

**GENERATION  
APPRENTICESHIP**  
[www.apprenticeship.ie](http://www.apprenticeship.ie)

Quantity Surveying  
**Apprenticeship**  
**Handbook**

*Quantity Surveyor Apprenticeship Levels 6,7,8*



Chartered property,  
land and construction  
surveyors



Ollscoil  
Teicneolaíochta  
an Atlantaigh

Atlantic  
Technological  
University



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# Introduction

## What is an Apprenticeship?

An apprenticeship is a programme of structured education and learning which formally combines and alternates learning in the workplace with learning in university or a further education setting. It is dual system, a blend of on-the-job employer-based learning and off-the-job learning. Apprenticeship is an exciting and proven way for employers to develop talent for their company and industry. They are designed by industry-led groups, supporting growth and competitiveness. Apprentices earn while they learn and build valuable work-ready skills in a chosen occupation. Apprenticeships open up exciting and rewarding careers, with learning grounded in the practical experience of undertaking a real job. These apprenticeships are led by a consortium of industry and education partners.

## What is a Quantity Surveyor?

A quantity surveyor is the financial linchpin of any construction job. You'll become an expert at precisely costing buildings from conception through completion while ensuring each project meets all legal and quality requirements. As a quantity surveyor, you'll be involved from the very start - consulting with the client and contractors on preliminary cost analysis. Once construction begins, you'll monitor ongoing expenses, identify potential savings for the client, and produce regular progress reports. With experience, you'll offer expert advice on lifecycle costing, cost planning, procurement, tendering, contract administration and overall commercial management. You may specialise in a particular area or play an active hand in multiple aspects of a project.



# What does a Quantity Surveyor Do?

As a QS, your core responsibility is to carefully estimate costs, calculate material needs and map out project timelines. You'll liaise closely with all teams to keep the job on track. Day-to-day, you'll:

- Consult with clients to understand their requirements
- Calculate quantities and costs for materials, labour, timeframes
- Prepare tender packages and contracts, including bills of quantities
- Manage risk, value engineering and cost control measures
- Analyse repair/maintenance costs
- Negotiate contracts and schedules
- Oversee and value subcontractors' work for payments
- Ensure compliance with regulations and quality standards
- Continually assess value for the client's investment
- Analyse outcomes and provide budget/progress reports
- Advise on claims, disputes and any contractual issues

## As your career progresses, you may:

- Advise on carbon footprints and sustainability
- Provide guidance on property taxes
- Assist with securing project funding
- Help initiate new construction projects
- Offer post-occupancy lifecycle advice

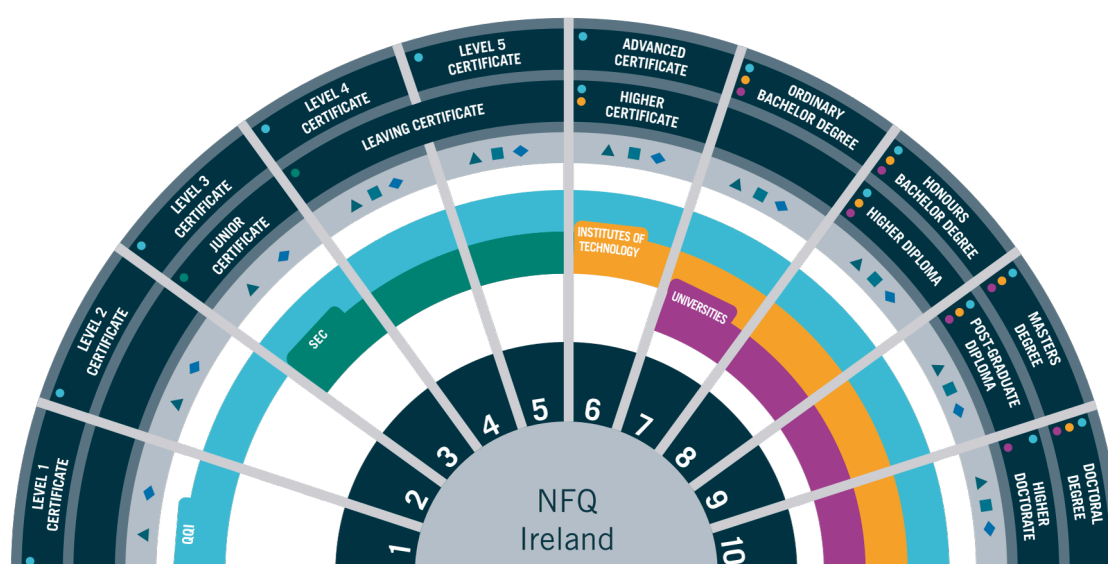
Your work can be split between offices, client sites and construction locations as needed. Staying up to date on building codes and safety protocols is essential. Specialisations like residential, retail, sports venues and more are also options.

