

**GENERATION
APPRENTICESHIP**
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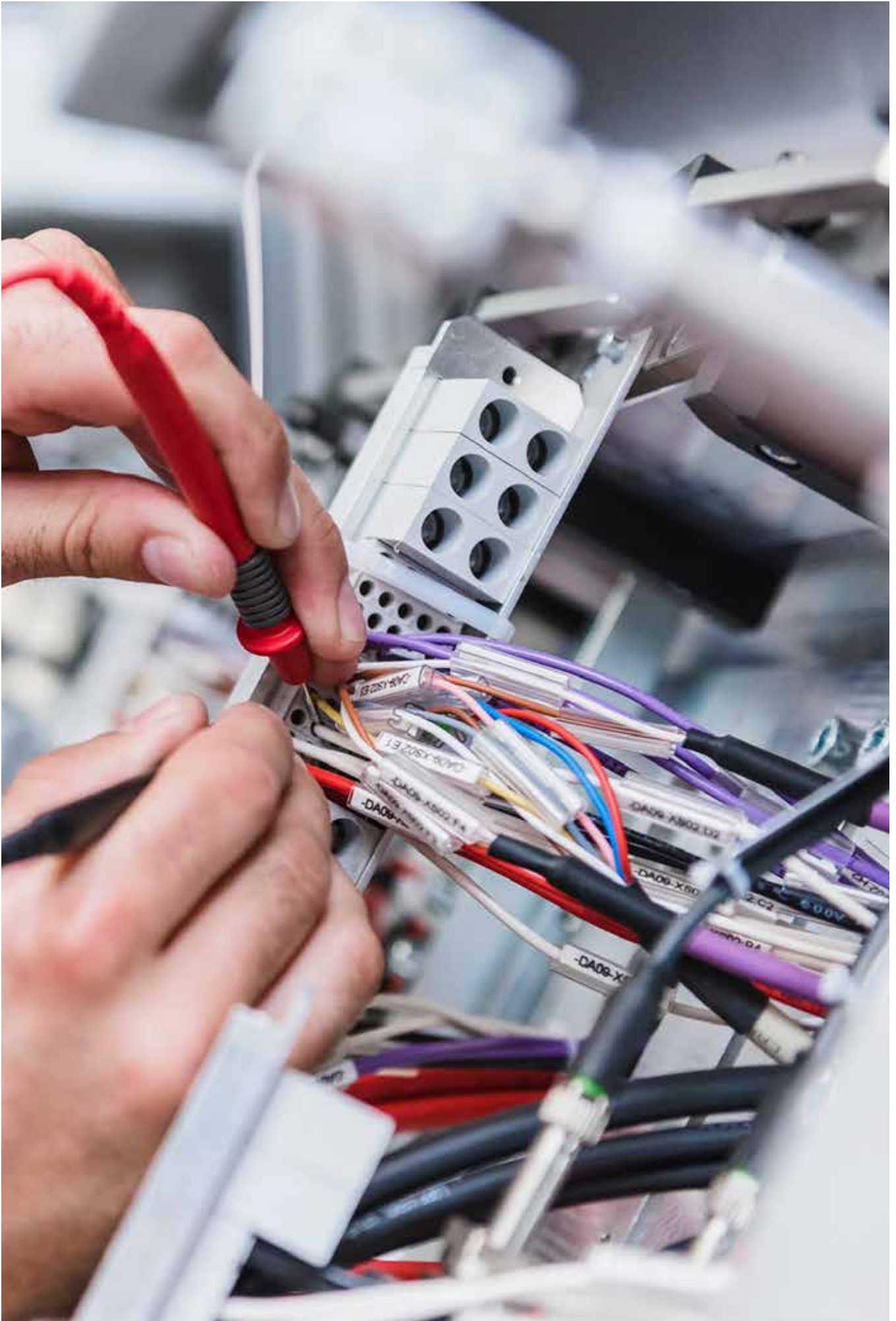
**Telecommunications &
Data Network Engineering**
TDNE.IE | Apprenticeship



