



Careers in Construction

<http://www.bconstructive.co.uk/career>



What's On Offer

Okay then - what's in it for you? Well, choose a future in construction and you'll be making a very smart move. For a start, you won't be going it alone. Thousands of young people enter the industry each year in the UK, joining a team of specialists all working together to build a long-lasting future.

Whether you're thinking of starting out as a bricklayer, plasterer, architect or construction manager, your work is going to be admired by people for years to come... and there aren't that many jobs you can say that about.

Perhaps you've got an idea what you want to do already. If not, you should find everything here you need to give you a good flavour of what's on offer. Take a look - you'll find it's not all about bricks and mortar!

Key Facts

- Be an important part of a team
- Make a real difference to the environment
- Enjoy a huge variety of work
- Loads of opportunities to work abroad
- Real job satisfaction - your work will last a lifetime or longer
- Give yourself the freedom to start your own business
- Start at any level and work your way to the top
- Work towards a range of respected professional qualifications
- You can use your creative skills to the full
- Work with your hands and your head

WOOD

Timber has been used as a construction material for thousands of years. That said, it's as important today as it's ever been. It remains one of the building industry's key materials, and working with it can be varied and prove really rewarding.

Carpentry & Joinery

THE JOB: A building isn't all about bricks and mortar - Timber is an essential part of just about every structure, and it's the carpenter and joiner's job to prepare it and put it into place. It's a skilled job that utilises special tools, and often involves many different kinds of wood.

THE PEOPLE: If you enjoy using your hands and have good hand and eye co-ordination and enjoy being part of a team then this could be the job for you. You'll need to be decent at maths, as you'll be calculating plenty of angles and measurements.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: There are no set entry requirements to train as a carpenter, although GCSEs/Standard Grades in Maths, English and Technology will be helpful for the calculations, measurements and theory.

Apprenticeships are the usual route in and enable you to earn while you learn! Entry to an apprenticeship scheme will usually involve a selection test.

THE BENEFITS: The Building and Allied Trades Joint Industrial Council (BATJIC) agree wage rates annually. Pay rates for apprentices in Scotland are set by SBATC. A good basic wage is available and can be boosted with incentive schemes that many companies offer.

Carpenters and joiners often move into other related trades such as shopfitting, formworking, bench joinery, maintenance work and systems installation. From there, there are many ways forward. You may want to move into the technical or supervisory side of things, or even become your own boss.

ROOFING

Britain's changing weather means a roofer's life is a busy one! Covering, repairing, removing and replacing existing roofs requires many practical skills using specialist tools. From domestic projects to prestigious renovation work, these skills are in high demand.

Roof Slater & Tiler

THE JOB: Roof slaters and tilers create a waterproof covering for a building by applying individual slates or tiles to a basic timber framework - like the roofs of houses.

THE PEOPLE: As with all roofing jobs, you'll need a head for heights! You'll also need to be technically minded and be comfortable reading plans, diagrams and instructions. It will help to have a good understanding of maths, as well as a keen awareness of health and safety issues.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: There are no specific academic requirements to train as a roof slater and tiler, although GCSE passes (D-G) / Standard Grades (4-7) in Maths, English and Technology will be helpful for the calculations, measurements and theory. You'll also have to enjoy working outside!

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You will study towards NVQ/SVQ Level 2 and 3 in roof slating and tiling, which you will need to complete before you can qualify.

The Institute of Roofing (<http://www.instituteofroofing.org.uk/>) offers its own qualifications, and will be able to offer you help and advice about getting on in the industry.

THE BENEFITS: The Building and Allied Trades Joint Industrial Council (BATJIC) agree wage rates annually. Pay rates for apprentices in Scotland are set by SBATC. A good basic wage is available and can be boosted with the incentive schemes that many companies offer.

TROWEL

Choose to work with brick or stone and you know your work's going to be around long after you're enjoying your pension! It can be very creative work, as stonemasons and bricklayers are often called upon to produce interesting and decorative effects. The trowel occupations also demand practical people who can work quickly and repetitively, often high above the ground.

Bricklayer

THE JOB: Mention the construction industry, and the bricklayer is probably the job that pops into most people's heads first. What they probably don't know is just how many different materials bricklayers can work with - or the different effects they can create. Bricklayers also use a variety of specialist tools to spread and joint mortar and cut bricks or blocks to size.

