



NI 7-11 FEBRUARY
APPRENTICESHIP
WEEK 2022

Apprenticeship Opportunities

Mid And East Antrim
Manufacturing Task Force

#MTF_MEABC



Mid & East Antrim
**Manufacturing
Task Force**



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INTRODUCTION

Apprenticeships play an important role in the manufacturing, production, engineering and construction sectors, offering a unique approach to learning, blending classroom based learning with practical, hands-on experience.

Companies in the Manufacturing Task Force have come together to provide an insight into how apprenticeships work for them and the opportunities available in Mid and East Antrim.

I hope you find this resource useful, if you require any further information please contact the Investment and Place team; invest@midandeastantrim.gov.uk.



Graham Whitehurst
Chair
Manufacturing Task Force



WHAT IS THE MANUFACTURING TASK FORCE (MTF)?

The MTF is a company led network of over 65 businesses and stakeholders, which support the local manufacturing, production, engineering, construction and agri-food sectors in Mid and East Antrim. A key element of this is support for the development of skills and employment opportunities which includes:



Development of new courses and skills academies;



Upskilling and reskilling programmes;



Promotion of all pathways to employment, including apprenticeships.



APPRENTICESHIP INFORMATION

Why apprenticeships?

An apprenticeship gives you hands-on experience of the workplace, a salary and the opportunity to gain qualifications while you work.

Types of careers available

- CNC Machining
- PLC Programming
- CAD Design
- Quality Control
- Multi-skilled Maintenance
- Technician Roles / Project Engineers
- Butchery
- Engineering
- Plumbing
- Joinery
- Brickwork
- Electrical Installation
- Motor Vehicle

How much you will get paid

Employers will typically pay in accordance with at least the national minimum wage per week and salaries often increase annually throughout your apprenticeship based upon performance.

National minimum wage guidance:
www.gov.uk/national-minimum-wage-rates

Who is suitable?

Anyone aged 16 or over, including workers, job seekers, school leavers and career changers. It doesn't matter if you are just leaving school or wish to start a new career; but you must be living in Northern Ireland and not in full-time education. There may be other specific entry requirements depending on the apprenticeship and industry.

Apprenticeship levels are equivalent to:

- Level 2 (5 GCSEs)
- Level 3 (2 A-Levels)
- Level 4 and 5 (Foundation Degree)
- Level 6 and above (Bachelor or Master's Degree)

When can I start?

Apprenticeships typically start in September of each year with recruitment taking place all year round.

Benefits of apprenticeships

There are many benefits for students and employers from participation in an apprenticeship:

- you earn while you learn
- you work alongside experienced staff
- you receive off-the-job training specific to your apprenticeship
- you gain qualifications

Apprenticeships are an integral component of our workforce. We have built up the number of apprentices we employ over the last number of years and the number of different job roles covered by apprenticeships. We have apprentices at level 2, 3 and Higher Level, our expectation is to increase the numbers going forward. There are obvious benefits for the apprentice - the opportunity of earning and learning, as well as getting hands on experience on exciting projects and working alongside leading technical experts in a supportive work environment. Taking on apprentices is an important way to grow the company.



Wilbert Moore
Managing Director
Moore Concrete





HIGHER LEVEL APPRENTICESHIPS

What is a Higher Level Apprenticeship?

In addition to the traditional apprenticeship scheme there is also a Higher Level Apprenticeship which is a nationally accredited work-based programme similar to traditional apprenticeships (Level 2 or 3) but at a higher level (Level 4 or 5). It is designed to meet the needs of employers for higher skill levels and leads to qualifications equivalent to university.

How Can Your Career Benefit from a Higher Level Apprenticeship?



Employability

You will be employed for 2 years gaining valuable knowledge, practical skills and work experience as well as an internationally recognised qualification – just the combination that can help increase your future employability, boost your CV, and help you progress into new career opportunities.



Recognised Qualification

You will gain an internationally recognised qualification – Level 4 Higher National Certificate or Level 5 Foundation Degree which is a stepping stone to university.



Earn While You Learn

You will gain valuable work experience within your chosen area from your employer as well as gaining a recognised professional qualification and earning a regular salary (at least the national minimum wage).



Debt-free

The Higher Level Apprenticeship programme will allow you to start your highly-skilled career without the student debt that your university peers will have accumulated during their degree course – providing a real alternative to university.

