

Electrical Training Routes – England

If you want to become a qualified electrician, an apprenticeship is the training route preferred by the industry. Traditionally apprenticeships were only for young people, but now employers in England can receive funding for apprentices of any age. Take a look at our Apprenticeship route below for more information.

If you can't find an apprenticeship vacancy, there are other training routes you may be able to follow. However, it's just not possible to become a qualified electrician until you are working in the industry to gain on-site practical experience.

You also need to be wary of training courses that claim to qualify you as an electrician within a few weeks or months. If you're completely new to the industry this is simply not possible! [Take a look at our advice](#) in this area.

Route 1 - Apprenticeship

The preferred route into the industry, employers can access funding for apprentices of all ages.

An apprenticeship is a job with training. It's ideal way to start your electrical career and earn while you learn. You'll be employed and will gain your skills via a combination of on-the-job learning in your workplace and other learning supported by a college or training provider.

The apprenticeship programme takes around four years to complete.

Traditionally apprenticeships were only for young people, but now employers in England can receive funding for apprentices of any age, so they're now an option for those looking to change or progress their career, as well as school leavers.

Importantly, your employer receives funding for the apprenticeship programme and you will not be expected to pay anything towards your training.

There are two apprenticeship options for becoming an Electrician:

- [Installation & Maintenance Electrician apprenticeship](#) – Installation and Maintenance electricians install, maintain and repair electrical systems in industrial, commercial and domestic environments.
- [Domestic Electrician apprenticeship](#) – Domestic Electricians work in domestic properties such as homes, dwellings, or individual units, rather than in their communal areas.

To find an apprenticeship vacancy try speaking to local employers or training providers.

Find a training provider:

[Installation & Maintenance Electrician apprenticeship providers](#)

[Domestic Electrician apprenticeship providers](#)

Take a look at Apprenticeship journeys which show the whole process:

England Route: **Installation & Maintenance Electrician** **Apprenticeship Standard (All Ages)**



BEFORE YOU START

- 1) You must be employed before you can enrol onto an apprenticeship.
- 2) The apprenticeship training programme takes around 4 years to complete.
- 3) You do not pay for your training and will earn while you learn.



APPRENTICESHIP STANDARD

During your apprenticeship you'll be building practical skills and knowledge both on the job and with a training provider.

Across the four years you'll gain the Installation & Maintenance Electrician Apprenticeship Level 3 Technical Qualification, plus you'll be assessed on a wide range of performance criteria.



END POINT ASSESSMENT

To complete your apprenticeship you'll take the AM2S assessment which tests everything you've learnt during your training.



QUALIFIED ELECTRICIAN

Once you've passed your End Point Assessment your apprenticeship is complete and you'll be a qualified electrician.

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England Route: **Domestic Electrician** **Apprenticeship Standard (All Ages)**



BEFORE YOU START

- 1) You must be employed before you can enrol onto an apprenticeship.
- 2) The apprenticeship training programme takes around 3 years to complete.
- 3) You do not pay for your training and will earn while you learn.



APPRENTICESHIP STANDARD

During your apprenticeship you'll be building practical skills and knowledge both on the job and with a training provider.

Across the three years you'll gain the Domestic Electrician Apprenticeship Level 3 Technical Qualification, plus you'll be assessed on a wide range of performance criteria.



END POINT ASSESSMENT

To complete your apprenticeship you'll take the AM2D assessment which tests everything you've learnt during your training.



QUALIFIED DOMESTIC ELECTRICIAN

Once you've passed your End Point Assessment your apprenticeship is complete and you'll be a qualified domestic electrician.

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Route 2 – T Levels or Full Time Education

If an apprenticeship (Route 1) is not available there are currently two alternatives at the 16-19 year old stage.