THE PEOPLE: A love of the great outdoors is essential, and you'll also need a good head for heights! Bricklaying can be pretty hard work, so you'll need to be fit, as well as careful, accurate and be able to follow instructions from architects. As a bricklayer you should get the opportunity to travel around, and sometimes work overseas.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: There are no set entry requirements to train as a bricklayer, although GCSEs/Standard Grades in Maths, English and Technology may be helpful for the calculations, measurements and theory.

Apprenticeships are the usual route in and enable you to earn while you learn!

Entry to an apprenticeship scheme will usually involve a selection test. Many colleges offer courses in bricklaying, awarding you with an NVQ/SVQ upon completion.

THE BENEFITS: If you gain enough experience as a bricklayer, you'll be in a very good position to start up your own business. As for wages, the Building and Allied Trades Joint Industrial Council (BATJIC) agrees rates annually. Pay rates for apprentices in Scotland are set by SBATC. A good basic wage is available and can be boosted with the incentive schemes that many companies offer. There is also a good grounding for progression into technical, supervisory and managerial roles.

OTHER CAREERS IN CONSTRUCTION

1) Building Control Surveyor

THE JOB: Building Control Surveyors ensure that new construction and alterations to existing buildings conform to building regulations. Plans are submitted to Building Control Surveyors for approval and granting of planning permission, or are rejected if they fail to meet the required standards.

THE PEOPLE: As a Building Control Surveyor you will liaise with architects, designers, surveyors and engineers, spending a lot of your working week balanced between site and the office.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: Have a broad knowledge of technical and legal aspects of building and be able to understand technical drawings as a must. Usually a university diploma or degree, which can be studied part time or full-time.

THE BENEFITS: Everyday will be different and you'll be in a varied environment. There are possibilities for self-employment, consultancy work once you are experienced. Your time will be spent in and out of an office, visits to site will be required in all weather conditions; wind, rain or shine! A fully qualified Building Control Surveyor will start on annual earnings of around £17,000; salaries thereafter depend on sizes of local authorities or private company. Earning range from £20,000- £27,000 per year.

2) Construction Project Management

THE JOB: Construction Managers manage and control all construction operations. Their primary role is to ensure that construction projects are completed on time and within budget, meeting quality standards and safety requirements.

THE PEOPLE: You will meet a variety of people in this position; you will be involved in managing all aspects of the construction industry on and off site.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: There is no set way to becoming a construction project manager. There are courses available at university where you will develop the skills and knowledge of the management and control of all construction operations. As well as this you will learn the professional and technical competencies, which are vital in everyday business, such as presentation, communication and collaboration skills.

3) Architect

THE JOB: Architects work in the construction industry designing new buildings and the spaces around them, working closely with users, clients and officials to make sure that their buildings match the needs of these groups. They work on new buildings or groups of buildings in the regeneration of an area, design alterations to existing buildings or advise on the restoration and conservation of old properties.

THE PEOPLE: Architects work closely with other professionals on every project, including engineers and surveyors, to make sure that their buildings meet the necessary standards. They also work closely with construction specialists on site and oversee the project from beginning to end.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: It is normal to enter this profession with a recognised degree in architecture. An HND may allow entry to employment in an architectural office for non-professional tasks, but further study would be required to become a registered architect. Entry without a degree or HND is unlikely. There is, however, a non-degree route, which involves obtaining at least six years' experience in an architectural

practice and then taking the relevant RIBA examinations. These may be taken over a period of six to 14 years. The standard entry route into the architecture profession takes a minimum of seven years:

- a first degree in architecture, commonly referred to as Part 1 - typically taking three or four years;
- twelve months of supervised and recorded practical experience in an architect's office, commonly referred to as the 'first year out';
- a further two years of study for a diploma or a secondary degree in architecture, known as Part 2;
- another twelve months' supervised and recorded work experience known as the 'second year out';
- the Professional Practice Examination, or Part 3, which the student can take on completion of the above

BENEFITS: Architects remain closely involved throughout each project as their ideas and plans are turned into reality. They work closely with contractors on site ensuring that works are carried out to a specific standard and that any problems that arise are quickly resolved. Salaries vary depending on the size of the practice and the region in which they are based. [The Royal Institute of British Architects \(RIBA\)](#) publishes a rough guide to the kind of salaries you can expect at the various stages of qualification: Part 1, or first year out: £14,000 - £17,000; Part 2, or recent post diploma: £18,000 - £22,000; Part 2, one to two years post diploma £22,000 - £26,000; Part 3, newly registered £25,000 - £29,000; Part 3, three to five years post registration £28,000 - £36,000 (salary data collected Aug 04).