

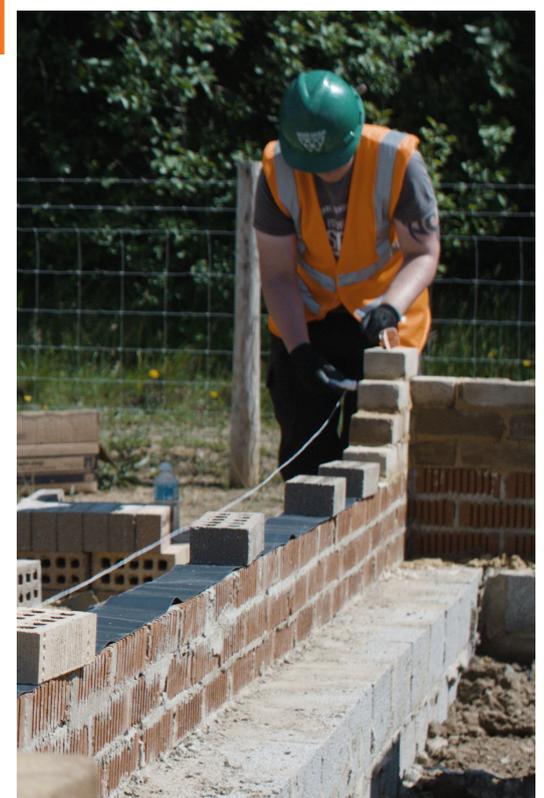
Occupational traineeship in bricklaying

What is it?

The occupational traineeship in bricklaying is a flexible programme that can help young people get a good job in the construction industry by providing a bridge between the Level one or two diploma in bricklaying and the Level two bricklaying apprenticeship.

Who is it for?

Young people who have finished a diploma in bricklaying but have not found a job or an apprenticeship yet. Young people who will know that they want to be a bricklayer but need a bit more support and experience before they are ready to start work.



What will young people learn?

The occupational traineeship is similar to a general traineeship; it includes work preparation training; a high-quality work experience placement; and English, maths and digital support where needed. However, unlike a general traineeship, the occupational traineeship in bricklaying is designed to prepare a young person for work as a bricklayer, rather than general preparation for other jobs.

The programme typically lasts ten to twelve weeks and includes two to four weeks of training with a college or independent training provider and an eight-week work placement with an employer. The first weeks of the traineeship include hands-on vocational learning delivered in a real-world construction environment.

'That is what every young person should have before they go out on site. Don't get us wrong, sometimes when they go out and they're brand new, they've only laid bricks in the college, whereas here that's real. They put the profiles on, and they'll be going up this high not building little models down there. One of the employers spoke to me then and he went, 'This type of work here will develop the trainees as bricklayers.'

Hartlepool College staff member

Through this practical learning young people can develop team working and communication skills and build their confidence. After this, trainees then start an eight-week work experience placement with an employer, where they are supported to further develop skills and find out what working as a bricklayer is really like.

What are the benefits?

Trainees receive lots of support from the training provider and their work experience employer. All teaching staff should have ideally worked in the construction industry.

This means they can share practical tips and help the trainees to understand the opportunities that exist in a career in the construction sector.

It helps people who are nervous and shy, who have never been on site and are quiet, because a lot of them are quiet in classrooms but you see a lot of difference in people out here, you see the spark they have.' Trainee

A learning support worker should also be available to help anyone with additional needs. Employers support trainees as well, this can include helping with transport, interview preparation, teaching bricklaying skills, and providing careers advice.

What do employers say?

Employers who have supported the programme are enthusiastic about it. They find it difficult to recruit bricklayers and so value the opportunity to support trainees, who they often go on to employ as apprentices. They like the practical focus of the traineeship as it means trainees are better prepared for their apprenticeship and really understand what a career in bricklaying is like.

'When they actually start their apprenticeship programme, they have a level of ability which again, I would use this word confidence, the kids are confident to do it out on site and the gangs that they're with are confident to let them do it, without thinking 'I can't really let them on that wall' because at the end of the day, what they're building is a customer's house.' Bricklaying employer

What happens after the traineeship?

If the trainees do well on the programme, they can expect to progress to an apprenticeship with an employer. Skills shortages in the bricklaying industry mean there are well-paid careers available with the opportunity to travel, set up a business or progress into management positions.

Find out about how to apply for a traineeship [here](#).