The [T Level Route \(2A\)](#) includes a substantial industry placement with one or more employers. This gives you the opportunity to learn new skills and practise them in the workplace. On completing the T Level, you can transition into an “accelerated apprenticeship” - this means that the length of the apprenticeship will be reduced to recognise learning you have already received through the T Level. It’s important to complete the T Level first as otherwise, learning may not be able to be credited and you may need to undertake the full 4 years of the apprenticeship.

The classroom-based [Full Time Education Route 2B](#) will provide you with technical knowledge and some practical skills that you can gain at a college or training centre, with the potential for work experience or contact with employers. You’ll still need to get practical experience in the workplace before you can become qualified.

If at any stage during your college education you become employed, you can transfer onto an apprenticeship programme (see Apprenticeship Route) and your employer will fund the completion of your training, either through their apprenticeship levy funds or through government support. What you’ve learnt already will be recognised and will reduce the time it takes to complete your apprenticeship.

If you don’t become employed there’s only so far you can go – it’s not possible to become qualified until you get into the workplace and gain on-site practical experience. You could look for opportunities to support qualified electricians and learn your trade to start this process.

Take a look at these journeys which show the whole process:

Route 2a: T Level - Building Services Engineering (Electrical Installation Pathway)



BEFORE YOU START

The T Level qualification in Building Services Engineering for Construction (Electrical Installation pathway) is a two year qualification which allows students to develop specialist knowledge and skills on how to install, commission and maintain electrical and electronic systems. T Levels are the equivalent of three A Levels and are recognised by UCAS to support applications to study at university. [More information on T Levels](#)



T-LEVEL CONTENT OVER 2 YEARS

CLASSROOM LEARNING

Knowledge and understanding of the contexts, concepts and theories of the construction industry and specialist knowledge of Electrotechnical Engineering, plus practical training in installing, commissioning and maintaining electrical systems

INDUSTRY PLACEMENT

At least 45 days/315 hours working with one or more employers, applying your knowledge in a real work environment and further developing your practical skills



T-LEVEL COMPLETION



HIGHER TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS

After your T Level you could go on to study Higher Technical Qualifications such as a Foundation Degree or HNC in a technical, business or management area – [view all current approved HTQs](#)



ACCELERATED APPRENTICESHIP

Once you secure an apprenticeship, learning gained from the T Level will be credited to reduce the duration



QUALIFIED ELECTRICIAN

Once you've completed your Apprenticeship you'll be a qualified electrician and can gain your ECS Gold Card



If you gain employment you could also complete the industry Level 3 NVQ Diploma after your T Level completion - see the separate Self-Funded route for more details

Route 2b: Full Time Education (16-19)



BEFORE YOU START

- 1) This route includes ongoing employer involvement which will be arranged by your training provider, for instance work experience placements.
- 2) You'll start at Level 2. If you don't become employed and move onto an apprenticeship, you can progress to Level 3.
- 3) Each technical qualification takes around a year to complete; to complete the full process to qualified electrician stage will take around 4 years.



TECHNICAL QUALIFICATION

City & Guilds Level 2 Technicals in Building Services (Electrical Installation route) OR EAL Level 2 Intermediate Diploma in Electrical Installation.



TECHNICAL QUALIFICATION

City & Guilds Level 3 Technicals in Building Services (Electrical Installation route) OR EAL Level 3 Advanced Diploma in Electrical Installation.



If you gain employment during your studies - see Route 1 for Apprenticeship Training.

Any qualification units achieved will be accredited to the apprenticeship to reduce the duration.



IF YOU WANT TO PROGRESS AND TRAIN ANY FURTHER YOU'LL NEED TO BE WORKING IN THE INDUSTRY IN ORDER TO BECOME A QUALIFIED ELECTRICIAN.

EITHER



If you secure employment and your employer agrees to support your apprenticeship:



APPRENTICESHIP STANDARD

If you become employed and transfer onto an apprenticeship programme, your existing knowledge and experience will be accredited against the apprenticeship to reduce the time you'll need to spend to complete your training. See Route 1 for details on the Apprenticeship and End Point Assessment (AM2S) journey.



