING PROGRAMME(S)

Level 2: Smart Meter Installation (Dual Fuel)

Qualifications

Participants must achieve one of the following combined qualifications below.

Level 2 – Diploma in Smart Metering Dual Fuel					
Awarding Body	Qualification No.	Credit Value	Total Qualification Time	Competence / Knowledge / Combined	Qualification Assessment Language(s)
BPEC	C00/1739/7	63	630	Combined	English Only

Please see [Annex 1](#) for the relationship between the competence and knowledge units within the combined qualification.

Essential Skills Wales (ESW)

Essential Skills Wales qualifications assessment languages are English-Welsh.

Level 2: Smart Meter Installation (Dual Fuel)	Level	Minimum Credit Value
Communication	1	6
Application of Number	1	6
Digital Literacy	N/A	N/A

On/Off the Job Training

Pathway	Minimum On the Job Training Hours	Minimum Off the Job Training Hours
Level 2: Smart Meter Installation (Dual Fuel)	187	180

On/Off the Job Qualification details (Minimum Credit & Hours)

The total amount of training hours - which includes both on and off-the-job learning for this Pathway, is 367 training hours.

On the job training

The minimum on-the-job training time is 187 hours made up as follows:
 Minimum 172 hours – Competence element of the Combined qualification.
 This is based on the qualification rules of combination, but hours could vary from learner to learner, depending on the optional units chosen;

Minimum 15 hours - Dedicated time spent with employer/mentor to enhance the Apprentice's training; including induction and mentoring for core work areas.

Off the job training

The minimum amount of off-the-job training is 180 hours.
 - 150 Minimum hours - Knowledge element of the Combined qualification.
 This is based on the qualification rules of combination but hours could vary from learner to learner, depending on the optional units chosen;

- 15 hours – Induction, including relevant coverage of employment rights;
- 15 hours - Mentoring, reviews, pastoral care.

The industry would expect the apprenticeship to take 9-12 months of which 9 months is average.

On/Off the Job Essential Skills details (Minimum Credit & Hours)

- 6 credits / 45 GLH Level 1 Essential Skills Wales Communication
- 6 credits / 45 GLH Level 1 Essential Skills Wales Application of Number

OTHER ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Cable core identification is often coloured, and in these circumstances, correct colour vision is important.

JOB ROLES

Job Role	Job Description
Smart Meter Installer (Dual Fuel)	This role involves installing and commissioning low-pressure gas and single-phase electricity Smart Meters, including the installation and commissioning of smart meter communications units.

PROGRESSION

Progression routes into:

- work or work experience either in the gas or power sector or from other engineering sectors
- training and/or experience which could include a portfolio showing what they have done
- academic qualification(s) such as the Welsh Baccalaureate
- achievement of Essential Skills Wales
- successful completion of a Young Apprenticeship

Individuals must meet the entry conditions (see entry conditions) of the apprenticeship and the recruiting employer.

Progression from:

- On completion of the apprenticeship under normal circumstances apprentices will continue to work in their current job role

Apprentices can also progress horizontally within either the gas or the electricity industries to complete competence qualifications at the same level or higher-level units relevant to the job role or progression into another job role.

Progression opportunities available could include:

- Level 3 Energy Assessor
- Level 3 Electrical Meter Installer (HV/CT)
- Level 3 Electrician Trainee
- Level 3 Team Leader
- Core Gas Safety Certificate (CNN1 - required to progress within the gas industry)
- Level 2 Electrical Distribution Trainee
- Level 2 Plumbing and Heating Trainee

For further information on careers within the gas and electricity industries please visit:
<https://www.energyutilitiesjobs.co.uk/>

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

It is important that apprenticeship Pathways are inclusive and can demonstrate an active approach to identifying and removing barriers to entry and progression. Pathways should advance equality of opportunity between persons who share protected characteristics and those persons who do not as identified in the Equality Act 2010.

The protected characteristics identified in the Equality Act are age, disability, gender re-assignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity. Marriage and civil partnership is also included although only in respect of the requirement to eliminate discrimination in employment.