How To Become a Higher Apprentice

You must be at least 18 years old on or before 1 July in the year you start your course and must satisfy general entry requirements.



MTF led Higher Level Apprenticeship (HLA)

Through the MTF, new courses are being developed in response to company requirements, this includes the HLA in Supply Chain and Logistics developed in conjunction with Northern Regional College (NRC).

HLA – Supply Chain and Logistics

Course Title	Supply Chain and Logistics
Awarding Body	Ulster University (UU)
Provider & Campus	NRC, Newtownabbey
Level	4 or 5
Entry Requirement	GCSE or Essential Skills Maths and English. UCAS points 64.
Course Duration	2.5 years, full time
Method of Study	Four days working/One day study
Qualification	Ulster University Foundation Degree in Supply Chain & Logistics
Modules	Level 4 Modules (Year 1)
	Introduction to Transport, Logistics & Supply Chain Management
	Accounts & Financial Management
	Marketing & Procurement
	Compliance (Health and safety, legislation, regulation, CPC, customs)
	Inventory & Warehousing & Fulfilment
	Automation & Technology
	Level 5 Modules (Year 2)
	Transport & Logistics Operations & Planning
	Leading & Managing People
Operations & Supply Chain Management	
Organisations & Strategic Management	
Logistics, Transport or Supply Chain Work Based Project (Themed)	
Contact	Anne Morrison, anne.morrison@nrc.ac.uk



Where can I find out more information on the range of apprenticeship courses available?

There are a wide range of apprenticeship courses available across many disciplines in Northern Ireland starting at level 2. A full list can be found here

www.online.economy-ni.gov.uk/Training_Apprenticeships_Ext/Home.aspx

Apprenticeships applicable to the manufacturing, engineering and construction sectors:

LEVEL 2

- Engineering
- Motor Vehicle
- Plumbing

LEVEL 3

- Civil Engineering
- Electrical Installation

HIGHER LEVEL

- Construction
- Advanced Manufacturing Engineering
- Construction Engineering with Surveying

COMPANY APPRENTICESHIP CASE STUDIES



David Henderson

Course: Foundation Degree in Construction Engineering with Surveying



www.moore-concrete.com

Why did you choose an apprenticeship?

I wanted to further my education and earn a wage, gaining experience without the debt associated with university.

What skills have you learned?

Over my three and half years at Moore Concrete I have worked in several departments including production, installation, yard services, production planning, building sales & agricultural sales. This has provided me with different experiences and from this I have developed a range of skills and appreciate the importance of providing excellent customer service, the importance of a pleasant and helpful telephone manner, IT Skills, knowledge of production processes, logistics, plant operation. I have achieved fork lift, cherry picker and telehandler licences and I was involved in the designing of a new product called the Ox Post.

What skills have you learned?

I have enjoyed the variety of tasks I have been allowed to do during my time in Moore Concrete. The role I enjoy most would be Agricultural Sales. I feel that I can relate to our Agri customers with my farming background and help them find the most appropriate precast solution. It was satisfying seeing a job progress from the enquiry stage to an order and completion, and working as part of a team and learning from others. I appreciated that I was able to earn alongside gaining a meaningful qualification at the same time.

What next?

I am in my second year of a three-year course. My course is a Foundation Degree in Construction Engineering with Surveying. I plan to finish the course.



Karsten Hall

Course: Mechanical Engineering



www.wrightbus.com

Why did you choose a Wright Bus apprenticeship?

After I finished my A-levels and left school, I didn't have any desire to go to university and full-time education. I wanted to make a start in the world of work, at a job that provided training and opportunities for progression. I was interested in Engineering, so applied for a Wrightbus apprenticeship.

How did you balance working and studying?

I found it easy to balance working and studying, the courses (level 2 & 3 NVQs, Foundation Degree), were part-time (1 day a week, day release) and aimed towards people who were in full-time employment, so there would be a lot of understanding between work and education if there were any issues.

What experience have you gained from the apprenticeship?

From my time on the shopfloor, I gained a lot of hands-on experience with most parts of the build process (e.g. rear axle build, air routing, sideframes and roof assembly, interior fitting, etc.), and a better perspective of how parts are actually assembled and how they can be improved, which helps me in my current role as a manufacturing engineer. I also learnt the theory side of engineering through the apprenticeship course.

During the last 2 years of my apprenticeship, I applied and transferred to the Design department as a Design apprentice. There I gained experience with CAD modelling, 2D drawings, helping with testing and the design process in general.

