



Construction and Building Services Engineering Qualifications

Support material for provider prospectuses



It's estimated that there are **13,000 companies** working in the sector, employing more than **130,000 people** and contributing **6.5% of the country's Gross Value Added.**

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Introduction to building the future

Construction and the built environment is one of the most important employment sectors in Wales.

It's estimated that there are 13,000 companies working in the sector, employing more than 130,000 people and contributing 6.5% of the country's Gross Value Added.

That's why Qualifications Wales chose it for a major review of the qualifications available in the industry.

Vocational qualifications, including those for construction and the built environment, make up 90% of the regulated qualifications available in Wales. As such, they need to reflect the skills that employers need.

The review aimed to assess the qualifications available in the sector and decide whether they needed to be changed in any way. A large part of this work involved meeting and talking with both large and small scale employers across Wales, as well as those teaching the qualifications in schools and colleges, to find out what they need.

We want to thank all our sector stakeholders for the support they have provided through the sector review and the part they are playing in helping guide these qualifications to meet the needs of employers, learners and delivery centres across Wales.

Particular thanks go to the British Association of Construction Heads and the Stakeholder Advisory Group for their careful steering and wise guidance, which we are most grateful for.





Introduction to the qualifications

Qualifications Wales has laid the foundation for the future of the industry by appointing City & Guilds and EAL to collaborate on the development of a new suite of fundable Construction and Building Services Engineering qualifications in Wales. We offer a variety of trades, all of which provide the opportunity to progress in the Construction and Building Services Engineering sector.

These qualifications strive to be future-proof as they incorporate skills that the sector needs now and in the future. The new qualifications will start to help to simplify the complex landscape of more than 400 qualifications available in the sector.

What are your career choices?

In addition to occupations such as plasterer, electrician, bricklayer, plumber, tiler, architectural joiner, and site carpenter, you could be knowledgeable about the future trends of smart home technologies and sustainable construction, like solar panels and zero carbon buildings. Sought after traditional skills and techniques used on heritage buildings have been included in these qualifications to plug much needed skills gaps and open up more options for you as you start on your career in this varied and exciting industry.

Who are the qualifications for?

They are suitable for:

- anyone aged 16+ currently working in or intending to work in the construction and building services engineering sector
- site operatives who want to widen their knowledge, understanding and skills in the sector more generally.

You will need to have achieved or be working towards your Level 2 Essential Skills English and Maths (or equivalent). There are no other additional entry requirements for these qualifications.



Qualifications ready for first teaching in September 2021

→ Foundation in Construction and Building Services Engineering (Level 2)

- Working with brick, block and stone
- Wood occupations
- Painting and decorating
- Plastering and interior systems
- Plumbing and domestic heating
- Roofing occupations
- Wall and floor tiling
- Electrotechnical systems and equipment
- Construction operations and civil engineering services
- Plant operations

→ Level 3 Construction (Apprenticeship qualification)

- Bricklaying
- Architectural joinery
- Site carpentry
- Timber frame erection
- Painting and decorating
- Wall and floor tiling
- Plastering
- Roof slating and tiling
- Plant operations
- Dry lining
- Civil operations - groundworker

→ Progression in Construction (Level 2)

- Bricklaying
- Architectural Joinery
- Site Carpentry
- Timber Frame Erection
- Painting and decorating
- Solid Plastering
- Roof Slater and Tiler
- Dry Lining – Fixing
- Construction Operations – General Construction

→ Level 3 Building Services Engineering (Apprenticeship qualification)

- Heating and Ventilating Installation
- Heating and Ventilating Craftsperson
- Plumbing and Heating
- Electrotechnical Installation

→ Progression in Building Services Engineering (Level 2)

- Electrotechnical Systems and Equipment: Installation
- Plumbing and Heating

Other benefits of taking these qualifications:

- The qualifications will give you the skills that employers are looking for, to make you more employable
- You will have resources to support you through your course to help you develop the skills the qualifications require of you
- As you move through the framework of qualifications, they adopt a streamlined approach to assessment to reduce assessment duplication
- There are clear progression routes so you can picture your path onto further study or into employment
- You will have the choice of bilingual (English and Welsh) learning resources, and assessments

Including the qualifications in your prospectus

You can choose to include as much (or as little) information about the range of qualifications in your prospectus as you wish. For detailed information on each of our Construction and Building Services Engineering qualifications please visit:

skillsforwales.wales/qualifications



Wording you could use in your prospectus

A new suite of Construction and Building Services Engineering qualifications have been developed to better meet the skills needs of Wales and provide you with a range of career opportunities within the sector.

