

FAQ

How much will I earn?

Wage rates vary from employer to employer. For a 1st year apprentice of any age the minimum wage rate is £4.81 per hour, after the first year this will rise to at least the minimum wage for your age. Some employers who are members of the JIB (Joint Industry Board) will pay the JIB Apprentice rate which is higher than the national minimum rate.

How long will it take for me to qualify?

The programme is 4 years from start to finish but can be customised to suit individual abilities, however would not be less than three years.

Do I need to be employed to be on the course?

Yes, the Advanced Apprenticeship is only open to employed people. You will earn a wage whilst training. The apprenticeship training funding is dependent on employer's size and apprentice's age. For most employers 16-18 year olds are fully funded and candidates over the age of 19 require employers to co-invest in the training.

What qualifications must I have to join the programme?

Candidates ideally should have A*-C/4-9 in English & Maths, they will also need to complete a full application form and then pass our recruitment process, this involves an English & Maths initial assessment and personal interview.

Is there an age limit?

No. Although for older students the low initial wage can be a barrier.

How long do I spend at college?

In the first and second year you will attend college for a total of 10 weeks on block release (of 2 weeks per block) or 36 days on day release. In the third and fourth year you will spend more time onsite gaining further experience and attend BET for two blocks of two weeks each. In addition, if you require Functional Skills you will be required to attend further teaching at BET. Once you have completed the City & Guilds 5357 Apprenticeship Scheme apprentices will undertake the AM2S (End Point Assessment) over 3 days at our dedicated AM2 Centre in Birmingham.

Is BET the same as College?

No, at BET you will gain the Advanced Apprenticeship Standard qualification enabling you to be graded as an electrician on completion of your apprenticeship. Many colleges may only give you Level 2 + Level 3 Technical Certificate and possibly Functional Skills. You will not be eligible for grading as an electrician without the AM2S Test Certificate and NVQ Level 3. Also, you will be employed and earning a wage from day one, trained on site by your employer and assessed regularly by BET for the NVQ Level 3.

The Midlands' leading provider of

Advanced Electrical Apprenticeships



birmingham
electrical training

About Birmingham Electrical Training

BET is a nationally recognised training provider which is supported and fully funded via the Educational Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), a JIB Preferred Provider and was rated as 'Good' by Ofsted at our most recent inspection (May 2018).

Birmingham Electrical Training (BET) is a dedicated electrical training provider based in Birmingham. We currently work with over 180 local electrical contractors and train over 450 Electrical Apprentices. BET was formed by contractors for contractors and has provided dedicated Advanced Electrical Apprenticeship training since 1991.

Our dedicated training centre provides excellent facilities in supporting both the practical and theory aspects of the apprenticeship qualification. Our centre comprises of 4 dedicated classrooms, IT Facilities, fully functioning Workshop and Testing Area. We also have our own dedicated AM2S (End Point Assessment) centre in Birmingham.

'Off the Job Training' is provided by a team of 8 Electrical Tutors who have vast experience within the electrical industry and are dedicated to passing their knowledge onto the next generation of electricians. 'On the Job' training in the workplace is provided by employers, these employers are vetted by a dedicated department within BET to ensure stringent H&S and Safeguarding procedures are followed.

As the leading electrical apprenticeship provider within the West Midlands we have developed strong links with employers who provide high quality apprenticeship training for our apprentices.

Training in the workplace is overseen by BET's team of experienced training officers who have a wealth of knowledge and act as a mentor providing constant support and guidance throughout the apprenticeship scheme.

Candidates will complete a 4 year Advanced Apprenticeship Standard qualification. Upon completion they will gain a full qualification as an Electrician.

What is an Advanced Electrical Apprenticeship?

An apprenticeship comprises of 'on the job training' with an employer, full time employment paid via PAYE scheme. 'Off the job training', attend BET's dedicated college on 'block' or 'day' release.

The Advanced Electrical Apprenticeship is one of the longest and thorough qualifications funded by the ESFA and on completion leads to full qualification as an Electrician.

Candidates enrolled on an Advanced Electrical Apprenticeship work towards a work based learning qualification, this is an academic qualification which is equivalent to two A-Levels, students will need to demonstrate a good practical grasp of the subject and have a thorough understanding of the technical elements.

