

At the Heat Centre, we are a very busy team of plumbers and heating engineers who carry out a wide range of plumbing, heating and renewables services throughout Caithness and Sutherland. Our friendly team will teach and support you in a safe, professional environment, where you will learn a range of skills along with your attendance at college throughout your apprenticeship.

**PLUMBING APPRENTICESHIP**

The plumbing apprenticeship is a four-year course with a mixture of on-the-job training with us and off the job training at college (either Inverness College or Elgin College). During your apprenticeship, you will learn all the latest skills from experienced industry professionals, while earning your qualifications. You will also have a dedicated regional officer to monitor your progress who will meet regularly with you, us and your college.

After you have completed the main part of your plumbing qualification, we will have a discussion and between us we decide which solid fuel option you will undertake. The options are ACS Gas, OFTEC Oil, HETAS, Solid Fuel or Low Carbon Technologies.

On completion of a successful apprenticeship, an apprentice will gain the SVQ Level 3 Modern Apprenticeship in Plumbing and Heating, which is the only recognised plumbing qualification in Scotland, and be graded by the Scottish and Northern Ireland Joint Industry Board (SNIJIB) as a plumber.

**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

The Modern Apprenticeship in Plumbing and Heating is an employer-led qualification meaning you need to be employed directly with a plumbing and heating firm to undertake it.

Potential candidates are expected to have a minimum of four National Four qualifications at general level (previously standard grades). In addition, all candidates must pass the BPEC Aptitude and Selection Test*.* This test will be given to you at the Heat Centre if you are successful in the selection for interview process.

[You can practice the selection test here.](https://bpec.org.uk/learners/aptitude-test/)

While there is no age restriction for entry to the Modern Apprenticeship in Plumbing and Heating, restrictions on government funding mean access to the programme depends on suitable funding being available. School or college leavers aged 16-19 will be guaranteed a place, however access to the programme for those aged 20 and above is subject to funding availability.

To be successful as a modern apprentice plumber you must meet our expectations in terms of:

* Have good practical, problem-solving and communication skills
* Be smart, reliable, polite, punctual and able to listen
* Have a proven ability to achieve and willingness to learn
* Flexible attitude towards work, be prepared to go the extra mile!
* Proactive approach and ability to use initiative
* Pleasant manner when dealing with clients/customers
* Excellent timekeeping.
* A full UK driving licence is required by completion of the apprenticeship but is not essential during the apprenticeship.

For more information on becoming an apprentice plumber please see the below link to Snipef’s guide to becoming an apprentice plumber:

<https://snipef.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/AreYouLookingToBecomeAnApprenticePlumber.pdf>

If you have any further questions regarding our Plumbing Apprenticeship process, please contact jennifer@heatcentrewick.com

**WAGES & HOLIDAY ENTITLEMENT**

As an apprentice plumber you will be paid the National Living wage for your age until completion of your apprenticeship. Your holiday entitlement is 28 days (including bank and public holidays as part of the statutory entitlement)