

## Apprenticeship Training Programme

### Phase 1: *With Employer*

Induction Training  
Introduction to Health & Safety Training  
Introduction to Tools & Equipment  
Introduction to Basic Skills

### Phase 2: *Delivered in Training Centre (20 weeks)*

Course Content:

Induction  
Bench Fitting  
Engine/Fuel  
Basic Electricity/Circuits  
Transmission  
Steering, Brakes & Wheels  
Starting/Ignition Systems  
Hydraulics  
Farm Machinery  
Introduction to Computers  
Related Theory

### Phase 3: *With Employer*

Work Based Assessments

### Phase 4: *Delivered in Educational Colleges (10 weeks)*

Course Content:

Engines  
Brakes  
Electrics & Electronics  
Tractor Hydraulics  
Steering & Suspension  
Farm Machinery  
Related Theory

### Phase 5: *With Employer*

Work Based Assessments

### Phase 6: *Delivered in Educational Colleges (8 weeks)*

Course Content:

Engine & Fuel  
Transmission & Steering  
Electrics & Electronics  
Farm Machinery  
Operator's Cabs  
Customer Service  
Related Theory

### Phase 7: *With Employer*

Work Based Assessments

The overall duration of this apprenticeship is a minimum of 4 years provided all phases are successfully completed. On successful completion of the programme the learner is awarded a Level 6 Advanced Certificate Craft – Agricultural Mechanics.

For further information please contact your local Education & Training Board Training Centre or log onto [www.SOLAS.ie](http://www.SOLAS.ie)

## The Craft of Agricultural Mechanics



Ireland's EU Structural and  
Investment Funds Programmes  
2014 - 2020  
Co-funded by the Irish Government  
and the European Union



EUROPEAN UNION

Investing in your future  
European Social Fund

 **Apprenticeship**  
KNOWLEDGE. SKILL. COMPETENCE

## Overview

Agricultural mechanics are concerned with fault-finding, repair, overhaul and maintenance of farm tractors and farm machinery. These farm machines could include forage harvesters, balers, bale wrappers, mowers, combine harvesters, crop-sprayers, fertiliser distributors, diet feeders, tillage and slurry handling equipment.

Their skills overlap with those of other crafts within the motor family of crafts, therefore they are equipped to carry out some repair work on ATVs (All Terrain Vehicle- Quads) light and heavy commercial vehicles, earth moving equipment, forklift trucks and other vehicles.

Besides the normal agricultural tractor and machinery garages, some large agricultural contracting firms employ their own agricultural mechanics.

## Work activities

The work of agricultural mechanics ranges from the repair of agricultural tractors, light and heavy commercial trucks and vans, earth-moving track machines, forklift trucks and farm machines.

## Personal qualities and Skills

You need to have technical ability and you must be good at solving problems. It is very important that you can diagnose faults and repair them quickly. You will also need knowledge of mechanical and electrical systems.

You also need good communication skills, to explain to farmers how machinery works and to discuss faults and repairs.

## Aspects of Work

- Learning new practical skills
- Learning how machines work
- Repairing machines and components
- Working with vehicles
- Learning and developing new craft-related skills , knowledge & competence
- Being responsible for controlling or adjusting equipment
- Understanding technical drawings and diagrams
- Being accurate with numbers in counting, measuring and arithmetic
- Providing advice
- Practical skills and theoretical knowledge
- Providing a service to members of the public
- Driving vehicles
- Working with electricity or electronics
- Keeping accurate records or reports
- Being well-organised and careful with practical tasks
- Travelling from place to place
- Working evenings or weekends
- Taking responsibility for own learning, including the allocation of study time

## Opportunities

Opportunities arise from time-to-time for promotion to supervisor level. Many persons use an apprenticeship as a first step in proceeding to such occupations as instructors, teachers, training advisers, managers and owners of businesses.

Where apprentices and crafts persons have the necessary ability, initiative and basic qualifications, opportunities are available for advancement. These include advanced technological and management courses which are available in Institutes of Technology, Schools of Management, Professional Institutes, etc.

People anxious to advance themselves in their careers are advised to discover for themselves what opportunities are available.

## Educational Requirements

The minimum age at which the employment of an apprentice may commence is 16 years of age.

The minimum educational requirements are:

1. Grade D in five subjects in the Department of Education & Skills Junior Certificate Examination or an approved equivalent,  
or
2. The successful completion of an approved Pre-Apprenticeship course  
or
3. Three years' work experience gained over sixteen years of age in a relevant designated industrial activity as SOLAS shall deem acceptable

You must obtain a job as an apprentice in your chosen occupation. Your employer must be approved to train apprentices and must register you as an apprentice within 2 weeks of recruitment.

In certain crafts, apprenticeship applicants are required to pass a colour vision test approved by SOLAS.