

Foundation Apprenticeship: Engineering

What is a Foundation Apprenticeship?

Foundation Apprenticeships are work-based qualifications for senior phase pupils. They combine the best of academic and vocational learning in one single qualification.

Why Engineering ?

Engineering brings ideas to life. They design, create, test and improve all sorts of products and processes.

It's an industry that offers careers in a range of sectors including space, aviation, transport, medicine and technology.

You won't always be sitting at a desk and could be working in a laboratory, at sea, underground or in a processing plant.

Universities across Scotland recognise the FA as part of their entry criteria. It is important that you check with individual universities and colleges for their specific entry requirements. The University of the Highlands and Islands offers enhanced recognition if you are applying for a degree in the same subject area.

How is the course delivered?

Starting in S5, you will attend college one and a half days per week on a Tuesday afternoon and all day Thursday. You will also complete a placement or industry challenge with a local employer while working towards the qualification through school and college.

This FA will introduce the skills necessary for the modern professional Engineering Technician and provide an insight to the many career options available.

What's involved?

This course is made up of two components:

1) National Certificate (NC) in Engineering Systems at SCQF Level 6.

Twelve units must be achieved in order to gain the full NC award, these units may include:

- Communications
- Mathematics for Technicians
- Engineering: Applying IT
- Engineering Materials
- Engineering Systems
- Mechanical Principles
- Electrical Principles
- Process Chemistry: An Introduction
- CAD for Engineers Health and Safety: Engineering
- Engineering Dynamics: An Introduction
- Electrical Testing and Measurement

2) Five units from SVQ Performing Engineering Operations at SCQF level 5, three mandatory and two optional units. The mandatory units are:

- Complying with statutory regulations and organisational safety requirements
- Working Efficiently and Effectively in Engineering
- Using and Communicating Technical Information

The optional units will include two of the following skills, to be determined by the college:

- Milling
- Turning
- Welding
- Handskills

What are the entry requirements?

Ideally you should be working towards higher maths alongside your apprenticeship.

Studying a science or technology subject would also be an advantage.

This course is not about Automotive e.g. engines and how to fix them and is mainly academic and not craft skills.

What do I get at the end of it?

National Certificate (NC) in Engineering Systems at SCQF Level 6.

Five units from the SVQ in Performing Engineering Operations (SCQF Level 5)

How do I apply?

You must apply through your school.

Potential students should meet with their Guidance teacher to discuss the possibility of undertaking a college programme as part of their senior phase timetable.

The demands of the course should be considered and any potential impact on your school timetable carefully thought through.

If you'd like more information or have particular questions about this course, please contact your local Argyll College Learning Centre:

Course progression – what's next?

A pupil completing the Foundation Apprenticeship in Engineering will have achieved a large proportion of the requirements for a Modern Apprenticeship in Engineering at SCQF Level 6 and be able to progress into this type of role.

Successful completion of the Foundation Apprenticeship could provide progression to:

HNC Engineering Systems

The following will require additional qualifications along with the Foundation Apprenticeship in Engineering:

HND in Engineering Systems

BEng (Hons) Electrical and Electronic Engineering

BEng (Hons) Mechanical Engineering

All these courses are available through the University of the Highlands and Islands.

The Foundation Apprenticeship in Engineering will also give you a good insight into engineering or manufacturing related subjects which you could pursue either through a Modern Apprenticeship or academic/vocational studies.