Apprentices will work onsite gaining experience for the practical side of the job with an employer. Candidates must be aware that this involves working early mornings, late evenings, in wet, dusty and dirty conditions and more often than not working away from home during the week for lengthy periods.

City & Guilds 5357 Electrical Installation Level 3 NVQ Apprenticeship

The advanced Electrical apprenticeship BET offers lasts 4 years in duration, during this time apprentices will attend our centre on either Day Release (One Day Per Week) or Block Release (2 weeks five times per year). Candidates will complete 8 knowledge units at college, these will involve teaching, exams, assignments and practical assessment.

NVQ Logbook Portfolio

While working on site apprentices will also work on a Level 3 Logbook Portfolio producing photographic evidence from experience gained.

This will be assessed and supported by a dedicated training officer who will review and support the apprentice through the qualification. The NVQ logbook is delivered with the use of an online logbook portfolio system which allows students and employers to use smartphones and tablets to update and monitor their progress.

Functional Skills

Candidates who have not achieved A*-C/ 4-9 in English & Maths at GCSE would need to complete Functional Skills with us. BET have our own Functional Skills Tutor who will deliver Functional Skills to apprentices in-house and provide them with individual support if needed.

End Point Assessment

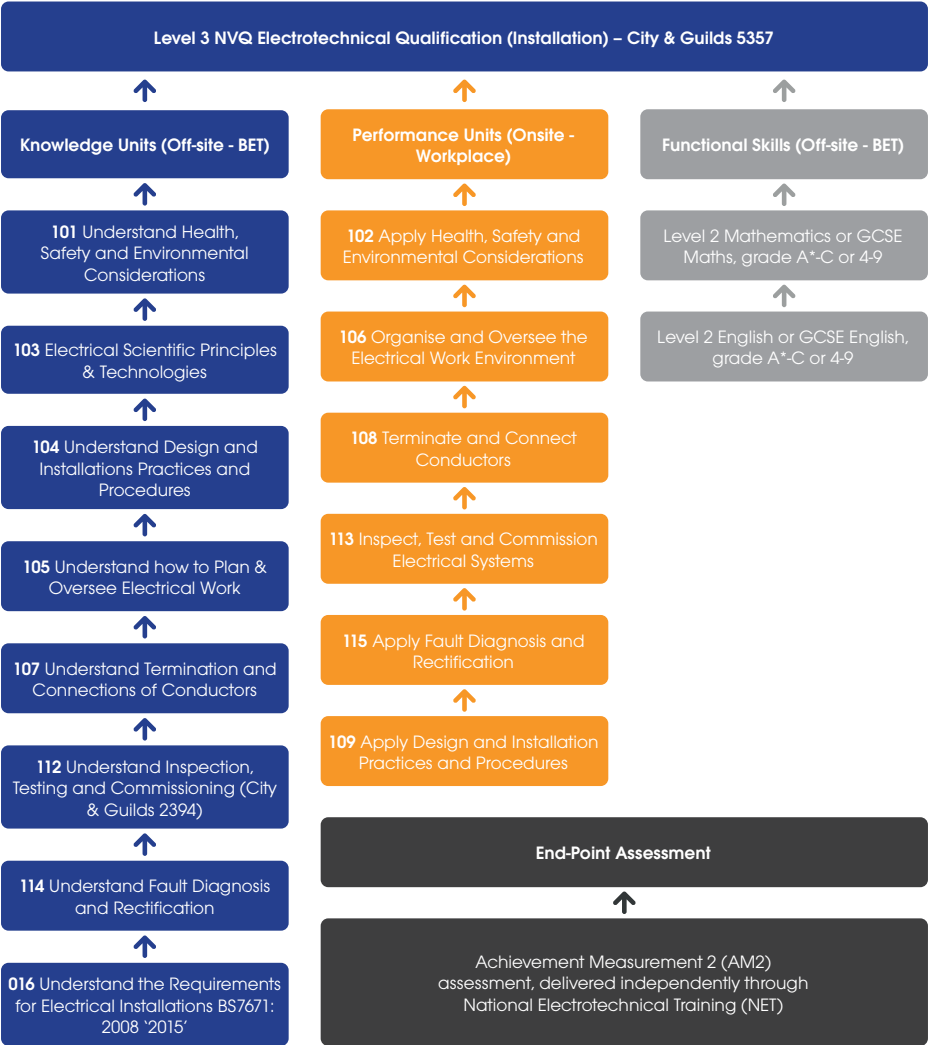
Once you have completed your apprenticeship you undertake a 3 day End Point Assessment.

