



Industry led Polymer Processing Technologist Apprenticeship Programme



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Apprenticeship Programme Title and Occupational profile

Title:

Polymer Processing Technologist, Level 7

Academic title: Bachelor of Science in Polymer Processing Technology

Typical tasks and responsibilities:

- Efficient set up and operation of polymer processing lines in the fields of Injection Moulding, Blow Moulding or Extrusion
- Work Cross-functionally with Production Team Leaders/Moulding Managers/Quality/Tool room/Maintenance Department/Material
- Address machine, material, mould, die or tooling issues, including complex tooling assembly & breakdown

Programme Overview



- Developed by Plastics Ireland along with First Polymer Training Centre, Athlone Institute of Technology (coordinating provider), Institute of Technology Sligo and representatives from the plastics industry.
- 3 year programme
- Level 7 - 180 credits
- 7 phases
 - 4 x On-the-job (includes online modules)
 - 3 x Off-the-job (Athlone Institute of Technology)
- Entry Requirements: Leaving Certificate (or equivalent), Grade 06 at ordinary level in 5 subjects 2 of which must be maths and a language (English or Irish).
- Start date: May 2017

Programme Overview – Phase Block Release (Starts May 2017)

YEAR 1		
May - August	Sept - Dec	Jan - April
On the Job (Phase 1)	Off the Job (Phase 2)	On the Job (Phase 3)
YEAR 2		
May - August	Sept - Dec	Jan - April
On the Job (Phase 3 cont.)	Off the Job (Phase 4)	On the Job (Phase 5)
YEAR 3		
May - August	Sept - Dec	Jan - April
On the Job (Phase 5 cont.)	Off the Job (Phase 6)	On the Job (Phase 7)

Programme Overview – Modules & Phase Plan

	Phase 1 On The Job	Phase 2 Off the Job		Phase 3 On the Job	Phase 4 Off the Job		Phase 5 On the Job	Phase 6 Off the job		Phase 7 On the Job
	Theory Online	Theory	Lab	Theory Online	Theory	Lab	Theory Online	Theory	Lab	Theory Online
	Hrs/wk	Hrs/wk	Hrs/wk	Hrs/wk	Hrs/wk	Hrs/wk	Hrs/wk	Hrs/wk	Hrs/wk	Hrs/wk
POLYMER PROCESSING	1	2	10		2	10		2	10	
MATERIALS		1	2		1	2		2	2	
MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE	1	3	4		2	2	1			
WORKSHOP PRACTICE AND METROLOGY			4				4		5	
ICT AND COMMUNICATIONS	1					2				
AUTOMATION		2	2		2	3		2	2	
QUALITY AND GMP				1						
CAD AND DESIGN				3				1	3	
TOTAL Hrs/wk										
	3	8	22	4	7	19	5	7	22	