Training providers and employers MUST also comply with the other duty under the Equality Act 2010 to ensure that applicants are not discriminated against in terms of entry to the industry based upon those nine protected characteristics.

Underrepresentation

The Gas and Power industries are affected by a gender imbalance. No data is available from the Gas Safe Register in terms of the gender and ethnicity of the gas utilisation workforce, however it is accepted that females are under-represented.

8.2% of the gas utilisation industry workforce is female, 3.1% of the gas utilisation workforce is from a Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic background and 15.5% of the gas utilisation industry workforce has a disability.

For the power industry, 27.4% of the power industry workforce is female, 10.8% of the workforce is from a Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic background and 14.6% of the power industry workforce has a disability.

Solutions to entry and progression

Energy & Utility Skills routinely analyses national data on the scale and nature of the workforces in the power, gas, water, and waste management industries. The Workforce Renewal and Sector Skills Strategy 2020 – 2025 includes planned action on the broad issues

of sector attraction and inclusion and diversity. The Energy & Utility Skills Sector Inclusion Commitment is a public statement of action from the sector's major employers.

The energy and utilities sector has a long history of offering high quality technical apprenticeships that can lead to lifelong careers in critical national industries.

Energy & Utilities Jobs

The energy and utilities sector is committed to recruiting from the diverse communities they serve. The sector sponsor [Energy & Utilities Jobs](#) which advertises all vacancies including apprenticeships, across the UK. There is a focus on reaching underrepresented groups including females, people with disabilities, and people from a Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic background, so that opportunities are more visible to everyone. Many employers work in partnership with organisations which support minority groups in their workplace. Apprenticeship opportunities are open to everyone.

Inclusion Commitment

CEOs from the sector's leading businesses have committed to proactively changing diversity statistics and promoting their businesses to under-represented talent through the [Sector's Inclusion Commitment](#). They are committed to working across all sectors to recruit and attract a workforce that mirrors and speaks to the communities they serve. They will highlight the great work already being done by the sector as well as continuing to drive change through a commitment to inclusive attraction, recruitment, and development of its workforce.

In 2020 the sector introduced an inclusion measurement framework in which 24 organisations submitted data. From the inaugural results, the sector has focused on the attraction and recruitment of diverse new entrants. The 2021 results demonstrate increases in female and Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic entrants to the sector and now incorporates wider measures across the employment lifecycle and protected characteristics.

Key recent actions:

- Number of sector employers enrolled in GLA Workforce Integration Lab supporting Black Asian and Minority Ethnic candidates in entering the sector and sharing learnings across the sector
- Changes to apprenticeship entrance requirements, recruiting based on attributes rather than qualifications
- Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic candidates make up over 20% of the Energy & Utility Jobs talent pool (as a result of targeted campaigns)
- Sector partnership with Tomorrow's Engineers Code (part of Engineering UK) to ensure the sector's school outreach includes students from a wide range of backgrounds
- Increasing numbers of Disability Confident employers across the sector, working with a wide range of partners including Remploy, Shaw Trust and ENEI.

EMPLOYMENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND RIGHTS (ERR)

Employment Responsibilities and Rights (ERR) is no longer compulsory. But it is recommended that all apprentices (especially the 16 years -18 year group) receive a company induction programme.

RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of the Training Provider and Employer to ensure that the requirements of this pathway are delivered in accordance with the Welsh Government Apprenticeships Guidance.

Further information may be obtained from:

Welsh Government

DfES-ApprenticeshipUnit@gov.wales

Annex 1

Level 2: Smart Meter Installer Dual Fuel

Learners on this pathway will acquire the underpinning knowledge for the apprenticeship through the combined competence and knowledge qualification.

Level 2 Diploma in Smart Metering - Dual Fuel

Accreditation No C00/1739/7

Type: Credit based qualification

Credits: 63

Total Qualification Time: 630

<http://bpec.org.uk/qualification/dipsmart-metering-dual-gas/>