



# Construction

## Job Information Sheet

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Construction is one of the UK's largest industries, with two million people already at work in more than 700 different types of jobs. There is always a demand for new people to join the industry and there are many opportunities to develop skills and abilities throughout your career. To work in this sector you need to be practical and methodical. You should have a technical interest, must work accurately and be willing to take responsibility. Whatever job you do, you will be contributing to the safety of a structure that lots of people will use.

For some, but not all, jobs you need to be physically strong. For many you must be good with your hands. You also need other skills besides the technical ones. You must be able to work as part of a team and you might have to supervise a team. You might need to plan projects or write reports, in some jobs you have to get on well with the public – if you are a painter and decorator for instance, you must be friendly, polite and prepared to listen to your customer.

### Are there jobs for 16-19 year olds?

To be a civil engineer or architect you need to study at university. However, there are many jobs in construction that do not require a degree or diploma.

Below is a selection of jobs that could be available to 16-19 year olds living in Central London. Further details of these and many other jobs go to [nextstep.direct.gov.uk](http://nextstep.direct.gov.uk) and click on *Browse our job profiles*.

This information sheet covers jobs for 16-19 year olds in Central London. It does not cover graduate jobs or jobs that are rare in Central London. For details of the whole range of jobs in the construction industry go to [nextstep.direct.gov.uk](http://nextstep.direct.gov.uk) (and click on *Browse our job profiles*) or [www.bconstructive.co.uk](http://www.bconstructive.co.uk).

**Operatives** are practical, multiskilled people who do not specialise in any single trade but can turn their hand to many tasks. Jobs include:

- Construction operatives or labourers
- Construction plant operators (operate machinery used in construction)
- Demolition operatives
- Road workers
- Water distribution/sewerage operators (treat and clean water at wastewater or sewerage)

There are no set entry requirements but some employers will ask for a few GCSEs or equivalent qualifications. Because of the dangerous nature of some of the work many employers will not take on operatives who are under 18.

**Crafts people** specialise in one practical trade. Jobs include:

- Bricklayers
- Carpenters and joiners
- Carpet fitters
- Cavity wall insulators
- Ceiling fixers
- Electrical Installation
- Engineering construction craft workers (erect and maintain buildings, plant and machinery)
- Floor layers
- Glaziers
- Painters and decorators
- Plasterers
- Roofers
- Security/Fire Protection Installation
- Scaffolders
- Stonemasons

- Tilers
- Window fitters

To enter the industry in a craft occupation, a good basic education is needed and most employers will ask for at least GCSE grade Ds or equivalent qualifications.

**Are there lots of jobs?**

There are still new jobs but competition for apprenticeship places is often fierce, especially for the popular trades. For example, *The Times* reported that plumbing companies are turning away thousands of hopefuls - there were 26,000 people studying for plumbing qualifications nationally but only 1,500 potential plumbing vacancies. On the other hand employers often have difficulty finding people who have done well at school or college to fill technician level positions in Central London.

**Technicians** need four good GCSE passes (A-C) in English, maths and science or sometimes A levels, or an equivalent vocational qualification. For these jobs you need to be practical but also able to understand the technical aspects of the industry. Jobs include:

- Refrigeration/air conditioning technicians
- Building technicians
- Civil engineering technicians
- Engineering construction technicians (design, construct and maintain buildings, plant and machinery)
- Town planning technicians
- Technical Surveyors

## Construction Apprenticeship Vacancies (on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2012)



Apprenticeships

For more details and to apply go to [apprenticeships.org.uk](http://apprenticeships.org.uk) and select Search for vacancies under Apprenticeship Vacancies. Search by vacancy reference number using the Ref No from the first column in the table. When this information sheet was published the following vacancies were available:

Ref No	Apprenticeship Framework	Business	Borough	Weekly Wage	Qualifications Required	Closing Date
129244	Construction (Painting & Decorating)	Construction	Islington	£150	None	18 Jan 2012
124604 124608	Plumbing	Training	Brent	£140	None	31 Jan 2012
128230	Surveying <sup>AA</sup>	Construction	Tower Hamlets	£210	% GCSE grades C+ with maths & English	13 Feb 2012

Any vacancies marked <sup>AA</sup> are Advanced Apprenticeships leading to Level 3 qualifications, all others are Intermediate Apprenticeships leading to Level 2 qualifications.

To apply for any of these vacancies you will need to register (if you have not already) at [apprenticeshipvacancymatchingservice.lsc.gov.uk/navms/forms/candidate/PreRegisterCandidate.aspx](http://apprenticeshipvacancymatchingservice.lsc.gov.uk/navms/forms/candidate/PreRegisterCandidate.aspx) (you will need a valid email address in order to register). You can get further help on using the site and making applications at [apprenticeships.org.uk/sitecore/content/avtm/Candidate.aspx](http://apprenticeships.org.uk/sitecore/content/avtm/Candidate.aspx)

## Other Vacancy Sites

For all of the organisations listed below enquiries and applications can be made online.

<b>Construction Skills</b> <a href="http://www.bconstructive.co.uk/apprenticeships">www.bconstructive.co.uk/apprenticeships</a>	Run apprenticeships across a very wide range of construction trades.
<b>Building Engineering Services Training</b> <a href="http://www.best-ltd.co.uk">www.best-ltd.co.uk</a>	Run apprenticeships for building services engineer, heating and ventilating fitter/welder, service and maintenance engineer, domestic heating fitter, ductwork installer, refrigeration engineer, air conditioning engineer and plumber.
<b>JTL</b> ( <a href="http://www.jtlimited.co.uk">www.jtlimited.co.uk</a> )	Run apprenticeships for electrical installation, plumbing and heating and ventilation.

### Tests

Many construction employers and training organisations use tests as a way of choosing the right person for a job. Tests often include problem solving, mathematical ability and interpretation of plans. In these tests you will often have to read and understand building drawings, answer multiple choice questions and use your number skills to work out lengths and amounts. You will normally be sent out example questions so that you can practice before you do the test for real.