You can be employed or self-employed, but must be able to demonstrate work experience for evidence gathering and work-based assessment.



NVQ

Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Installing Electrotechnical Systems & Equipment (Buildings, Structures & the Environment) - from City & Guilds or EAL. You'll be assessed on both your knowledge and performance.



ASSESSMENT OF COMPETENCE

To achieve your qualification, you'll need to take the industry assessment of competence, the AM2, which tests everything you've learnt during your training.



QUALIFIED ELECTRICIAN

Once you've completed the Apprenticeship or the NVQ, you'll be a qualified electrician.

Route 3 – Self-Funded

For career changers and others who have to fund their own training if not eligible for Routes 1 & 2.

If you can't access funding and need to pay for your own training, it's important you consider your route carefully. There are no shortcuts to becoming a qualified electrician.

The classroom-based qualifications you'll gain at a college or other training provider are a good foundation, but on their own they do not mean you are a qualified electrician. This comes with time and experience on the job, supporting work-based training, and the informed judgements you'll become able to make as a result of this real-life experience.

In fact, if you read the small print, many of the packages offered by commercial training providers acknowledge that you need to be working in the industry to complete the full qualification.

Read our guidance on [doing the right training](#).

You may also see promotions to become a 'Domestic Installer' or 'Domestic Electrician' – [read our advice](#)

Take a look at the recommended Self-Funded journey which shows the whole process:

England Route: **Self Funded**



BEFORE YOU START

- 1) Some qualifications* will assist your learning but (in isolation) are not an essential part of your journey to becoming a fully qualified electrician. It's better to complete these once you are practising as you'll need a base level of existing knowledge and experience. *Such as Inspection and Testing, Building Regulations, Electric Vehicle Charging.
- 2) Consider carefully if you want to follow this route without some form of work experience - it's ideal to have practical workplace experience at the same time you are studying.



TECHNICAL QUALIFICATION

Level 2 Diploma in Electrical Installations - from City & Guilds or EAL. †



TECHNICAL QUALIFICATION

Level 3 Diploma in Electrical Installations - from City & Guilds or EAL. †



If you gain employment during your studies - see Route 1 for Apprenticeship Training.
Any qualification units achieved will be accredited to the apprenticeship to reduce the duration.



IF YOU WANT TO PROGRESS AND TRAIN ANY FURTHER YOU'LL NEED TO BE WORKING IN THE INDUSTRY IN ORDER TO BECOME A QUALIFIED ELECTRICIAN.



NVQ

Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Installing Electrotechnical Systems and Equipment (Buildings, Structures and the Environment) - from City & Guilds or EAL.

You'll be assessed on both your knowledge and performance.



ASSESSMENT OF COMPETENCE

To achieve your qualification you'll need to take the industry assessment of competence, the AM2, which tests everything you've learnt during your training.



QUALIFIED ELECTRICIAN

Once you've passed your AM2 your training is complete and you'll be a qualified electrician.

† Level 2 and Level 3 are sometimes offered as a combined package by training providers but they will be certified separately.

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Route 4 – Experienced Worker Assessment

For those who have been working in the industry for at least 3-5 years but not gained an apprenticeship or equivalent Level 3 qualification.

If you need to get your skills and experience recognised to the industry Level 3 benchmark, the Electrotechnical Experienced Worker Assessments can help.

It's the assessment process to recognise occupational competence for people who have been working as an electrician for a number of years* but haven't been able to complete an apprenticeship or achieve an equivalent Level 3 vocational qualification.

The Experienced Worker Assessments are based on the same content as the two industry apprenticeship routes, so that both new entrants and existing workers are now being assessed and accredited against the same industry standard.

The main benefit is that your existing qualifications, skills and experience can count towards the Experienced Worker qualification criteria, so you'll only need to fill in any gaps.