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PROGRAMM OVERVIEW

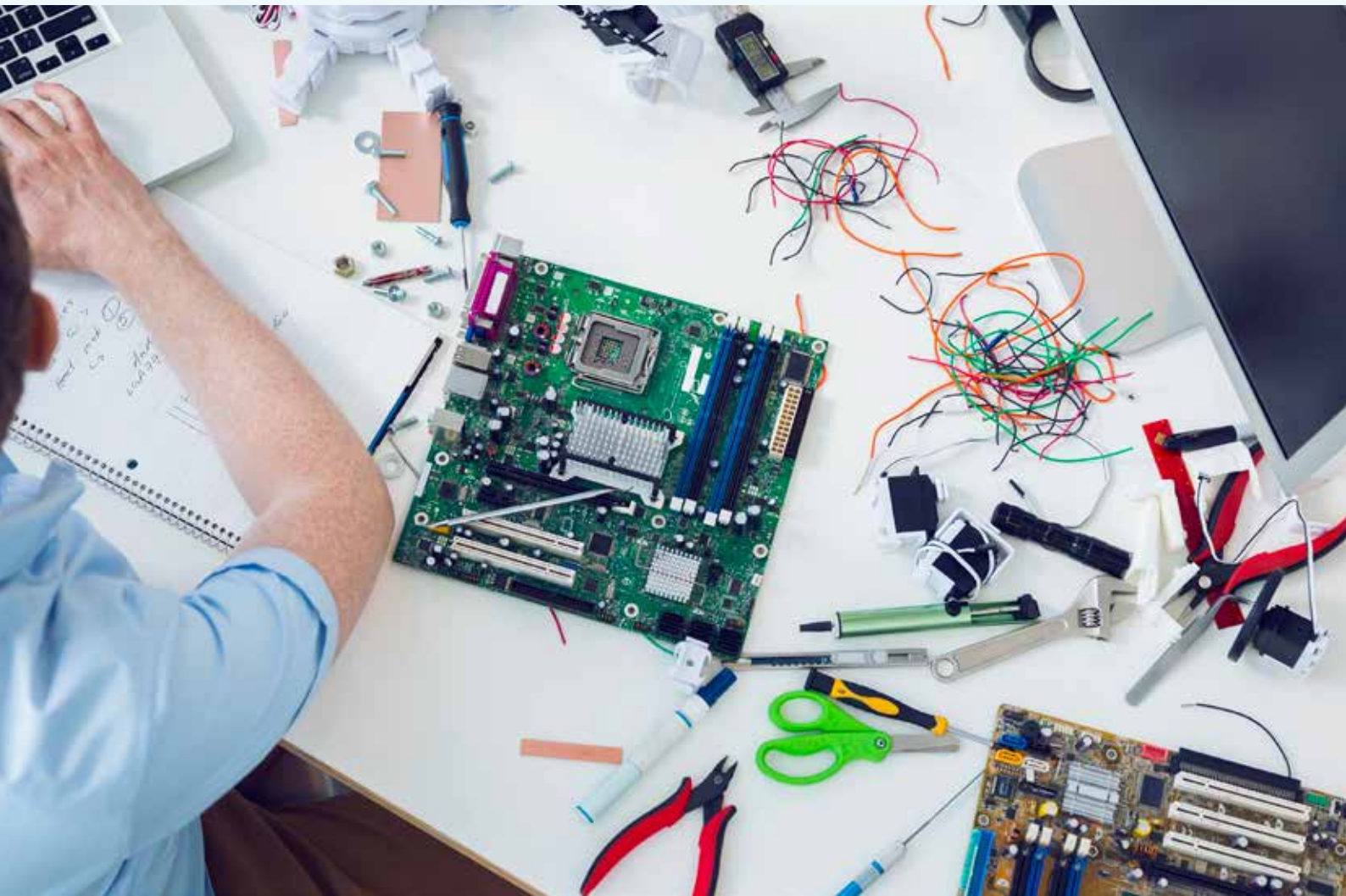
Qualification: Higher
Certificate in Engineering in
Telecommunications and Data
Network Engineering (Level 6)

This Apprenticeship Programme is one of the primary tools that the telecommunications industry will use to address the clear need for trained technicians in the field. The Programme will support employers from the ICT sector by providing a structure for the training of Technicians over a period of two years.

