

Apprenticeships in Extractives and Mineral Processing

Summary Fact Sheet

All Apprenticeships are essentially made up of 3 elements:

1. A Technical Certificate (generally a classroom based learning course):

For the Junior apprenticeship, Level 2, the Technical Certificate is the Certificate in Extraction and Mineral Processing Core and Optional Route (EMP 0601).

Recommended guided learning hours 60.

For the Advanced apprenticeship, Level 3, Technical Certificate is the Certificate in Extraction and Mineral Processing Core and Optional Route (EMP 0701).

Recommended guided learning hours 80.

Serac UK plans to deliver this taught element as 8 or 10 days, depending on the level, in regionally based class rooms. The days will be delivered in pairs at monthly intervals. This qualification is tested through an exam.

2. A Competency Based Qualification:

A work based qualification based on the apprentice's job role, i.e. Laboratory and Associated Technical Activities, or Road-building. This is a QCF which is assessed in the workplace as NVQs were traditionally.

3. Key or Functional Skills:

Frameworks are currently based on Key Skills. In April 2011 (or maybe 2012 depending on the government) Key Skills will change to Functional Skills. There are additional modules called 'Personal Learning and Thinking Skills' (PLTS) and Employee Rights and Responsibilities (ERR) which will usually be work-book assessed.

For a Junior apprenticeship (Level 2) Communication Level 1 and Application of Number Level 1 are delivered.

For the Advanced apprenticeship (Level 3) the required level of Key Skills at outcome is Communication Level 2 and Application of Number Level 2.

If a candidate can prove prior qualification to these levels, e.g. GCSE grade A – C in Maths or English for Level 2 and GCSE D – G for Level 1 Functional Skills/Key Skills do not need to be delivered. Prior qualification must be within 5 years of the date of registration on the apprenticeship.

Pathways available in the Proskills framework:

Level 2 - Junior	Level 3 - Advanced
Mobile Plant Operators	Road-building Supervisor
Processing Plant Operators	Processing Plant Operators/Supervisors
Drillers	Shot-firers
Highways Maintenance	Blast Designers
Roadbuilding Operatives	Construction Supervisors
Hauliers Pathway	Construction Plant Supervisors
Storeman Pathway	Laboratory/Field Technician
Laboratory and Field Technician (Junior)	Mobile Plant Fitter
Mobile Plant Fitter (Junior)	Maintenance Engineer
Maintenance Engineer (Junior)	Quarry/Mine/Process Supervisor

Delivery of Apprenticeship:

Serac UK will have an apprentice manager who will be the point of contact for the apprentices at Serac UK. The aim is to visit each apprentice once a month initially to iron out any problems. An 'on-site' mentor will be appointed by the employer at each site for the individual apprentices who will be responsible for the day to day care/mentoring of the apprentice.

The minimum recommended length for a Proskills apprenticeship programme is 12 months for the Junior, (Level 2), programme and 24 months for the Advanced, (Level 3).

The Minimum salary for an apprentice is £95 per week from Aug 2009.

Funding:

Government funding is available for apprenticeship programs.

The 3 age categories are:

- 16 – 18 Fully funded
- 19 – 24 50% employer contribution
- 25+ Approx 60% employer contribution.

For large employers (1000 employees and above) the government funding is reduced by 25% per candidate. Funding rates can vary for the different pathways.

Notes:

1. Serac UK's delivery and anticipated costs are based on regionalised classroom sessions for the Technical Certificate and Key/Functional Skills. There will be a minimum number of learners for each classroom session. If the delivery varies from this model there may be additional costs to the employer.
2. If the apprentice fails to complete any parts of the 3 elements of the framework there may be a cost to the employer.