

Testimonials

Bachelor of Science in Polymer Processing Technology



“The opportunity to complete a level 7 Degree, which was designed by industry to meet the needs of a wide variety of employers in a wide range of sectors, while being able to continue earning, was an opportunity too good to miss. The prospect of improving my skill set through the excellent variety of modules contained in the course and the prospect of being able to continue beyond the Level 7 qualification were the main reasons I chose the programme”

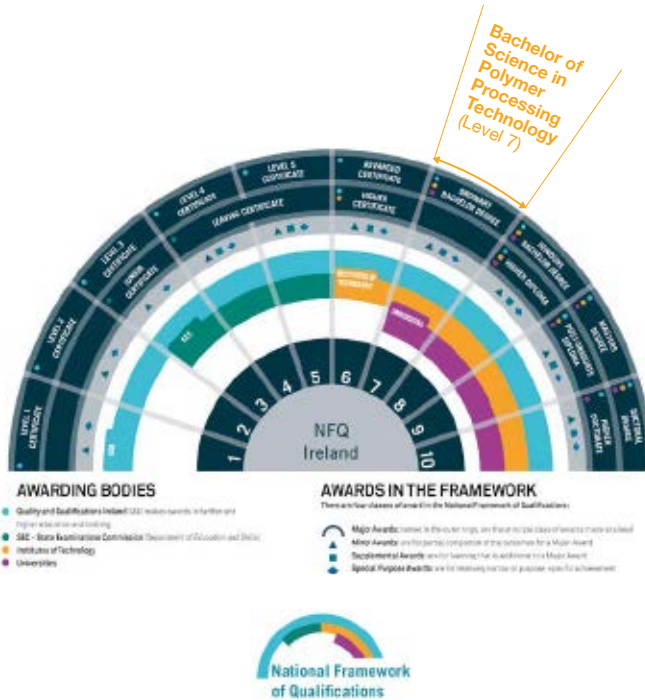
David Lawlor, Apprentice, Athlone Extrusions

“In Nypro, apprenticeships are part of our strategy to diversify how we develop personnel with the skillset and competencies we need in our operation to ensure we can meet the needs of our customers.

In particular the Polymer Processing Technology Apprenticeship has provided an excellent career pathway for existing employees who have demonstrated an interest in Polymer processing, who may not have otherwise considered pursuing a degree programme.

The Apprenticeship programme is enabling our colleagues to build on the experience and practical knowledge they have gained to date with the organisation and develop a solid understanding of the theoretical aspects they need to acquire to become experts in their chosen field.”

Kevin Heffernan, General Manager at Nypro, A Jabil Company



84/86 Lower Baggot Street Dublin 2
www.ibec.ie

T: 087 715 7967

E: info@polymertechnologyapprenticeships.ie
W: www.polymertechnologyapprenticeships.ie



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Polymer Technology Apprenticeship
Ibec





New industry-led Polymer Apprenticeship
Bachelor of Science in Polymer Processing Technology (Level 7)







Introduction to Apprenticeships

An apprenticeship is a programme of structured education and training which formally combines work place learning in an education or training centre. This new Polymer Processing Technologist apprenticeship is aligned with the needs of the Irish plastics industry. As a result of this a Polymer Processing Technologist (apprenticeship) was developed. Apprenticeships are paid employment allowing the apprentice to “earn while they learn”.

Benefits for industry and the apprentice

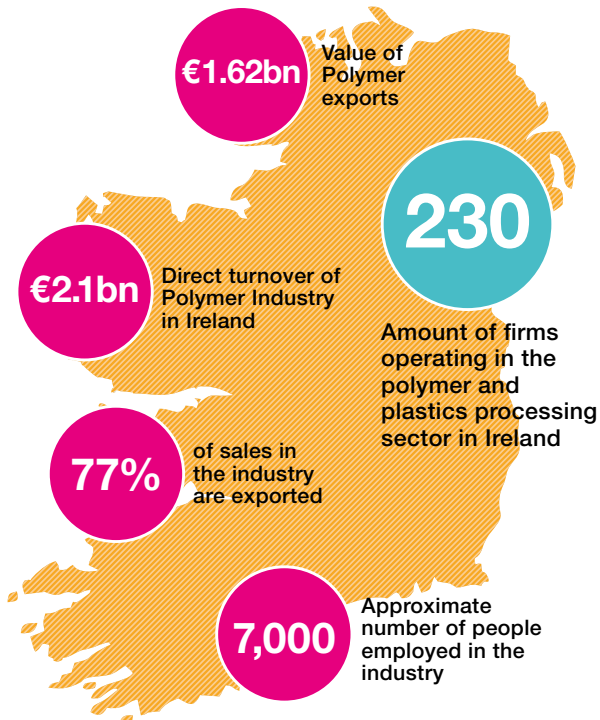


- Demand Driven
- Tailored to industry needs
- Addresses and tackles skill shortages
- Job specific qualification
- Improved staff retention
- Future-proof your organisation
- Government subsidised training



- Gaining a national qualification while working
- Earning while learning
- Good career progression
- Learning in a real working environment
- Working in state of the art, high tech production facilities

Ireland's Polymer Industry



Apprenticeship Bachelor of Science in Polymer Processing Technology

This is a three year apprenticeship programme with an approved employer. 70% of the time is spent on the job and the remaining 30% is spent in the TUS Midlands, Athlone Campus.

