



Nuclear Working (Wales)

The Nuclear Working Apprenticeship Framework provides work based training for young people and adults wishing to enter the nuclear sector. Apprentices would undertake skills and knowledge training in one of the following two areas, nuclear decommissioning or radiation protection.

There is one level of Apprenticeship contained in this framework:

- **The Foundation Level Apprenticeship (Level 2) in Nuclear Working**

This usually takes 12 to 24 months to complete.

The framework contains details of vocational qualifications; knowledge based technical qualifications, Essential Skills Wales (Communication, Application of Number, Information Technology), and employee rights and responsibilities required for an apprenticeship in Nuclear Working.

Apprentices undertake training on-the-job at their workplace and off-the-job usually delivered by a local training provider or Further Education College.

Summary of the purpose of the framework

This framework has been designed to meet the requirements for the type of work undertaken in the nuclear industry. Nuclear power is an efficient source of energy that helps to cut down on carbon emissions, and the government has outlined plans to build more nuclear power stations. The UK's nuclear industry employs over 50,000 people with approximately 1,500 people being directly employed in Wales. The nuclear industry in Wales is localised to North West Wales with two nuclear facilities in Gwynedd. Trawsfynydd Power Station is undergoing decommissioning and in Anglesey, Wylfa Power Station started defueling in 2010 and this will take till 2012 to complete. A new nuclear power station is planned to be built next to the current Wylfa Power Station.

Once a nuclear power station reaches the end of its working life it must be safely shut down and decommissioned. With the advent of 'new build' for a fleet of modern nuclear power stations, as well as existing operations and decommissioning means there are a number of opportunities across the sector.

The industry is supported by a wide variety of supply chain companies, such as engineering and construction contractors, fabricators of specialist equipment, manufacturers and specialist service providers, which may provide further opportunities for employment.

After undergoing this Foundation Level Apprenticeship Framework, skilled operatives and technicians could find themselves working in a variety of roles within the Nuclear Industry. A Decommissioning Operative would be involved in the safe decommissioning of plant and equipment on a licensed nuclear site. A Radiation Monitor would play a key role in the safe monitoring of personnel and work environments.

Within the industry there are many opportunities to progress to technician, supervisory or management roles. British nuclear industry skills are also highly valued abroad.

There will be an ongoing need to attract new young people and adults to meet emerging technological challenges such as the expected expansion due to new build as well as to replace the ageing workforce within the sector. This Apprenticeship Framework will help to ensure that the skills pipeline is robust both in terms of quantity and capability.

Cogent is the Issuing Authority for this framework:

The Apprenticeship sector for occupations in chemical manufacturing, nuclear science, oil and gas extraction (also includes process technology, bioscience, polymer and sign making).

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