After my apprenticeship, I got a job as a Design technician, and then Manufacturing Engineer.

Would you recommend an apprenticeship?

I think it's definitely a good path to take if you are more inclined towards hands-on work and enjoy engineering and problem solving. I found the work interesting, and there are opportunities to move into different roles. I also liked the fact I was earning while getting my qualifications, with no student debt at the end of it.

COMPANY APPRENTICESHIP CASE STUDIES



Dylan Young

Course: Butchery Academy



www.cranswick.plc.uk

Why did you choose an apprenticeship?

I left school and joined the team at Cranswick in a Summer role. I left at the end of the Summer to take up a course in Engineering at the local College but soon realised it was not the career for me. I enjoyed my time in Cranswick which led me to reapply through the Butchery Academy in March 2021. It was a balanced option which provided me with a source of income and a pathway to further education.

What skills have you learned?

I had the opportunity to work with CAFRE to complete my level 2 apprenticeship. CAFRE deliver at site and through COVID were able to maintain delivery of the course on line so that I was able to continue my studies. Supported by the strong team in Cranswick I have learnt key butchery skills.

What do you enjoy most about being an apprentice?

Challenges in learning new real life tasks, earning an excellent wage and realising that my strong work ethic will create opportunities for my future.

What next?

I am focused on making a career as a skilled butcher within Cranswick and on the opportunities available to further my career, I would like to become a team leader or achieve supervisory level.



Ben Pond

Course: Electrical Engineering



www.cranswick.plc.uk

Why did you choose an apprenticeship?

The apprenticeship route offers great career prospects, I joined Cranswick initially as a General Operative in April 2019 and then I applied for a place on the Company Engineering apprenticeship programme (delivered in partnership with Northern Regional College, Ballymena) and I began the apprenticeship in September 2019.

What skills have you learned?

Year 1 involved day release to the College to study for the first year of the BTEC in Electrical Engineering, Year 2, I was now getting more opportunities to learn both electrical and maintenance skills on machinery and equipment in production with the support of a dedicated mentor. Now in year 3 I am working with a dedicated coach from the College to complete my practical NVQ qualification which also involves employment and communication skills.

What do you enjoy most about being an apprentice?

Learning new skills on a daily basis, as part of my inhouse training, I have completed; Food Safety; Food Manufacturing for Engineers; Level 2 Health and Safety; Positive Mental Health for Individuals; Keeping Safe During Covid in Manufacturing.

What next?

I am due to finish my apprenticeship in June 2022 and become a qualified Electrical Engineer, I am well on track to achieve this key milestone in my career.

COMPANY APPRENTICESHIP CASE STUDIES



David Ferguson

Course: Joinery



www.mccuefit.com

Why did you choose an apprenticeship?

I chose an apprenticeship because I wanted a career where I would always be hands-on and able to learn different skills no matter what stage of my career. Also choosing an apprenticeship is a great way to work through a company from the bottom to higher positions.

What skills have you learned?

I have learnt both from my workplace and from my time at tech. I have developed basic hand skills and the correct technique when chiselling certain joints, how to improve with accuracy when chiselling and sawing wood, I can now set out a drawing on a workshop rod and from there I can see the correct way of marking out the wood. I have learnt how to use machines such as a mortiser and a chop saw. These practical skills help me progress further when it comes to making things such as cupboards or wardrobes on my own.

What do you enjoy most about being an apprentice?

I enjoy being able to experience both work and tech and learning a numerous amount of things. Having the opportunity to work 1 on 1 with a mentor within McCue is helping me improve my skills and craftsmanship. In tech you learn basic joinery skills such how to properly set out drawings and to then transfer it onto the wood, techniques with chiselling, cutting, drawing etc.

What next?

Progression within my joinery apprenticeship and to improve my hand skills and knowledge of the industry, then to start my own jobs and to finish my apprenticeship. I would like to be given a chance to mentor my own apprentice when the time is right and hopefully pass on the knowledge I learnt as an apprentice.

A wide range of companies in Mid and East Antrim offer apprenticeship places each year.



Wrightbus, Ballymena

Wrightbus has been leading the way in the transportation industry with innovation and unwavering commitment since 1946.

Under the guidance of Jo Bamford, Executive Chairman of Wrightbus, the company has raised the bar for the UK manufacturer with its exquisite one-of-a-kind fleet. It has also become an inspiration for the globe with its visionary thinking and as a result has a number of apprenticeship opportunities available.