Job profile

The Polymer Processing Technologist will be responsible for the efficient set up and operation of polymer processing lines in the fields of injection moulding, blow moulding or extrusion for the production of plastic components.

Entry requirements

Leaving Certificate (or equivalent), Grade O6 at ordinary level in 5 subjects 2 of which must be maths and a language (English or Irish). This criteria does not apply to over 23's but all applicants will follow company and SOLAS recruitment procedures.

Timelines and Course modules

Summer intake:

Year 1		
Industry May-Aug	College Sept-Dec	Industry Jan-April
Year 2		
Industry May-Aug	College Sept-Dec	Industry Jan-April
Year 3		
Industry May-Aug	College Sept-Dec	Industry Jan-April

Autumn intake:

Year 1		
Industry Sept-Dec	College Jan-April	Industry May-Aug
Year 2		
Industry Sept-Dec	College Jan-April	Industry May-Aug
Year 3		
Industry Sept-Dec	College Jan-April	Industry May-Aug

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
On the Job learning (Phase 1) ICT and Learning to Learn	Automation and Control (Phase 4)	Automation and Control (Phase 6)
Polymer Processing (Phase 2) Materials Science (Phase 2)	Polymer Science (Phase 4)	Process & Inspection Technology (Phase 6)
Electronics and Instrumentation (Phase 2)	Mould Design and CAD (Phase 4)	Polymer Materials (Phase 6)
Workshop Practice & Metrology 1 (Phase 2)	Maths and Engineering Science (Phase 4)	Polymer Processing (Phase 6)
Maths for Engineering Phase 2	Polymer Processing (Phase 4)	Phase 6 Project
Core Science for Engineering Phase 2	On the Job Learning (Phase 5)	One the Job Learning (Phase 7)
On the Job Learning (Phase 3)	Six Sigma 1 - Lean Sigma	Phase 7 Project
Engineering Drawing and CAD (Phase 3)	Project Management (Phase 5)	Six Sigma 2 - Statistical Control
Good Manufacturing Practice (Phase 3)		

Some of the modules listed above contain an on-line element.

Target Group

- School leavers (leaving certificate)
- Production Operators and Technicians who want to train or retrain in the engineering and manufacturing sectors and progress along NFQ to level 7.

Target Industry

- Polymer: Any company producing polymer/plastic technologies and products.

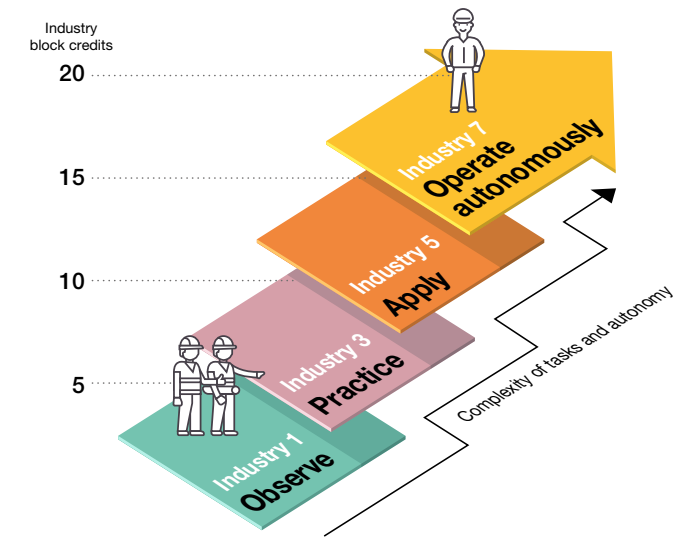
Timelines

Three year programme with 15 weeks/year in college.

- **College block release:** 15 weeks per year.
- **Summer intake:** Apprenticeship contracts start in May for September academic block.
- **Autumn intake:** Apprenticeship contracts start in September for January academic block.

On the job learning

The graph below highlights the nature of the on-the-job learning that takes place throughout the Polymer Processing Apprenticeship.



As the apprentice progresses, the complexity of the pre-assigned tasks he/she will be asked to complete will increase. This will range from observing experienced practitioners through to working autonomously as a polymer processing technologist. The apprentice's industrial mentor will verify the completion of the tasks and each apprentice will meet their academic supervisor at least once a year to discuss progress made.