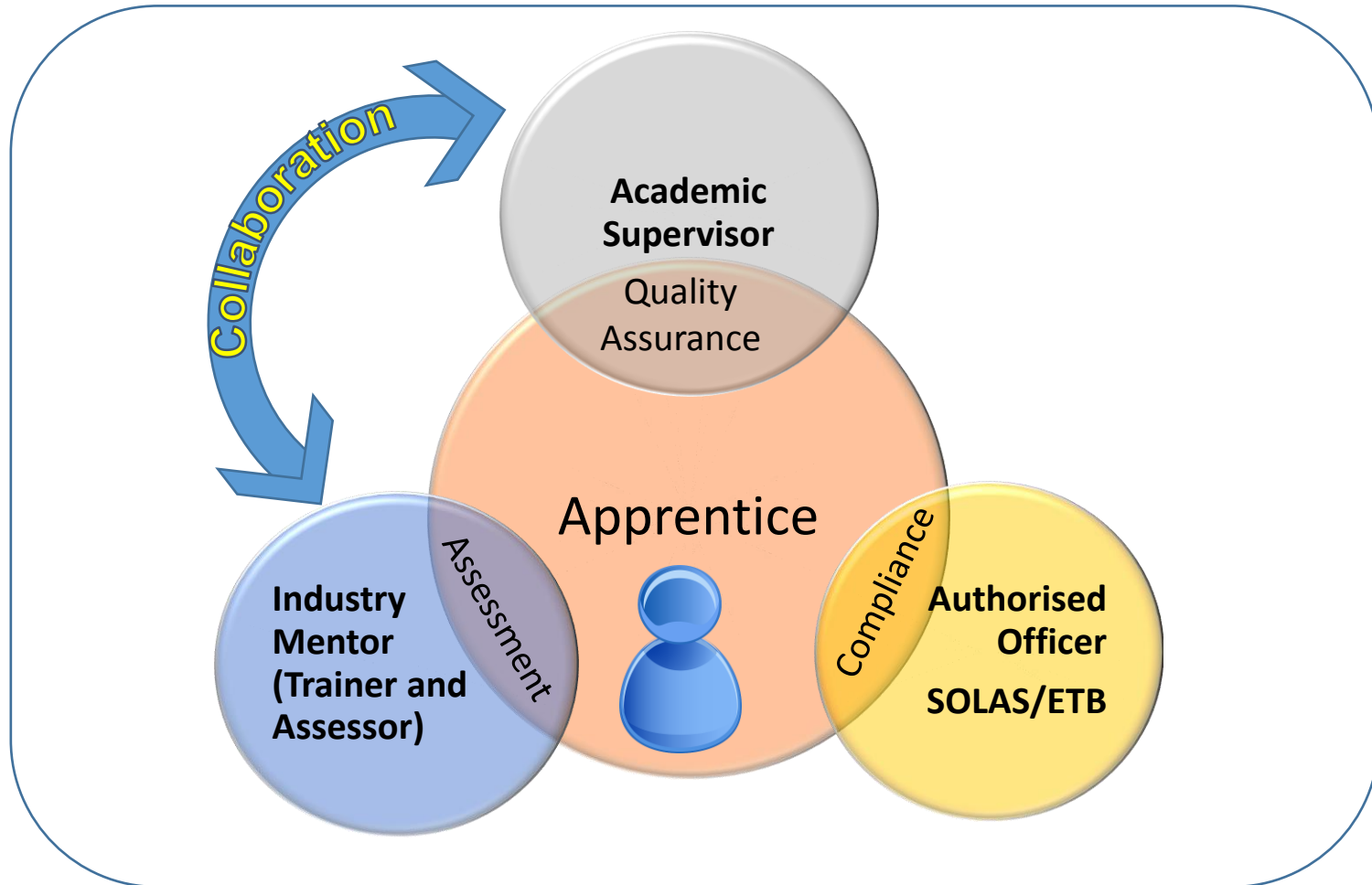
TOTAL Hrs/wk

- Company pays apprentice's salary for both on and off the job phases.
- Salary set by individual company.
- Tiered remuneration recommended for 3 year programme.
- Government pays for college training.
- Annual apprentice registration fee of €1,500 will apply.

Registration and Key Employer Obligations

- The consortium will facilitate a company visit by SOLAS to approve their site for apprentices (if not already approved).
- Once company identifies an apprentice SOLAS will meet at company site for apprentice approval.
- Company must ensure apprentice is released to attend induction presentation and 'off the job' blocks.
- Company must provide access for the apprentice to the appropriate equipment and resources to complete the 'on the job' elements of the programme.
- Company must assign a person qualified in the occupation to act as a mentor and/or assessor/verifier to the apprentice for 'on the job' elements.
- **Note:** Mentor training will be provided and funded by the consortium.

Apprentice Support Structure for 'On the Job' Learning



Target Group

- School leavers, production operators and technicians who want to train or retrain in the Polymer technology sector and progress along the NFQ to level 7.
- Any one of the 200+ Polymer Technology companies currently established in Ireland.

How do I get Involved?

Contact:

Denise Carthy,
denise.carthy@ibec.ie

+353 1 6051727

Or

Shane Beirne,
shane.beirne@ibec.ie

+353 1 605 1677

Acknowledgements