Simplifying a complex qualification landscape

The change aims to simplify the complicated decisions learners have faced when choosing from more than 400 qualifications in construction and building services engineering in Wales. The swathe of qualifications provided a confusing patchwork of skills and progression options for learners.

City & Guilds and EAL are working with employers and sector representatives, the skills card schemes and the standard setting body to build a new landscape of qualifications with clear progression options to make you ready for the modern workplace.





The qualifications

Vocational options start with a Foundation in Construction and Building Services Engineering (Level 2) qualification. This qualification includes two trade areas of interest and employability skills.

Once achieved, you can move onto a Level 3 trade specialism with an employer as part of an apprenticeship or take the Progression Qualification to strengthen your chosen trade skill.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Option A Complete one year in full time learning before securing an apprenticeship	Foundation in Construction and Building Services Engineering	Level 3 Construction in your chosen trade specialism (Apprenticeship qualification)		
		Level 3 Building Services Engineering in your chosen trade specialism (Apprenticeship qualification)		
Option B Complete two years in full time learning before securing an apprenticeship	Foundation in Construction and Building Services Engineering	Progression qualification In a chosen trade area from Construction or Building Services Engineering	Level 3 Construction in your chosen trade specialism (Apprenticeship qualification)	
			Level 3 Building Services Engineering in your chosen trade specialism (Apprenticeship qualification)	
Option C Take the Core or Foundation qualification off-the-job while taking an apprenticeship	Core or Foundation qualification and Level 3 Construction (Apprenticeship qualification)			
	Core or Foundation qualification and Level 3 Building Services Engineering (Apprenticeship qualification)			

Apprenticeship length

The length of each apprenticeship can vary depending on the trade chosen.

“We are confident that these new qualifications will give learners and apprentices a strong set of skills that are both relevant and current.”

Ifan Glyn, Senior Hub Director / Wales Director,
Federation of Master Builders

“We need someone to hit the ground running when they start working for us – and looking at what’s in these qualifications the learners taking them will really be able to do that.”

Richard Owen, Training & Workforce Manager,
Jones Bros



Foundation in Construction and Building Services Engineering (Level 2)

Qualification overview

The Foundation in Construction and Building Services Engineering (Level 2) qualification has been developed for individuals working in or intending to work, in the sector. It is aimed at anyone age 16+. You can take it either as a full-time programme of learning that is usually delivered over one year, or as a part-time programme of learning as part of an apprenticeship.

Entry requirements

You will need to have achieved or be working towards your Level 2 Essential Skills English and Maths (or equivalent). There are no other additional entry requirements for this qualifications.

What does the qualification cover?



Trade units

You will choose **two** trade units to spend additional time learning, which will include planning, performing and evaluating common tasks:

- Working with brick, block and stone
- Wood occupations
- Painting and decorating
- Plastering and interior systems
- Plumbing and domestic heating
- Roofing occupations
- Wall and floor tiling
- Electrotechnical systems and equipment
- Construction operations and civil engineering services
- Plant operations



Core units

You will complete **six** 'core' units which cover:

- An introduction to the construction and built environment sectors
- Employment and employability skills
- Health and safety

This qualification gives you an introductory knowledge and understanding of:

- The built environment life cycle, the job roles within it, and the dependencies between people performing those roles
- How to promote and sustain health and safety for oneself and others
- Employability skills relevant to future work

The qualification provides sufficient knowledge to progress into an apprenticeship within the sector in your choice of trade.

To achieve employment as a qualified tradesperson, you would need to achieve a Level 3 qualification as part of an apprenticeship in the trade of your choice.



Progression in Construction (Level 2)

Qualification overview

The Progression in Construction has been developed for individuals working in or intending to work in, the construction sector. It is aimed at anyone who has achieved their Foundation in Construction and Building Service Engineering but does not yet have an apprenticeship.

