



Careers in Plumbing

Your guide to training, jobs and opportunities in plumbing

Liverpool & Merseyside | Level 1 to Level 3 | Apprenticeships available



Why Choose a Career in Plumbing?

- Essential trade — every building needs plumbing, ensuring constant demand
- Strong earning potential — starting at £20,000+, self-employed can earn £40,000–£60,000+
- Hands-on practical work — install, maintain and repair water and heating systems
- Immediate employment prospects — qualified plumbers are in high demand
- Career progression — from apprentice to supervisor to business owner
- Entry routes for all — Level 1 courses need no prior qualifications



Skills and Personal Qualities

- Problem-solving — diagnosing faults in water and heating systems
- Technical knowledge — understanding pipes, fittings, pressure and flow
- Practical skills — working with tools and fitting materials precisely
- Physical fitness — lifting heavy materials, working in confined spaces
- Safety awareness — working with water systems, gas and electrical components
- Customer service and reliability — communicating with clients and meeting deadlines



Useful School Subjects

- Maths — measuring, calculating volumes, understanding pressure and flow
- Science — understanding water systems, pressure, heat transfer, materials
- Design & Technology — understanding building plans, water and heating systems
- PE & Health — physical fitness for a physically demanding trade



Local Courses (Levels 1 to 3)

Courses are available at local colleges across Merseyside. Many courses accept students without GCSEs.

Plumbing Courses (Levels 1 to 3)

- City of Liverpool College — Plumbing Studies L1 Certificate, Plumbing L2 Technical Certificate
- St Helens College — Plumbing L1, L2, L3 | T-Level Building Services: Plumbing & Heating
- Hugh Baird College — Plumbing L2 | Adult courses available
- Riverside College, Widnes — Plumbing L1 Diploma, L2 Diploma, L3 Technical Diploma

Construction Multi-Skills Entry Route

- City of Liverpool College — Construction Multi-Skills L1 (sample multiple trades including plumbing before specialising)

SEND-Friendly & Supported Provision

- Supported study options may be available — speak to your careers adviser about what could work for you

Apprenticeships and Training

- Plumbing Apprenticeship — Level 2 (18 months+)
- Plumbing Professional Apprenticeship — Level 3
- Gas Installation Apprenticeship — Level 2/3 (additional training)
- Many local construction companies and plumbing firms offer paid apprenticeships
- Search live vacancies: www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk
- Supported Internships (for students with an EHCP) are run by local colleges with their selected employer partners — ask your careers adviser whether this route could suit you

Jobs, Volunteering and Work Experience

Plumbing offers dependable, well-paid work with clear routes to running your own business.

Role	Where You Work	Starting Qualification
Trainee Plumber	Plumbing firms + college	Level 1–2 or apprenticeship
Qualified Plumber	Plumbing companies, contractors	Level 2–3 NVQ Plumbing
Plumbing Supervisor	Larger projects, managing teams	Level 3 + experience
Gas Engineer	Heating firms, self-employed	Level 3 + Gas Safe registration
Self-Employed Plumber	Own client base	Level 2–3 + experience

Trainees start around £18,000–£22,000. Qualified plumbers earn £26,000–£35,000, supervisors £30,000–£40,000, and self-employed plumbers £35,000–£55,000+.

Work Experience & Volunteering

- Visit college open days to see the plumbing workshops and equipment
- Contact local plumbing companies about apprenticeships
- Ask about Construction Multi-Skills L1 as an entry route to try different trades

Next Steps and Contact Information

- Visit college open days and websites
- Search for local jobs: www.indeed.co.uk | www.notjustjobs.com
- Find apprenticeships: www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk

TAGS Careers	www.tags.careers — local careers information and resources
Colleges	City of Liverpool: www.liv-coll.ac.uk St Helens: www.sthelens.ac.uk Hugh Baird: www.hughbaird.ac.uk Riverside: www.riversidecollege.ac.uk
More Support	Your careers adviser can provide additional guidance tailored to your needs
Apprenticeships	www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk www.indeed.co.uk www.notjustjobs.com