



FORESTRY

Land-based Pre-apprenticeship



Scottish
Forestry
Coilltearachd
na h-Alba



SRUC

Earn while you learn in the forestry sector



Forests and the environment

Scotland's rich and diverse forests and woodlands are important natural assets, they absorb substantial amounts of carbon, helping to mitigate climate change and provide homes to a host of wildlife. Their continuing health and improvement is vital to the country's future, not least because of their role in protecting and enhancing natural capital.

The land-based and environmental sector currently accounts for approximately 115,700 employees and 24,500 businesses in Scotland. The trees and timber industry plays an important role in the sector with two main streams of work arboriculture and forestry.

Forestry is defined as the science and practice of all tree management, including forest and woodland management, arboriculture, urban forestry, environmental forestry and research, education and training in all these fields.

Why work in Forestry?

The industry is highly specialised and can involve working with a vast array of machines, materials and equipment; from planting stock and chemicals through to chainsaws, harvesters and computer software. A wide range of skills and knowledge is therefore required as there is a significant variety of jobs and tasks involved.

If you're interested in managing or improving forests as part of a sustainable Scotland, a career in trees and timber could give you a challenging and rewarding life.

Whether you like being outdoors using machinery and getting your hands dirty, or prefer science or research within a lab, look no further.

There's always a need for new people into the industry across different career options, including science and research, hands-on in the field working with the latest in harvesting technology or using your communication skills in education or consultancy.





“The pre-apprenticeship programme is a new way for young people to get a start in the growing forest industry, with a range of interesting work to try. If you’re after a job in the outdoors, dealing with nature in a practical way, this is a great route for you. It’s a great time to join the industry with the emphasis on a green recovery, climate action and increasing tree planting targets to expand woodland cover across Scotland.”

Helen McKay, Chief Forester for Scotland

Pre-apprenticeship Programme



Overview

The Land-based Pre-apprenticeship in Forestry is an ideal pathway for progression allowing new entrants to earn and learn in the workplace whilst also gaining a vocational qualification (SCQF4). Accredited by the Scottish Rural College (SRUC), the programme is currently funded by Skills Development Scotland on a pilot basis.

Programme Aims

The ultimate aim of the Land-based Pre-apprenticeship is to help prepare young people for employment in the forest sector.

The programme provides practical experience, training and knowledge allowing the candidates to make informed decisions as to how they would like their career to progress. On completion, there are several routes available whether that is pursuing a modern apprenticeship in trees in timber, applying for further education or securing a full-time job.

Programme Partners

SRUC: Provide the facilities for a residential induction. SRUC also deliver the Certificate of Work Readiness (CWR) together with additional training units.

Ringlink Scotland: Provide the day-to-day management of the programme, recruit and support candidates along with the mentor businesses, and provide certified training for the trainees.

Scottish Forestry: Facilitate with sourcing suitable mentor businesses for the trainees.

Pre-apprenticeship Format



WORK PLACEMENT

Following the upfront induction, successful pre-apprentices commence their individual placements with an approved mentor business for 26 weeks. The work placement is fully paid, based on 40 hrs per week. Payment for time worked is in accordance with the Scottish Agricultural Wages Board (SAWB).



TRAINING

Up to £1500 of training will be offered to each candidate with an element of certified training tailored to individual needs.



INDUCTION

Intake starts in September for a one week residential induction at SRUC, Oatridge in Edinburgh. Followed by a further week for additional training in February.



CERTIFICATION

All candidates who successfully complete the programme will receive a certificate of completion awarded from Ringlink Scotland along with relevant certification from the SRUC induction programme.

Getting Started



Application Process

For any queries or to apply, please contact:
Gail Robertson, 01561 376022 or
gail@ringlinkscotland.co.uk

All applicants will receive a brief telephone interview, as a means to shortlist candidates for face-to-face interviews.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend a face-to-face interview at a relevant partner office. Closing date: 30th June 2023.

Forestry intake starts w/c 18th September 2023.



Induction

Working in collaboration with SRUC, the successful applicants undertake an upfront residential induction at Oatridge campus; involving a range of activities and certificated training as follows:

- Certificate of Work Readiness (CWR SCQF Level 4)
- Emergency First Aid + F
- Health & Safety Awareness
- Manual Handling Awareness
- Introduction to Forestry Machinery
- Introduction to Forestry Process
- Brush Cutter
- Introduction to Saws
- Forestry simulator