

Possible employers?

Mining and quarrying companies, large and small drilling contractors. The apprenticeship is supported by the Irish Mining and Quarrying Society (IMQS), Geological Survey Ireland and Geoscience Ireland.

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Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Geo Drilling Apprenticeship Programme



Geological Survey Ireland is a division of the Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment

What is Geo Drilling?

Geo Drilling is the skilled use of a drill rig to advance holes for subsurface investigation work. It is used to support critically important sectors of the Irish economy including:

- mining;
- mineral exploration;
- quarrying;
- groundwater research and abstraction;
- geothermal energy development;
- site investigation for housing and infrastructure projects; and
- directional drilling for utilities.

The work of a Geo Driller involves extracting samples, installing monitoring equipment, undertaking in situ testing, assessing and developing water supplies, allowing for the passage of services under sensitive structures such as roads, railways and canals, facilitating the installation of ground support and preparing holes for explosive blasting. Soil and rock are highly variable and competent drilling requires care, attention to detail and the ability to record accurately the variations by sampling, written documentation or both.

Why do the Geo Driller Apprenticeship programme?

Successful completion of the programme will provide drillers with a Level 6 Higher Certificate qualification.

The need for this qualification was identified by the drilling industry in partnership with Geological Survey Ireland and the Institute of Technology Carlow. It will enhance the quality of services drillers can provide to clients in Ireland and overseas. With the increase in demand for infrastructure, the demand for drillers is also increasing and this apprenticeship will ensure that there is a body of qualified professionals who are in a position to break new ground.

For whom is the apprenticeship suitable?

The apprenticeship is for recent school leavers and mature learners, aged 16 or older.

Applicants under the age of 23 must have;

- A pass in the Leaving Certificate; 5 grades at O6/H7 including English or Irish and Mathematics.



Applicants over the age of 23 years are classed as mature learners. There are no defined entry criteria for mature candidates entering this programme. All programmes are mapped to the IT Carlow Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) policy and applicants who wish to apply using this route can request the specific RPL for their programme.

How does the programme work?

The Geo Drilling Apprenticeship programme is a two-year programme combining work experience with academic study. Trainees will work with employers for 41 weeks and attend classes 4 days a week for 11 weeks.



The 2019/2020 Geo Drilling Apprenticeship programme will be delivered by the Faculty of Engineering, **Institute of Technology Carlow**.

Programme content.

Apprentices will receive practical training in the use of drilling equipment and operating procedures as well as classroom training in:

- drilling equipment & operations;
- sample retrieval and processing;
- environmental management & stakeholder engagement;
- geology;
- geo-informatics;
- health & safety; and
- communications.

