

Funded Water Treatment Apprenticeships

The Government Funded Water Treatment Technician Apprenticeship programme is now available for delivery to all companies for employees of all ages.

Water treatment and water hygiene technicians represent a vital stream of skilled individuals that make up the workforce, and until now there has been no nationally recognised training scheme available for newcomers to the water treatment industry. There is now a highly effective solution to all of this – apprenticeships.

Apprenticeships allow the trainee to mix work and study through a combination of on-the-job training, classroom training, online learning and personal study, all based on a defined development and approved programme.

Apprenticeships in England are underpinned by the new style Apprenticeship Standards that define the knowledge, skills and behaviours an apprentice will need to develop to undertake a specific job role. At the end of their training, apprentices have to complete an end-point assessment carried out by an independent Ofqual registered organisation. This is an important step that determines whether they are competent in the job role for which they have been undertaking training and have successfully completed the Apprenticeship Qualification.

Government funding is available to both levy paying and non-levy paying employers, the latter of which pay only 5% towards the cost of apprenticeship training and Government will pay the rest (95%), up to the funding band maximum which is set at £15,000.00/apprentice over a 24 – 30 month period.

Note: Apprenticeships are funded differently in the UK's devolved nations – employers based in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales should check with their respective Government websites for more detail.

The Water Treatment Technician Apprenticeship Standard

The Water Treatment Technician standard is tailor-made and provides staff with the core skills, knowledge and behaviours required for the following job roles. The job roles are deliberately broad to allow flexibility of training provision, particularly in the type of tasks completed within the role. Apprenticeships are available for new and existing employees of any age so are ideal to support growth and upskill your existing workforce.

The Water Treatment Technician

Responsible for completing site/system surveys, designing, monitoring and assessing the performance of water treatment programmes through on-site testing and laboratory analysis and also advising on system and programme improvements.

The Water Treatment Equipment Technician

Responsible for selecting equipment to be used for water treatment processes. They also install, service and maintain equipment and troubleshoot equipment installations. Equipment can include pre-treatment plant, chemical dosing and control system, etc. This apprenticeship is also suitable for staff responsible for remedial engineering works.

The Legionella Risk Assessor

Responsible for assessing legionella risks from water systems including: evaporative cooling systems, hot & cold water services, spa pools, hydrotherapy pools and swimming pools, process water applications, etc.

The Water Treatment Operations Supervisor

Responsible for overseeing water treatment projects, developing work plans, assessing the work task risks, and producing method statements. Projects can include pre-commission cleaning, closed system flushing, cooling tower cleaning, potable water disinfection, acid/alkali cleaning, etc.

This industry specific apprenticeship programme supports the delivery of high-quality technical training and focuses on ensuring the appropriate structure will be in place for each apprentice, supporting them on their journey.

To register your interest in apprenticeships, or request further information please visit:

<https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/water-treatment-technician-v1-0>.

The Funded Water Treatment & Legionella Control Apprenticeships are commencing in September 2021

In addition to the funding for apprentice training there is extra funding available to employers as follows:

Hiring a new apprentice payment

You will receive £3,000 for all new apprentices of any age who have an employment start date of 1 April 2021 to 30 September 2021.

They must have an apprenticeship start date of 1 April 2021 to 30 November 2021. You must [set up an apprenticeship service account \(https://www.gov.uk/guidance/manage-apprenticeship-funds\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/manage-apprenticeship-funds).

This incentive payment is in addition to the £1,000 employers already receive for hiring an apprentice:

- aged 16 to 18 years old
- under 25 with an education, health and care plan or who has been in the care of their local authority.