There are two Experienced Worker Assessment (EWA) routes you can take depending on your area of work:

[Domestic Electrician EWA route](#)

[Installation & Maintenance Electrician EWA route](#)

Take a look at the Experienced Worker routes below. You can also find out more about the Experienced Worker Assessment [on the EWA website](#).

** 5 years' experience is needed for Installation / Maintenance Electrician and 3 years' experience for Domestic Electricians*

Experienced Worker Assessment: Installation & Maintenance Electrician



BEFORE YOU START - CHECK YOUR ELIGIBILITY:

- You'll need at least a Level 2 Electrical technical qualification from the list in the Skills Scan
- You'll also need at least 5 years' experience working as a practising electrician (not including time spent in education or training)

NOT ELIGIBLE?

Look at what skills, experience and technical knowledge you need to fill the gaps. Take a look at the other recommended training routes on the TESP website and speak to your local college or training provider.



1: SKILLS SCAN

The first step is to complete the self-assessment Skills Scan and candidate background form. You'll need to demonstrate knowledge and understanding equivalent to the Installation/Maintenance Electrician apprenticeship.

If the Skills Scan shows the EWA is right for you, contact an EWA training provider.



2: VERIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY

Your training provider will verify your qualifications and experience, and confirm your knowledge through a recorded or documented technical discussion.



3: THE EXPERIENCED WORKER QUALIFICATION

To complete the qualification, you'll need to achieve:

Level 3 Performance Units
BS7671 to current edition with evidence of approved CPD covering latest Amendment
Level 3 Award in Initial Verification



3: THE AM2E ASSESSMENT

Once you have completed the qualification process, you will then sit the AM2E assessment. This mirrors the AM2S assessment taken at the end of an electrotechnical apprenticeship.



COMPLETION

Once you have completed the qualification and successfully passed the AM2E, you have completed the Experienced Worker Assessment.

The achievement of the Experienced Worker Qualification and the AM2E meets the criteria for an ECS gold card application.

The Experienced Worker Assessment is also recognised in the Electrotechnical Assessment Specification as equivalent to an industry apprenticeship.

England, Wales and Northern Ireland Route: Experienced Worker Assessment: Domestic Electrician



BEFORE YOU START - CHECK YOUR ELIGIBILITY:

- You'll need at least a Level 2 Electrical technical qualification from the list in the Skills Scan
- You'll also need at least 3 years' experience working as a practising domestic electrician (not including time spent in education or training)

NOT ELIGIBLE?

Look at what skills, experience and technical knowledge you need to fill the gaps. Take a look at the other recommended training routes on the TESP website and speak to your local college or training provider.



1: SKILLS SCAN

The first step is to complete the self-assessment Skills Scan and candidate background form. You'll need to demonstrate knowledge and understanding equivalent to the Domestic Electrician apprenticeship. If the Skills Scan shows the EWA is right for you, contact an EWA training provider.



2: VERIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY

Your training provider will verify your qualifications and experience, and confirm your knowledge through a recorded or documented technical discussion.



3: THE EXPERIENCED WORKER QUALIFICATION

To complete the Domestic Electrician Experienced Worker qualification, you'll need to achieve:

- Level 3 Performance Units
- Full Inspection & Testing Qualification covering Initial Verification and Periodic Inspection (C&G 2391-50 and 2391-51, or EAL 4337)
- BS7671 to current edition with evidence of approved CPD covering latest Amendment



4: THE AM2ED ASSESSMENT

Once you have completed the qualification process, you will then sit the AM2ED assessment. This mirrors the AM2D assessment taken at the end of the Domestic Electrician apprenticeship.



COMPLETION

Once you have completed the qualification and successfully passed the AM2ED, you have completed the Domestic Electrician Experienced Worker Assessment.

The achievement of the Domestic Electrician Experienced Worker Qualification and the AM2ED meets the criteria for an ECS Domestic Electrician gold card application. The Domestic Electrician Experienced Worker Assessment is also recognised in the Electrotechnical Assessment Specification as equivalent to an industry apprenticeship.