Within the Electrical Industry this is known as the Achievement Measurement 2 Test (AM2 or AM2S). BET have our own AM2 centre based in Birmingham for our apprentices.

Apprenticeship Structure

To begin on Birmingham Electrical Training's Apprenticeship Scheme you must be in full-time employment in the electrical industry.

You will attend our specialist training centre in Birmingham either on a block or day release basis. The average length of the apprenticeship is 48 months.



Employment

In order to undertake an electrical apprenticeship you will need to be over 16, employed full time and working with a local company. This will enable you to gain the practical experience required for the apprenticeship scheme.

Employers who will provide you with onsite training are made up of local and national electrical contractors. All employers that are linked to BET are vetted by a dedicated department within BET which ensures that current Health & Safety and Equal Opportunity policies are in place. They also ensure the company can offer the full range of work which is required to complete the requirements of the NVQ Level 3.

From the day you commence employment you will receive a salary, paid to you directly from your employer.

What does an electrician do?

Electricians install, maintain and test electrical systems, equipment and appliances under strict safety rules.

As an electrician in the construction industry, you will play a vital role in the installation testing, fault rectification and commissioning of different electrical systems. Examples are extra low voltage alarms and mains voltage power and lighting. An electrician will also work on a variety of equipment such as distribution boards, switches, isolators, motors and their control systems, air conditioning and heating/ventilation equipment to name just a few.

You will ensure equipment is installed in line with specific manufacturers' instructions to a high standard and within contractual deadlines.

Installation electricians do not generally repair TVs, washing machines, or other domestic equipment.

Job Requirements

An electrician needs to be in good health and good colour perception; you must be capable of working within a team so communication skills are important. A working knowledge of science and mathematics is also necessary as you will be working from scale drawings, specifications and carrying out cable sizing calculations.

Electricians work with their hands so they need to be practical people capable and skilled with power tools, hand tools and sensitive test instrumentation and have an eye for detail.

Electricity can kill so safety is paramount; you must work with a methodical approach, as poor workmanship could have fatal consequences.

All candidates applying for the electrical apprenticeship will be required to undertake a Colour Vision Test at an opticians and supply BET with the Certificate. Candidates must have a PASS result in order to progress onto the apprenticeship.

Working Environment

Electricians work in a variety of environments, from outdoor construction sites in all weather conditions to working indoors in domestic (housing), commercial (shops and offices), industrial (factories and production units) and agricultural (farms and horticultural) buildings. Site conditions can vary from hot and humid to freezing cold, depending on the season, and from dusty, dirty and noisy to clean and quiet, depending on the location.

The contracting industry is a journeying industry, so it will be necessary to travel outside your local area to get to work, or to stay overnight in accommodation for the duration of the contract, and possibly work unsociable hours. Although not a requirement, a driving licence will be very useful. Working at heights on different forms of access equipment, for example scaffolding, powered access towers, trestles and different types of ladders is often a requirement of the job. You may also have to work in cramped conditions or confined spaces.

All work in the construction sector is subject to Health & Safety regulations and PPE is mandatory on all construction sites. Your employer will issue PPE, which you may be required to wear ie: safety helmet, steel toecap footwear, overalls, protective glasses or goggles, dust mask, ear defenders and high visibility work wear.

An electrician can be associated with a variety of different jobs and the nature of their work depends largely on their specialist training and experience.

Areas of work can include:

- Electrical installation in buildings and industry
- Health & Safety standards
- In-service inspection and testing of portable appliances
- Fire, safety and security systems, including CCTV
- IT, data and networks
- Telecommunications networks
- Process control systems, building management systems

Application Process

Our dedicated team of recruitment administrators will support applicants through the application process which involves:

- Completion of an application form via: birminghamelectricaltraining.co.uk
- Attend our centre to complete an online assessment (Maths/English). All candidates must pass this assessment to be eligible for the apprenticeship scheme.
- Successfully pass a Colour Vision test.

- Although all applicants are advised that they need to find employment with a contractor we have strong links with local contractors with whom we are in constant contact with.
- Once employment is found we can ensure all the necessary paperwork is completed to start a 4 year electrical apprenticeship.

If you have any questions please contact our recruitment team on **0121 616 0700** who will be able to assist further.