At the completion of the new Apprenticeship Programme, the apprentice will receive a QQI accredited Higher Certificate in Telecommunications and Data Network Engineering which will be a nationally recognised qualification. This award will ensure that the holder has proficiency as a Field Technician in the discipline. The programme will be delivered over two years, involving both off-the-job and on-the-job phases, developing subject matter expertise and investigating industry-wide standards.

The apprenticeship in Telecommunications and Data Network Engineering involves a 24 month apprenticeship contract with an employer which incorporates both on-the-job and off-the-job elements. Over the lifetime of the apprenticeship a total of eight blocks, each of two weeks duration, will be spent attending class and practical laboratories at TU Dublin. In addition during the on-the-job elements a significant period of time will be spent in the form of work based learning with the employer in order to complete the Programme modules. Four modules will be completed in year 1 and four in year 2.





MODULES | YEAR 1

SEM 1 (Beg of Jan to early June)

Network Installation,
Health & Safety

Telecommunications Technology &
Service Restoration

SEM 2 (Mid Sept to Mid Dec)

Electrical Principles

Customer Service

MODULES | YEAR 2

SEM 3 (Beg of Jan to early June)

Broadband & Wirelless Skills

Optic Fibre Installation

SEM 4 (Mid Sept to Mid Dec)

Optic Fibre Maintenance &
Commissioning

Personal & Professional
Development

EMPLOYER DUTIES & RESPONS- IBILITIES

1. Can the employer recruit and select the apprentice on a two year fixed full time permanent contract including the day-off-the job release and provide continuous employment for the apprentice/s to complete all phases of their two year apprenticeship?

The position is a two year contract fixed full time permanent contract (including the off-the-job release). Your normal contract of employment for the job role together with a Code of Practice for Apprentices outlines your obligations. The Code of Practices will assist both the employer and the apprentices understand their obligations regarding this apprenticeship programme.

An Apprentice Code of Practice for employers is available at:

www.apprenticeship.ie/Documents/ApprenticeshipCodeOfPractice.pdf

2. Can the employer provide access for the apprentice to the trade and type of that will allow the apprentice to gain the experience and develop skills across a full range of competencies?

The company (where possible) will rotate tasks or roles to ensure that the apprentice appreciate the varying roles / aspects of work within the company?

3. Is the employer aware of the entry requirements?

Applicant must hold a Leaving Certificate with a minimum of Grade O6/H7 or better in 5 subjects in the Leaving Certificate including English or Irish and Mathematics. A Pass in Foundation Level Irish (F3) is acceptable for this course. Alternatively an applicant can hold a level of qualification which is deemed equivalent to the requirements in the Leaving Certificate. Mature candidates (23 years of age or older) as of 1 July in the year of application are eligible to apply if they meet the academic or alternative qualification requirements noted. Evidence of this will be required.

4. Has the employer requested the apprentice to complete the Colour Vision test?

All Apprentices must pass the Ishihara Colour Vision Test (24 Plate Edition). For further information contact the Apprenticeship section in your local Education and Training Board. (Please see appendix 1 for sample form).



5. Can the employer provide the time, facilities and equipment necessary to support apprentices in respect of both on the job training at their premises and college based learning?

Facilities include access to PC or portable device, personal protective equipment, general hand tools, test meters, fixed or wireless network so as to carry out an installation to include fibre blowing/sub ducting and splicing.

Work within a team environment when on the job. Support College based learning through time and facilities/ equipment necessary [quiet area / headphones] to participate in on-line lectures and tutorials and to attend face to face lectures in hour or at venues arranged by TU Dublin - Tallaght Campus to acquire qualification validating professional and technical knowledge in the Telecommunications Industry.

6. Can the employer provide a qualified or experienced person to act as the Workplace Supervisor and assessor/verifier with responsibility for day to day supervision of the apprentice within a team environment?

The mentor plays a key role in the formative assessment of work based learning and must have;

- A minimum Level 6 qualification in a technical/engineering discipline or a cognitively equivalent discipline. (and)
- A minimum of 5 years' experience in a senior technical position in the Telecommunications industry or equivalent discipline.