## Key Skills

- Excellent written and verbal communication abilities
  - Maths, numerical and data analysis skills
  - Interpersonal and relationship-building talents
  - Creative, analytical thinking and problem-solving mindset
  - Proficiency with technology
  - Project management capabilities
  - Ability to thrive under pressure and use initiative
  - Resilience and determination
  - Teamwork and motivational skills
  - Understanding of engineering and construction principles
  - Commercial awareness
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# Overview of Apprenticeships

<b>Apprenticeship</b>	Quantity Surveyor Technician	Quantity Surveyor Associate	Quantity Surveyor Practitioner
<b>Qualification</b>	Higher Certificate in Science in Quantity Surveying	Bachelor of Science in Quantity Surveying	Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Quantity Surveying
<b>Duration</b>	2 years	3 years	4 years
<b>NFQ</b>	Level 6	Level 7	Level 8
<b>On the job/off the job</b>	4 days per week on the job. 1 day per week online lectures (8 hours).		



## AWARDING BODIES

- **Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI)** makes awards in further and higher education and training
- **SEC - State Examinations Commission** (Department of Education and Skills)
- **Institutes of Technology**
- **Universities**

## AWARDS IN THE FRAMEWORK

There are four classes of award in the National Framework of Qualifications:



**Major Awards:** named in the outer rings, are the principal class of awards made at a level

**Minor Awards:** are for partial completion of the outcomes for a Major Award

**Supplemental Awards:** are for learning that is additional to a Major Award

**Special Purpose Awards:** are for relatively narrow or purpose-specific achievement

# Programme Content by level

## Level 6 - Higher Certificate

The Level 6 stage focuses on foundational quantity surveying skills, including:

- Building Technology and Measurement
- Small Domestic Construction Technology & Measurement
- Economics
- Principles of Estimating
- Contracts and Procurement
- Information Technology for Quantity Surveyors
- Cost Planning
- Construction Law
- Work Based Learning

## Level 7 - Bachelor of Science

The Level 7 stage develops intermediate and applied competencies, including:

- Mechanical & Electrical Measurement
- BIM for Quantity Surveyors
- Programming and Planning
- Civil Engineering Technology & Measurement
- Capital Works Framework
- Commercial Management
- Work Based Learning

## Level 8 - Bachelor of Science (Honours)

The Level 8 stage develops advanced and strategic capability, including:

- Measurement of Complex Structures
  - Public Works Contracts & Dispute Management
  - Sustainable Development & Economics
  - Research Methods and Dissertation
  - Capstone Project
  - Work Based Learning
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# Assessment

Assessment uses a blended approach, combining:

- Continuous assessment (projects, reports and practical tasks)
- Semester examinations (where applicable)
- Work Based Learning

Assessment is designed to ensure apprentices demonstrate both academic achievement and professional competence

## Work Based Learning

Each academic year includes a 20 credit Work Based Learning module, assessed through:

- Employer performance evaluation
- Reflective learning and portfolio evidence
- Validation by an academic supervisor

Apprentices must demonstrate progressive professional development aligned with programme learning outcomes.



# Entry Requirements

	<b>Level 6</b>	<b>Level 7</b>	<b>Level 8</b>
<b>Leaving Certificate</b>	5 subjects at 06/H7	5 subjects at 06/H7	6 subjects at 06/H7 2 subjects at H5
<b>Entry Requirements</b>	English or Irish at 06/H7 Maths at 06/H7	English or Irish at 06/H7 Maths at 06/H7	English or Irish at 06/H7 Maths at 06/H7
<b>QQI/FET Major Award Required</b>	Any		
<b>Additional QQI/FET Requirements</b>	Three distinctions and a pass in C20139 or 5N1833 or C20174 or C20175 of 5N18396 or 5N0556 or Leaving Certificate Maths at 06/H7		

## Advanced Entry

Applications are welcome from candidates who have successfully completed cognate programmes at a lower level, and who wish to apply for advanced entry. Candidates who wish to apply for advanced entry to this programme apply directly to the University, providing documentation relating to results and programme content. These are assessed, and if appropriate and places are available applicants are admitted at a level appropriate to their prior learning.

