

HOW TO BECOME A BRIGHT SPARK!

SO YOU HAVE DECIDED YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ETT'S ELECTRICAL APPRENTICESHIP AND YOU WANT TO KNOW SOME MORE. GREAT!

The ETT Apprenticeship is employer-led; this means you have to have an Employer before you can begin the course.

■ WHY DO I NEED AN EMPLOYER?

Our apprenticeship is designed by the industry, for the industry. The industry want and need apprentices who have been immersed in a real-life workplace. In a skilled vocational career, hands-on experience is a vital ingredient. Throughout your apprenticeship you are assessed to establish that you are 'competent' - an important word in our industry. You cannot be self-employed or commence the ETT programme without being in paid full-time employment.

■ OK, THAT MAKES SENSE. SO WHERE DO I FIND AN EMPLOYER?

It's your responsibility to find an Employer, so start looking early. Unfortunately, we can't offer you a list of pre-approved Employers seeking apprentices but what we can do is offer you advice and guidance to help you secure an Employer on your own.

Remember, you cannot start your apprenticeship unless you have secured a suitable full-time Employer.

- One idea may be to work with a suitable Employer over the summer. This will give you a better understanding of the sort of work an electrician does. If you do this, make sure you are covered by the Employer's insurance and that you receive Health & Safety training.

- Show initiative, contact as many companies as possible; small, local businesses and those more well-known names that may be further afield.
- Look for companies in telephone directories (Yellow Pages, BT Phonebook) and your local newspapers, as well as online listings at www.yell.com; www.bt.com or www.4ni.co.uk
- Make use of the local careers service and the careers department of your school. We will be sending up-to-date information to both and they can help guide you in the right direction
- The electrical industry also has its own trade magazine - go to www.nielecmag.com to find out more. The magazine will have the contact details for lots of potential employers.
- The ETT website has a section dedicated to employment. Here employers can post vacancies and job opportunities they may have, so check it regularly to see if any are looking for apprentices.

■ GREAT, I'LL GO GET ONE NOW!

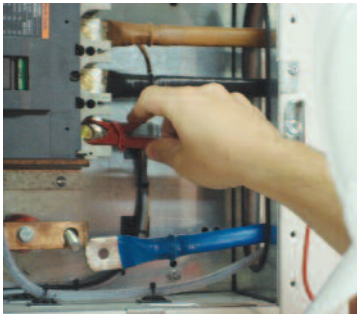
You should know that the economy at present is difficult for businesses - and the electrical industry has felt the pinch too. In recent years some young people who wanted to join the apprenticeship did not manage to secure an Employer. This is why we recommend you start looking early and broaden your search as much as possible.



ETT'S TOP TEN TIPS

SO BEFORE YOU RUSH OFF TO FIND ANY EMPLOYER WILLING TO TAKE YOU ON, HERE ARE A FEW POINTS YOU SHOULD CONSIDER:

- 1 Can the Employer provide you with safe conditions of employment?
- 2 Will the Employer pay you in accordance with Industry determined pay rate? (see www.jib.org.uk)
- 3 Are you likely to gain the breadth of experience necessary to support the NVQ requirements? (see www.qca.org.uk)
- 4 Has the Employer got a good reputation for training apprentices?
- 5 In the first and second year of the apprenticeship you will work for your Employer and attend college. Will your Employer support you in attending college?
- 6 Look at a number of prospective Employers to give you as much choice as possible.
- 7 Take time to prepare a good CV - something distinctive and informative may lead to an interview.
- 8 Ensure that your progress file is up-to-date and take this to any interviews.
- 9 You must only consider Employers who are registered in Northern Ireland.
- 10 Be enthusiastic and show initiative. Good luck!



WHAT EMPLOYERS HAVE TO SAY...

"The ETT training of electrical apprentices is recognised throughout the UK as a high standard and in fact leads by its example." Alfie Waterson, ECA

"Get on board the ETT programme, you will be taken through stage by stage, until eventually you will end up with a JIB Card; that will take you to any part of the world. There's a lot of room for young entrepreneurs in this province and in this industry, and I say, 'Get up and go for it'" John McIlwaine, McIlwaine Group

"I think when you see the standard of young people who come through ETT it makes you very proud, particularly of the level of training. ETT are turning out probably the best apprentices in the Industry at the minute." Maurice Cairns, Blackbourne Integrated M&E

"In a good apprentice, I would look for a good timekeeper, someone who is trustworthy and willing to listen; someone who knows how to do something in theory and can transfer that to their hands." Sammie Richie, Blackbourne Integrated M&E