Evidence of qualification and work experience will be required.

Or

- A minimum of 10 years' experience in a technical role in the Telecommunications industry or an equivalent discipline. (and)
- The completion of Continuous Professional Development (CPD) in industry specific areas.

Evidence of work experience and CPD will be required.

The mentor supervises, assesses, and signs-off the competences that are set out for the on-the-job tasks specified in the module syllabus. Provisional assessment results are input to a learning management system.

In addition, all mentors involved in assessment of on-the-job training must complete a mentor induction module in TU Dublin – Tallaght.

7. Can the employer provide a Mentor or a programme Manager [if more than one apprentice] to provide support and guidance to the apprentice in the workplace?

Employers are required to provide a qualified person with sufficient professional expertise and authority to support guide and mentor apprentices. They should have the relevant qualification – see above.

The ratio of mentor to apprentices should be 1 mentor to 6 apprentices approximately.

8. Does the Employer understand that assessment is one of the most important elements of the apprenticeship training? The right of an institution or individual to assess an apprentice carries with it very serious responsibilities?

Supervisors, Assessors and Mentors cannot function purely as trainers and advocates for the apprentices, they must make judgements, any assessor making a judgement on an apprentice must be competent to do so. They should have the relevant qualification as above.

9. Can the Employer facilitate on the job assessment requirements?

- Continuous record of experience and assessment is maintained for each apprentice containing the apprentice's reflections on their experience. This should be confirmed by the workplace supervisor/trainer for the external observation of the apprentice.
- Timely sources of feedback on assessment and support for dealing with deficiencies.
- Flexible assessment schedule that will facilitate and deal with different workplace situations and adaptive to changing circumstances.
- Feedback from the mentors to the apprentices will be required for each of the on the job assessments for each of the 8 modules over the two year. Feedback can be done through face to face, telephone, email or through the Learning Management System (Moodle).
- Periodic face to face observation of the experience and achievement of the apprentice

ASSESSING ON THE JOB

(Work Based Learning)

In the context of the Apprenticeship, the Work Based Learning (WBL) component performs a central function in bridging the classroom to the world of work. This will invariably lead to both strong educational and employment opportunities for the apprentices who have joined the programme. The WBL elements developed for the Apprenticeship Programme have the important objective of reinforcing academic theory, introducing practical skills, and fostering a professional approach to the career.

A key component of the programme is the requirement of students to augment their off-the-job practical skill assessments with on-the-job WBL assessments.

WBL experiential assessments are based upon specified tasks that have been identified by the Consortium Steering Industry Group.

WBL experiential assessments are typically comprised of the following stages;

1. The apprentice performs the task/practice under employer supervision, with supervisor sign-off on the completion of the work-based task/practice.

2. The apprentice gathers evidence, including supervisor sign-off, of their hands-on



completion of the task (e.g. relevant photographs or record of measurements) and incorporates the documentary evidence within a narrative, citing the key learning and experiential aspects of the task performed. The narrative template is TU Dublin-standardised.

3. The apprentice submits the narrative, on-line via Moodle for assessment by TU Dublin on, or before, the required deadline date.

4. The apprentice completes an on-line quiz and/or questionnaire based upon the assessment.

5. The narrative document and quiz/questionnaire results are incorporated into the apprentice's course assessment portfolio (electronic form).

APPRENTICES PROFILE & ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

What is the Apprenticeship in Telecommunications and Data Network Technician?



This Apprenticeship Programme is one of the primary tools that the telecommunications industry will use to address the clear need for trained technicians in the field. The Programme will support employers from the ICT sector by providing a structure for the training of Technicians over a period of two years. The new Apprenticeship is a joint endeavour by companies engaged in the telecommunications sector and TU Dublin to provide a formal accredited apprenticeship programme for the development of the telecommunications workforce.

TU Dublin will oversee the training and qualification standards and coordinate with SOLAS to approve participation in the programme. The primary intent is to provide quality education that guarantees an agreed level of training and competency across the industry. This Programme will help satisfy the need for the availability of highly skilled technical employees for ongoing network deployment projects.