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## Mature Applicants

Applications from mature applicants (aged 23 on or before 1st January of the course commencement year) are welcomed by ATU. A quota of places is reserved for mature applicants. These applicants do not have to meet the Leaving Certificate entry requirements and are considered on an individual basis (previous education, work experience, and demonstration of ability and competence to undertake the programme).

## English Language Requirements

English Language Requirements will be as determined by ATU and as published in the Access, Transfer and Progression code. The current requirements are as follows:

- Non-EU applicants who are not English speakers must have a minimum score of 6.5 (with a minimum of 6.0 in each component) in the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) or equivalent. All results must have been achieved within 2 years of application to ATU.
- EU applicants who are not English speakers are recommended to have a minimum score of 6.5 (with a minimum of 6.0 in each component) in the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) or equivalent.

## Recognition of Prior Learning

In accordance with its policies ATU is committed to the principles of transparency, equity and fairness in recognition of prior learning (RPL) and to the principle of valuing all learning regardless of the mode or place of its acquisition. Recognition of Prior Learning may be used to gain access to Stage 1 of the programme. Applicants must demonstrate and give evidence that they have gained relevant work experience in the area of quantity surveying.

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# How to Become an Apprentice

To become an apprentice, you must meet the eligibility criteria for the programme as noted above. You should, apply for an apprentice role with an approved employer and successfully pass each stage of the recruitment process.

To find an apprenticeship, you can search apprenticeship vacancies on the apprenticeship jobs page at: <https://apprenticeship.ie/career-seekers/jobs> or use the 'Find Apprenticeship Employers' section of the Generation Apprenticeship website to view approved employers in your area. You can also search for vacancies on <https://scsi.ie/jobs/>. You must be registered with an approved employer before you can start your apprenticeship.

If a company you wish to work with as an apprentice is not listed as an approved employer, contact us at [education@scsi.ie](mailto:education@scsi.ie) for assistance.

## Recruitment & Funding

Apprenticeships are employer led. Vacancies are advertised and filled directly by approved employers and may arise at various points throughout the year.

Apprentices are paid employees for the full duration of the programme and are entitled to all statutory employment rights and protections.

An annual student registration fee applies. Employers may be eligible to access state apprenticeship supports and grants, subject to national policy.

All programme tuition fees are covered by the Higher Education Authority (HEA) and SOLAS, with the exception of repeats/deferrals and travel to and from venues, where required.

This includes the programme tuition costs with the educational provider, exam costs and all associated fees. The apprentice is obliged to pay an annual student registration charge for each year of study. The current charge is €1500 (discounted rate) annually which can be paid by the student (or the employer on their behalf if they wish). Please note that the fee may change from time to time based on instruction from HEA, Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science or other state agencies.

# SCSI Accreditation & Chartered Membership

The programme has been designed having an eye to the standards set out by the SCSI. The programme has been mapped against the professional competencies identified within the SCSI Quantity Surveying pathway and is accredited by SCSI, providing a route to Chartered Membership for all graduates of the programme.

**Students registered on this programme can begin their Assessment of Professional Competence (APC) leading to Chartered Membership with SCSI simultaneously while studying.**

Further detail on SCSI Chartered Membership will be provided to all students and is also available at [www.scsi.ie](http://www.scsi.ie) or from [education@scsi.ie](mailto:education@scsi.ie).



Chartered property, land and  
construction surveyors

**The leading  
professional body for  
property, land and  
construction  
professionals in  
Ireland**

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## Contact us

We're here to help! Whether you have questions about applying for the apprenticeship programme or you are an employer interested in getting involved please contact the SCSI Education team.



(01) 644 5500



[education@scsi.ie](mailto:education@scsi.ie)



[scsi.ie/apprenticeship](http://scsi.ie/apprenticeship)