NORTHERN
Regional College

Higher Level Apprenticeship in Accountancy

The Higher Level Apprenticeship in Accountancy provides an alternative route to a career in accountancy. It is supported by Accounting Technicians Ireland, Chartered Accountants Ireland and many leading accountancy employers. Each year up to 18 successful apprentices are recruited.

What is a Higher Level Apprenticeship?

A Higher Level Apprenticeship is a nationally accredited work-based programme similar to traditional apprenticeships but at a higher level (Level 5). It is designed to meet the needs of employers for higher skill levels and leads to qualifications equivalent to university.

How Can Your Career Benefit from a Higher Level Apprenticeship?

Employability
You will be employed for 2 years working with a leading NI accountancy practitioner or in an organisation with a suitable accounts department. One day per week will be spent at Northern Regional College studying for your academic qualification. The College will have a close relationship with your employer in mentoring you throughout your employment period.

You will gain valuable knowledge, practical skills and work experience as well as an internationally recognised qualification – just the combination that can help increase your future employability, boost your CV, help you progress into management roles and open new career opportunities for you.

Recognised Qualification
You will gain an internationally recognised qualification - Diploma of Accounting Technicians from Accounting Technicians Ireland (ATI) which is a Level 5 qualification.

A Stepping Stone to Chartered Accountancy
Upon successful completion of your Higher Level Apprenticeship, you can continue your studies by working towards Chartered Status at Level 7 with Chartered Accountants Ireland (CAI).

Earn While You Learn
You will gain valuable accountancy work experience from your employer as well as gaining a recognised professional qualification and earning a regular salary (at least the national minimum wage).

Debt-free
This Higher Level Apprenticeship programme will allow you to start your highly-skilled career without the student debt that your university peers will have accumulated during their degree course – providing a real alternative to university.

Higher Level Apprenticeship Framework

Duration
2 years - 1 day per week at College.

For the Diploma for Accounting Technicians you are required to gain experiential learning through two years full-time employment (or the equivalent part-time), in addition to successfully completing the following subjects:

▷ Law and Ethics
▷ Business Management
▷ Taxation
▷ Financial Accounting
▷ Advanced Financial Accounting
▷ Advanced Taxation
▷ Management Accounting
▷ Integrated Accounting Systems (SAGE)

All employer mentors will have undergone mentor training by Accountancy Technicians Ireland (ATI) which ensures consistency of "On The Job" programme standards and quality. If successful, you will be enrolled and subsequently become a full member of Accounting Technicians Ireland (ATI) during your training programme.

How To Become a Higher Apprentice
You must:
Be at least 18 years on or before 1 July in the year you start your course and meet the minimum entry criteria set by the awarding body, Accounting Technicians Ireland. The criteria is currently 96 UCAS tariff points or CCC at A Level, grade B at GCSE Level in Mathematics or Accountancy and grade C at GCSE Level in English.

Apply online via our website and submit a 2 page curriculum vitae directly to anne.mccallum@nrc.ac.uk.

Getting an Employer
Getting a Higher Level Apprenticeship with an employer is the same as getting a job. Following submission of your application, you will be invited to go through the employer's recruitment process. It will be competitive and there are likely to be a number of people applying for each Higher Level Apprenticeship vacancy, so you will need to sell yourself and convince the employer that you are the right person for the role.

Benefits for Employers
As an employer within the accountancy sector, your business can reap the benefits of providing a two year work placement for accountancy apprentices while they complete a recognised qualification at Northern Regional College. This opportunity is also open to your existing employees.
Benefits include:

▷ **Skilled employees** – access to skilled employees as well as means of upskilling existing staff members.
▷ **Stronger business** – transfer knowledge and build relationships with the College.
▷ **Professional training** – in Sage 50 Accounts and Sage Payroll.
▷ **Value for money** – fully-funded qualifications – Level 5 ATI Diploma in Accountancy (supported by the Department for the Economy).

For further information contact:
Anne McCallum
E: anne.mccallum@nrc.ac.uk

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