

ARBORICULTURE APPRENTICESHIPS

LEVEL 2
DURATION 24 MONTHS

JOB TITLES

Arborist · Tree surgeon

ROLE PROFILE

The arboricultural industry manages trees for their benefits and values in diverse urban and rural locations from city parks and urban woodlands, to country estates and private gardens. The industry manages trees adjacent to highways, railways, watercourses and power lines. An arborist may progress to undertake inspections and surveys of individual and woodland trees, advising landowners on how to care for their trees, or teaching others about the benefits of carefully managing trees.

The work of an arborist involves diverse activities such as chainsaw work, aerial tree work, pruning, dismantling and using appropriate machinery such as brushwood chippers. Arborists can work for local authorities, private companies and many are also self-employed. Tree work can be physically demanding and involves working outdoors in all weathers. An arborist will undertake aerial tree work but may also be ground-based. They do a range of tree work jobs with indirect supervision. They are capable of supporting the tree work team across a range of basic technical skills.

PROGRAMME DELIVERY

This programme will be delivered through a combination of practical hands-on and theory based activities which will be tailored to ensure the apprentice develops the necessary knowledge, skills and behaviours to become a professional arboricultural worker and an effective member of the organisation.

With all apprenticeships there is a requirement to record 20% off-the-job activities and this will be achieved through the use of a dedicated electronic on-line portfolio which the apprentice, the employer and the college delivery team will all have access to. The apprentice will be assigned a dedicated Assessor Trainer, who will undertake regular workplace progress reviews with both the apprentice and an assigned workplace mentor, as well as supporting all aspects of the apprentices ongoing development. This approach enables effective progress monitoring and target setting to be established from day 1, ensuring the employer and apprentice are clear about all aspects of the apprenticeship programme and what part they each play in ensuring the apprentice continues to make the expected levels of progress. Furthermore, this approach ensures any additional support requirements or interventions can be implemented in a timely manner as required.

A BCA Virtual Learning Environment ensures all learning, development and support material can be easily accessed, further supporting the blended learning and development approach adopted by BCA for all its apprenticeship delivery. This ensures flexible and responsive training at all times, through a combination of on-line and face-to-face activities delivered by industry experts, using our high quality, industry recognised resources and equipment. The apprentice will be required to undertake and pass an independent End Point Assessment upon successful completion of their apprenticeship, after which point they will be awarded their Apprenticeship Certificate.

PROFESSIONAL ELEMENTS

- Level 3 award in emergency first aid at work
- Level 2 award in safe use of brushwood chipper
- Traffic Management (NRSWA Unit 002 Signing, Lighting and Guarding) OR Sector Scheme 12D
- Level 2 award in chainsaw maintenance
- Level 2 award in cross cutting timber using a chainsaw
- Level 2 award in felling and processing trees up to 380mm
- Level 2 award in accessing a tree using a rope and harness
- Level 3 award in aerial tree rescue operations
- Level 3 award in aerial cutting of trees using free fall techniques
- Level 2 award in safe use of mobile elevated work platform
- Level 3 award in use of a chainsaw from a Mobile Elevated Work Platform (MEWP)

STUDENT PROGRESSION

The apprentice can become team supervisor and once more experience is gained could apply for Level 4 Arboriculturist.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The apprentice needs to have the ability to have the attitude and ability to develop the required skills and knowledge during the apprenticeship. This will be tested via an application/interview process.

Apprentices without level 1 English and maths will need to achieve this level and apprentices without level 2 English and maths will need to take the tests for this level prior to taking the end-point assessment. Employers will ultimately determine the entry requirements.

EXAMPLE KNOWLEDGE CONTENT

- The benefits of trees
- The use and application of arboricultural equipment
- The principles of the establishment, growth and care of trees
- The principles and importance of identifying trees and the value of using their scientific names
- The principles and importance of identifying and managing pests, diseases and disorders of trees

EXAMPLE BEHAVIOURS CONTENT

- Has a safety mind-set to protect self, colleagues and others
- Works effectively within a team/crew
- Consistently presents a professional manner both in appearance, language and behaviour
- Is reliable: consistently attends work and arrives on time
- Communicates effectively with the job supervisor, colleagues, clients and others to achieve the specification

EXAMPLE SKILLS CONTENT

- Recognise health and safety needs onsite and work safely
- Take instruction from the job supervisor and other senior work colleagues to include signing onto the site specific risk assessment / emergency action plan and maintaining records
- Select appropriate equipment for the loading and unloading of equipment safely
- Set out workplace signage (highway & non highway) and assists with traffic control
- Process tree work using appropriate machinery