IPC Mouldings, Carrickfergus

Is an aerospace company who employ a range of apprentices in Mechanical Manufacturing and Engineering.



Cranswick PLC, Ballymena

A world leading pork production company who take on at least eight apprentices each year across their Butchery and Engineering divisions.



McCue, Carrickfergus

McCue works in partnership with NRC to develop and mentor apprentices in the specialist trade of bespoke joinery. McCue currently has 18 apprentices employed with the company, ranging from first to fourth years, which make up 21% of its total workforce.



Moore Concrete, Ballymena

A family owned construction firm with projects spanning the UK and Ireland. They employ over 10 apprentices each year in a range of disciplines from Civil Engineering to Welding.



Ryobi, Carrickfergus

A Japanese owned automotive company who make engine blocks for some of the top car manufacturers in the world including Jaguar, Land Rover, Peugeot and Volkswagen. Ryobi currently employ 30 apprentices in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering .



There are a wide range of local companies who offer apprenticeship places each year. Get in contact with Council for further information on these.



Other local MTF companies who employ apprentices include:



MANUFACTURING TASK FORCE – SKILLS INITIATIVES

Science Summer School NI 2022



Mid and East Antrim Borough Council alongside the Manufacturing Taskforce are working together to inspire and support the future skills pipeline. We are hosting the first Summer Science School in Northern Ireland, with Professor Brian Cox CBE, Autumn 2022. This event aims to inspire the next generation of scientists.

For further information, or if you wish to get involved as a sponsor or participant contact Rhonda Lynn at Rhonda.lynn@midandeastantrim.gov.uk



Manufacturing Excellence Academy

Funded by:



In partnership with:



Delivered by:

NORTHERN
Regional College

This is a unique opportunity to take part in an intensive five-week training programme. Students have the chance to put theory into practice and experience a range of manufacturing processes and procedures. The course includes skills to prepare for interviews and the work place. MTF companies are involved through company visits and presentations and provide guaranteed job interviews to those completing the course.

For further information on any upcoming opportunities email invest@midandeastantrim.gov.uk

APPRENTICESHIP LOCAL TRAINING PROVIDERS

Use Northern Ireland Apprenticeship Week 2022 to find out more about apprenticeships and the opportunities they present.

You can find out more at:



www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/apprenticeships

A wide variety of training providers deliver apprenticeship programmes across Northern Ireland. This includes all Further Education Colleges as well as private and social enterprise providers. These include:

Centre/Provider	Key Areas	Link to find out more
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Built Environment Engineering Construction Construction Engineering with Surveying Motor Vehicle 	www.nrc.ac.uk/Apprenticeship
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business Administration Construction Food and Drink Logistics Plumbing 	www.people-1st.co.uk/programmes/apprenticeships-ni
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Computing and IT Construction Engineering Electrotechnical Software 	www.belfastmet.ac.uk/apprenticeships/

Centre/Provider	Key Areas	Link to find out more
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retail Plastering Bricklaying Business Administration 	www.bcwtraining.co.uk/949-2/#
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bricklaying Business Administration Food Industry Furniture Production Joinery Meat and Poultry Skills Warehousing and Logistics 	www.craftrecruitment.com
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business Stores and Warehousing Joinery Customer Services 	http://rutledgegroup.co.uk/training/apprenticeshipsni-programme/

Centre/Provider

Key Areas

Link to find out more



- Catering
- Hospitality

www.bctl.org/courses



- Agriculture
- Land Based Engineering
- Food Technology and Science
- Food and Drink

www.cafre.ac.uk/student-courses/



- Business Administration
- Electrical Power Engineering
- Food and Drink
- Logistics/Warehousing

www.ghskills.com/course

Centre/Provider

Key Areas

Link to find out more



- Motor Vehicle
- Bus and Coach

www.transport-training.com/apprentice-sign-up



- Maintenance and Repair
- Mechanical
- Vehicle Repair

www.riverparktraining.com/courses



- Customer Service
- Digital Media
- Joinery
- Plumbing

www.springvalelearning.com/what-is-an-apprenticeship/



- Administration
- Construction
- Engineering
- Finance
- IT
- Manufacturing
- Sales

www.workplus.app/get-hired





You can find out more about apprenticeships at:
www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/apprenticeships

For more information about the
Manufacturing Task Force please contact:
invest@midandeantrim.gov.uk

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