

## Plumbing

### Qualification and Level

Intermediate Apprenticeship and Advanced Apprenticeship in Plumbing & Heating.

Plumbers in most companies are expected to show the skills and competence gained at Advanced Level, so this should be your final aim.

### Why Plumbing?

There is a demand across the country for skilled and qualified plumbers, and employers increasingly need committed, well trained and enthusiastic workers.

By completing an Apprenticeship in Plumbing you will increase your skills, knowledge and performance and become a valuable team member. This will demonstrate to an employer that you have gained the right knowledge and experience to help them in their business and encourage them to invest in you and your career.

### Why York College?

York College offers a vibrant young adult environment with over 13,000 full and part-time learners, a friendly atmosphere, and support from specialist staff. We offer a wide range of academic and vocational qualifications at all levels, and work both with individuals and alongside local educational providers and businesses.

Our award-winning £60 million campus offers modern state-of-the-art teaching, learning and social facilities including: realistic training environments including the specialist Construction Crafts Centre at Osbaldwick on the northeast side of York; Learning Centre; hair and beauty spa; day nursery; cafés and food court; restaurant; sports development centre; theatre.

### Are there any entry requirements?

To start the programme you must be employed for a minimum of 30 hours per week with a plumbing firm who can cover the range of work needed for the NVQ. The College may need to speak to your employer to ensure that the range and nature of their work will give you enough experience to complete the NVQ.

Candidates should have as a minimum 4 GCSEs; 2 at grade C or equivalent and 2 at Grade D or equivalent in English, Mathematics and Double Science. You cannot study at Level 3 unless you have passed the Level 2 qualification or have a minimum of five years' plumbing experience.

### What will I study?

The Plumbing & Heating Intermediate Apprenticeship framework consists of:

- NVQ Diploma Level 2 in Plumbing & Heating
- Functional Skills Level 2 in Application of Number
- Functional Skills Level 2 in Communication
- Functional Skills Level 1 in ICT
- Employment Responsibilities and Rights (ERR) additional unit

The Plumbing & Heating Advanced Apprenticeship framework consists of:

- EAL NVQ Diploma Level 3 in Domestic Plumbing & Heating (Gas Fired Water & Central Heating Appliances)
- Functional Skills Level 2 in Application of Number
- Functional Skills Level 2 in Communication
- Functional Skills Level 1 in ICT
- Employment Responsibilities and Rights (ERR) additional unit

This is a very varied profession for which you will need to master the skills of cutting, bending and jointing pipe work of all types, including copper, plastic and steel. You will also receive training on gas appliances and unvented systems as part of the Advanced Apprenticeship. To be a qualified Plumber you need the NVQ Diploma at both Intermediate and Advanced level.

You must do all the qualifications in the framework, although you may be partly or fully exempt from some of them depending on your previous qualifications. You will receive a certificate for each qualification as you achieve it, and after you have achieved them all you will receive an Apprenticeship or Advanced Apprenticeship certificate.

## How will I be assessed?

The Intermediate Apprenticeship programme runs over a period of two years and the Advanced Apprenticeship takes 3 years to complete. You will attend College on day release (one day per week) and work for your employer the rest of the time.

For the NVQ Diploma you will build up a portfolio, which is a collection of examples or evidence of your work that demonstrates your skills and ability, including a work diary, photos, statements from your employer and colleagues and examples of completed tasks. Assessment consists of practical tasks, observations, oral questioning, written questions, assignments, projects and written tests.

The course is demanding and has a high pass mark.

The Functional Skills are assessed through written and on-line tests.

## What can I do next?

Most Apprentices progress to the Advanced Apprenticeship. After achieving the Advanced Apprenticeship you may decide to move into a supervisory or management job within your company, or even to set up your own business.

## What alternatives are there?

- Construction
- Electrotechnical
- Engineering

## How do I apply?

Fill in the Work Based Learning Application Form and send it to the Admissions Team at York College at the address below. We'll write to invite you to an interview and guidance session. Our programmes are popular and fill up quickly, so we advise you to apply as early as you can, even if you don't yet have a job.

## Who can give me further information and advice?

### Admissions Team

Your first point of contact about the application process.  
York College, Sim Balk Lane, York YO23 2BB  
01904 770449, [admissions.team@yorkcollege.ac.uk](mailto:admissions.team@yorkcollege.ac.uk)

### Employer Engagement Support Officers

Advice about Apprenticeships for students and employers.  
York College, Sim Balk Lane, York YO23 2BB  
01904 770445, [apprenticeships@yorkcollege.ac.uk](mailto:apprenticeships@yorkcollege.ac.uk)

### Future Prospects

Advice about careers, Apprenticeships and other courses in the York area.  
24 Swinegate, York YO1 8AZ  
01904 634748, [admin@futureprospects.org.uk](mailto:admin@futureprospects.org.uk), [www.futureprospects.org.uk](http://www.futureprospects.org.uk)

### Student Services

Confidential information, advice and signposting on a wide range of matters including accommodation, travel, childcare, welfare, benefits and financial assistance.  
York College, Sim Balk Lane, York YO23 2BB  
01904 770397, [studentservices@yorkcollege.ac.uk](mailto:studentservices@yorkcollege.ac.uk)

### National Apprenticeship Service Helpline and website

Information about Apprenticeships from the National Apprenticeship Service for students, parents and employers  
08000 150 600, [www.apprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk)

York College is committed to creating an environment where there is mutual respect and equality of opportunity.