

Craft Apprentice Scheme

Overview

Overview of Western Power Distribution

Western Power Distribution (WPD) owns and operates the electricity distribution system in the Midlands, the South West of England and South Wales.

This system consists of underground cables, overhead lines and substations operating at voltages from 132,000 volts down to 230 volts and feeds over 7.8 million customers.

Electricity supply companies use our system to deliver electricity to their customers.

WPD covers a huge area so our 6,300 employees are constantly at work, maintaining, repairing and extending our network.



“We are looking for talented, highly motivated people to join the WPD apprenticeship scheme. Our people are at the heart of our business success and our apprentices of today will be our skilled staff of tomorrow – safely delivering outstanding levels of customer service and operational performance for our customers.”

Phil Swift, Operations Director

Our People

Operating this business 24/7, 365 days a year we need to ensure we have the right people in the right place to respond to our customers needs.

Our Craftspeople are highly trained and operate at the sharp end of our business. They are divided into three main groups:

Overhead Lines – working on overhead lines supported by wooden poles or steel towers.

Jointer – working on the underground cable network.

Fitter – working on switches and transformers in substations.



“I felt well informed about each stage of the recruitment process and enjoyed the practical tests. It helped me understand the various trades available and make an informed decision about if this was the right career for me. I would recommend anyone considering an apprenticeship to do some research and follow the guidance provided.”

Sean Harrington-Thorley, Apprentice Overhead Lines

Our Training Scheme

The core training takes a minimum of two years. Apprentices will be required to achieve the City & Guilds 2339 Level 2 and Level 3 Qualifications in Electrical Technology Engineering delivered through Manchester Open Learning.

Apprentices will need to keep a Technical Apprenticeship Record (TAR) Portfolio which has a significant impact on the overall qualification.

Your first twelve weeks will take place at one of our Training Centres.



Apprentice Fact Sheet

Salary

Year 1 £12,456

Year 2 £14,073

This is paid on the 26th of each month by credit transfer to a bank or building society.

On successful completion of the formal elements of the training, apprentices will move to a development role with an experienced craftsperson. In this role you will be paid £25,415.

You will receive regular assessments in this development role and once assessed to be competent, you will be appointed as a Craftsperson with annual incremental progression, subject to satisfactory performance, up to £32,548.

You will be required to undertake out-of-hours standby duties for which standby payments and overtime rates will be applied.

*Apprentices over 21 will receive an increase in year 2 in line with the minimum wage.

Salaries quoted at current rates

Holidays

You will be entitled to 23 days per year plus 1 extra day after 2 years' continuous service, rising to 26 days on appointment to craftsperson. Your holiday year will run from the first day of the month in which your birth date falls.

Sick Pay

If you are absent from work due to illness, you will be paid a sickness allowance subject to the conditions of the Company sick pay scheme.

Hours of Work

Normal hours of work will average 37 hours per week. As this is a training scheme, you will be required to complete unpaid study in your own time.

Recruitment Timetable

Psychometric Testing - February/March

Practical Assessment - April

Interviews - May

Start date - September



Apprentice Fact Sheet

Qualifications Required

You should have or expect to achieve, at least five GCSE passes at Grade C or above in Maths, English Language and one Science subject. Numerical qualifications would be Grade 4 - 9 only. Alternatively, an equivalent Level 3 recognised qualification in Electrical Engineering.

You are required to keep a hand written record of your work, as well as undertake computer work using Microsoft Office applications. Literacy and computer skills will be required.

Offer of Apprenticeship

You will be required to provide proof of your qualifications in the form of the original certificates.

WPD reserve the right to withdraw any offer of any apprenticeship which we make in good faith on the basis of predicted grades or those stated on your application form.

Hold a valid, full, current UK car driving licence within 12 months of joining the Apprentice Programme or within 12 months of your 17th birthday, whichever is sooner. These vacancies are safety critical, therefore it is essential you are located close to our depots so that you can respond to emergency issues quickly.

City & Guilds Open Learning

The City & Guilds course is an open learning course. You will attend all tutorials and relevant courses held at WPD Training Centres.

You will also be required to study in your own time with help from your appointed Mentor and the Manchester Open Learning Help Line.

Workbooks or manuals will be provided free of charge.

If you are unsure about your qualifications please call us on 01332 623115 for guidance.