Entry requirements

You will need to have achieved your Foundation in Construction and Building Services Engineering (Level 2), and be working towards your Level 2 in Essential Skills English and Maths (or equivalent).

What does the qualification cover?

You will choose a trade area from the units available in construction and develop your knowledge, skills and understanding for that trade.



Trade units

You will focus your time on **one** chosen trade. Trade areas that your centre could deliver:

- Bricklaying
- Architectural Joinery
- Site Carpentry
- Timber Frame Erection
- Painting and decorating
- Solid Plastering
- Roof Slater and Tiler
- Dry Lining – Fixing
- Construction Operations – General Construction



Core units

You will also complete **three** 'core' units which cover:

- Employment
- Employability skills
- General construction practices

The qualification is aimed at furthering skills before starting an apprenticeship.

To achieve employment as a qualified tradesperson, you would need to achieve a Level 3 qualification as part of an apprenticeship in your choice of trade.



Progression in Building Services Engineering (Level 2)

Qualification overview

The Progression in Building Services Engineering (Level 2) qualification has been developed for individuals working in or intending to work in, the building services engineering sector. It is aimed at anyone who has achieved their Foundation in Construction and Building Services Engineering (Level 2) qualification, but does not yet have an employer to continue to an Apprenticeship.

Entry requirements

You will need to have achieved the Foundation in Construction and Building Services Engineering qualification (Level 2), and be working towards your Level 2 in Essential Skills English and Maths (or equivalent).

What does the qualification cover?

You will choose a trade area from the units available in building services engineering and develop your knowledge, skills and understanding of that trade.



Trade units

You will focus your time on **one** chosen trade. Trade areas that your centre could deliver:

- Electrotechnical systems and equipment: installation
- Plumbing and heating



Core units

You will also complete **three** 'core' units which cover:

- Employment
- Employability skills
- General construction practices

The qualification is aimed at furthering skills before starting an apprenticeship.

To achieve employment as a qualified tradesperson, you would need to achieve a Level 3 qualification as part of an apprenticeship in your choice of trade.



Level 3 Construction (Apprenticeship qualification)

Qualification overview

The Level 3 Construction qualifications are taken as part of an apprenticeship. They allow you to demonstrate the range of your occupational knowledge, skills and understanding in a construction trade of your choice.

They are aimed at anyone who has either achieved the Foundation in Construction and Building Services Engineering (Level 2) qualification, or will be completing the Foundation learning and assessments while in their apprenticeship.

What do the qualifications cover?

You choose one specialism in construction and develop your knowledge, skills and understanding for that trade.



Qualifications

The range of qualifications your centre could deliver:

- Bricklaying
- Architectural joinery
- Site carpentry
- Timber frame erection
- Painting and decorating
- Wall and floor tiling
- Plastering
- Roof slating and tiling
- Plant operations
- Dry lining
- Civil operations - groundworker



Core units

You will also complete two 'core' units covering the construction sector and practice in the sector within Wales.

On completion, the qualification will provide you with the skills and knowledge required to be capable of working in your chosen trade across the UK.



Level 3 Building Services Engineering (Apprenticeship qualification)

Qualification overview

The Level 3 Building Services Engineering qualifications will be taken as part of an apprenticeship. They allow you to demonstrate a range of occupational knowledge, skills and understanding.

You will need to have either achieved the Foundation in Construction and Building Services Engineering (Level 2) qualification, or will be completing the Foundation learning and assessments while in your apprenticeship.

What do the qualifications cover?

You choose one specialism in building services engineering and develop your knowledge, skills and understanding of that trade.



Qualifications

The range of qualifications your centre could deliver:

- Heating and Ventilating Installation
- Heating and Ventilating Craftsperson
- Plumbing and Heating
- Electrotechnical Installation



Core units

You will also complete two 'core' units covering the building services engineering sector and practice in the sector within Wales.

On completion, the qualification will provide you with the skills and knowledge required to be capable of working in your chosen trade across the UK.

Get in touch

For more information that includes an overview, suitability, structure, progression and assessment details for each Construction and Building Services Engineering qualification available, please visit skillsforwales.wales/qualifications