

*The following is intended as a guide only. If you are offered a place on our Stepping Stone Apprenticeship, an individual learning plan will be agreed.*

## What is a Stepping Stone Apprenticeship?

Otherwise known as a Programme Led Apprenticeship, it's an opportunity to begin electrical training if you haven't yet found employment as an electrical apprentice. By attending our training centre in Gloucester for three days a week, you'll study the Level 2 Technical Certificate and Key Skills elements of the apprenticeship framework. The intention is then to secure suitable employment and complete the remainder of your apprenticeship training.

The course will give you the opportunity to gain skills and knowledge that will help you get a job as an apprentice electrician.

## How long is the course?

The course takes 9 months to complete, with college attendance on 3 days a week. If you then gain suitable employment and progress to an apprenticeship scheme, it would normally take around a further 2½ years to become a qualified electrician.

## When does the course start?

Courses normally start in September.

## Is there an age restriction for applicants?

This course is intended for people aged 16 – 18. Funding restrictions mean we cannot offer places to older applicants.

## What if I have the choice of an employed Advanced Apprenticeship or a Stepping Stone Apprenticeship?

An employed Advanced Apprenticeship is the preferred route as it provides the on-site experience you require to complete the NVQ.

## How much does it cost?

The course is fully funded by the LSC so it is free of charge (provided that eligibility criteria have been met). You will need to purchase a few items, such as pens, paper and a calculator, and a copy of the 17<sup>th</sup> Edition Wiring Regulations book which currently costs £65. You will also need to buy a pair of safety boots.

## How are candidates selected?

Selection is based on the information in your application form, the references we collect and a brief interview. If large numbers of applications are received, we may hold an assessment day.

## The college course is 3 days a week – what should I do for the other 2 days?

We recommend that you get a part-time job for 2 days a week. Regardless of whether it's related to electrical work, it will improve your CV and give you chance to earn some money.

## Is employment as an apprentice electrician guaranteed if I take this course?

Unfortunately we cannot guarantee that you'll be able to find employment as an apprentice electrician. We will help you with CV writing, application letters and interview techniques and we recommend that you begin looking for suitable employment several months before you complete the course.

## What qualifications are required?

GCSE grade Cs in English, maths and a science are preferred although applicants without these grades may be considered.

## How do I apply?

Register your interest by contacting our Apprenticeship Co-ordinator, Ann Gribble, on 01452 858170. Application forms will be issued in the summer, ready for the course due to start in September 2010.

