

# A learner's guide to becoming an electrician



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If you're looking for a career with options and opportunities, then becoming an electrician is a good choice. Electricians are found everywhere; from installing wiring in domestic homes to maintaining crucial parts of the country's train network. But, wherever you work, you will have the potential to earn a good living and possibly even start your own business.

However, before you pick up your drill and start work, we should probably mention that this is a profession where training isn't optional - it's essential. Would you let an untrained electrician rewire your house?

Fortunately, City & Guilds have been offering the qualifications which help electricians start out on their careers for many years. Our awards are known, recognised and respected throughout the industry, so you can be sure your training will help you get that first job.

## Which qualification is right for me?

### Levels 2 and 3 Certificates in Electrotechnical Technology (2330)

If you have no previous experience or qualifications, start with level 2. This award will take you through the basics and crucial aspects of your work, like health and safety, while allowing you to select topics which are relevant to the field you want to specialise in.

The level 3 award will take your knowledge on to the next level.

If you are aged 16-25 these awards could also form part of a Modern Apprenticeship, which will allow you to earn a wage while you are training. For more information on Modern Apprenticeships, please see *a learner's guide to Modern Apprenticeships*, available from our Customer Relations team or website.

Once you understand the basics and have started work your next step is to take an NVQ. NVQs are taken in the workplace, and to be successful, you need to show evidence of being able to perform certain tasks and put knowledge into practice. NVQs are useful for you because they provide potential employers with indisputable proof that you can do what you say you can.

We offer a range of NVQs at levels 2 and 3, with pathways suitable for you whichever area you work in. At level 2, you can choose from:

#### Installing Electrotechnical Systems (2356-21)

#### Installing Public Lighting Systems (2356-22)

At level 3, the choice is from:

#### Electrotechnical Services (Electrical Installation - Buildings and Structures) (2356-31)

#### Electrotechnical Services (Electrical Maintenance) (2356-32)

#### Electrotechnical Services (Installing Instrumentation and Associated Equipment) (2356-33)

#### Electrotechnical Services (Installing Public Lighting Systems and Associated Equipment) (2356-34)

#### Electrotechnical Panel Building (2356-35)

#### Electrical Machine Repair and Rewind (2356-36)

These awards have been developed in conjunction with the Joint Industry Board for the Electrical Contracting Industry.

If you are taking a Modern Apprenticeship, then you will also need to take an NVQ as part of it.

## How will I be assessed?

The Certificates in Electrotechnical Technology are assessed by a combination of online multiple choice tests and practical assignments. NVQs are assessed by providing evidence (which can take many forms) that you're competent in certain areas

## Where can I do the qualification?

The Certificate in Electrotechnical Technology is theoretical in nature, and will be classroom based. NVQs are delivered at work, and you shouldn't need to attend college.

## Do the qualifications form part of a recognised framework?

These awards are part of the National Qualifications Framework, which means that they will be recognised by most UK employers.

## What are the entry requirements?

To take any of the NVQs you will need to be employed in an appropriate position.

## How can I progress once I have gained these awards?

In addition to these awards, we have a range of qualifications designed to enable experienced electricians to fulfil regulatory requirements and broaden their skills. Details of these awards can be found on *a learner's guide to professional development awards for electricians*.

## How can I find out more?

You can find out more by contacting your nearest City & Guilds centre. Log on to our website to find the location of your nearest one, or contact our Customer Relations team at:

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## Key points

- Designed for new or inexperienced electricians
- Awards available in a wide number of pathways, so you can specialise in the areas that interest you
- Compatible with Modern Apprenticeships
- Offered by the UK's leading provider of vocational qualifications