At the completion of the new Apprenticeship Programme, the apprentice will receive a QQI accredited Higher Certificate in Telecommunications and Data Network Engineering which will be a nationally recognised qualification. This award will

ensure that the holder has proficiency as a Field Technician in the discipline. The programme will be delivered over two years, involving both off-the-job and on-the-job phases, developing subject matter expertise and investigating industry-wide standards.

Who is the programme suited to?

This Apprenticeship Programme is one of the primary tools that the telecommunications



industry will use to address the clear need for trained technicians in the field. The Programme will support employers from the ICT sector by providing a structure for the training of Technicians over a period of two years. The new Apprenticeship is a joint endeavour by companies engaged in the telecommunications sector and TU Dublin to provide a formal accredited apprenticeship programme for the development of the telecommunications workforce.

TU Dublin will oversee the training and qualification standards and coordinate with SOLAS to approve participation in the programme. The primary intent is to provide quality education that guarantees an agreed level of training and competency across the industry. This Programme will help satisfy the need for the availability of highly skilled technical employees for ongoing network deployment projects.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

a. Applicant must be employed by a SOLAS approved employer within the telecommunications sector.

b. Applicant must hold a Leaving Certificate with a minimum of Grade O6/H7 or better in 5 subjects in the Leaving Certificate including English or Irish and Mathematics. A Pass in Foundation Level Irish (F3) is acceptable for this course. Alternatively an applicant can hold a level of qualification which is deemed equivalent to the requirements in the Leaving Certificate.

Mature candidates (23 years of age or older) as of 1 July in the year of application are eligible to apply if they meet the academic or alternative qualification requirements noted. Evidence of this will be required.

Applicants must be Irish or European Economic Area (EEA) citizens or have resided within these regions for the past three consecutive years. A person from outside the EEA is eligible to apply for the Programme if he/she has Stamp 4 Visa. Evidence of this will be required on the application.

c. Mature candidates (23 years of age or older) as of 1 July of application are eligible

d. All Apprentices must pass the Ishihara Colour Vision Test (24 Plate Edition). Mature candidates (23 years of age or older) as of 1 July of application are eligible

e. All Apprentices must pass the Ishihara Colour Vision Test (24 Plate Edition).

f. Instruction is normally through English and applicants who do not have Leaving Certificate English must provide evidence of equivalent competence through school leaving or matriculations examinations: achievement

of a minimum standard in recognised tests of English or approved English test administered by the College.

g. Applicants must be at least 16 years of age prior to commencement of the programme. Whilst the primary target learner is school leavers, there are no age restrictions for applicants to the programme.

h. Candidates with an 'Telecommunications/IT/ Engineering - Related' qualification are also eligible.

i. Existing employees of participating companies are also eligible to apply but must be changing to a new position as a Telecommunications Technician. Evidence of this will be required.

j. Employers have the discretion to enhance the entrance criteria beyond the minimum academic standards.



APPLICATION AND REGISTRATION PROCESS FOR TELECOMS & DATA APPRENTICESHIP

NOTE:

The Consortium Steering Group is an employer led initiative with the following objectives.

- Ensures the Telecommunications & Data Technician Apprenticeship is economically relevant and meets the needs of employers.
- Ensures any future apprenticeships include a significant element of 'employed learning' and have sufficient breath to support portability and progression.
- Builds the capacity of apprenticeships.

THE CONSORTIUM STEERING GROUP (CSG) AGREES SIZE OF THE APPRENTICESHIP INTAKE FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR.



CSG AGREES GENERAL ALLOCATION OF PLACES IF NECESSARY



COMPANIES HIRE EMPLOYEES FOR REGISTRATION



COMPANIES REGISTER EMPLOYEES AS APPRENTICES WITH SOLAS



TUD TALLAGHT OPENS ONLINE STUDENT REGISTRATION FACILITY. APPRENTICES COMPLETE REGISTRATION



TUD TALLAGHT ORGANISES INDUCTION SESSION FOR APPRENTICES



TUD TALLAGHT COMMENCES APPRENTICE PROGRAMME



CONTACT DETAILS

For further course information
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