Apprenticeship in the Craft of Stonecutting/Stonemasonry

National Monument Division
Office of Public Works

The Office of Public Works is a government body responsible for various aspects of Ireland’s built heritage. Activities include the protection, conservation, presentation and management of the National Monuments. Our portfolio includes 750 National Monuments encompassing sites from prehistoric to the late medieval periods of our history. Eg: Rock Of Cashel, Trim Castle, Clonmacnoise, Dun Aonghasa.

The National Monuments Division is looking for enthusiastic and technically minded individuals who are looking for the opportunity not just to learn a trade but also practice it in historic surroundings.

Duties and Responsibilities

The duties and responsibilities of an apprentice craft stonecutter/stonemason are varied. These include assisting in conservation and restoration on site, repairing and building stonework, stone cutting and carving, building dry stone walls and mortar walls, sorting of stone, loading and unloading stone, pointing, underpinning, flaunching/capping of walls, working with and mixing mortar, lime and cement.

Personal Qualities

A stonecutter/stonemason has the ability to study architectural plans and drawings, make calculations and select suitable materials to meet design requirements. He/she will also need to be accurate when counting numbers, measuring and arithmetic.

A stonecutter/stonemason needs to be physically fit and able to work well with his/her hands. Attention to detail and an eye for shape and colour is also important. He/she will also need a head for heights to climb ladders and work on scaffolding.

The ideal apprentice is well organised and careful with practical tasks. He/she will take responsibility for their own learning including the allocation of study time.

A stonecutter/stonemason apprentice requires excellent communications skills and works as part of a multi disciplinary team.
Locations

There are 6 districts nationwide where we are offering apprenticeship training.

**Athenry National Monuments, Co Galway.**
(covering the west region including 1. Galway 2. Aran Islands 3. Clare)

**Dromahair National Monuments, Co Leitrim.**
(covering the north west region including 1. Sligo, 2. Mayo, 3. Donegal, 4. Leitrim)

**Killarney National Monuments, Co Kerry.**
(covering 1. West Cork, 2. Kerry, 3. Limerick)

**Kilkenny National Monuments, Co Kilkenny.**
(covering south east region including 1. Kilkenny, 2. Wexford, 3. Waterford)

**Mallow National Monuments, Co Cork.**
(covering 1. Cork, 2. Tipperary areas)

**Trim National Monuments, Co Meath.**
(covering east and north east region including 1. Meath, 2. Dublin)
Eligibility

Candidates must be at least 18 years of age on Thursday 12\textsuperscript{th} June 2014.

Minimum Educational Qualifications

Leaving Certificate:
Applicants must have obtained Grade D ordinary level in at least 5 subjects in one sitting of the Leaving Certificate (or equivalent) including Mathematics, Irish and/or English. Construction Studies would be an advantage but not a requirement.

Junior Certificate:
Applicants must also have obtained specific minimum grades in ordinary or higher level in at least 5 subjects in one sitting of the Junior Certificate. The 5 subjects (and specific minimum grades) must include the following:

- Irish and/or English: Grade C (O) or Grade D (H)
- Mathematics: Grade C (O) or Grade D (H)
- Materials Technology: Grade C (H)

One of the subjects listed hereunder,
- Science: Grade C (O) or Grade D (H)
- Technical Graphics: Grade C (O) or Grade D (H)
- Technology: Grade C (O) or Grade D (H)

O = Ordinary Level H= Higher Level

Pay Scale

Apprentice Pay recruited on or after 1 January 2011:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Point</th>
<th>Rate Of Pay</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apprentice on Recruitment</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>€221.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After 1 Years Service</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>€301.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After 2 Years Service</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>€392.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After 3 Years Service</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>€483.02</td>
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</tbody>
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Selection Process

The selection process for the craft apprentice in the Office of Public Works will likely comprise a number of stages. Applicants must successfully complete each stage before being considered for advancement to the next stage.

The Selection Process may include:

1. Short-listing of candidates on the basis of information supplied in the application, **(NB: When completing the application form, please take the opportunity to provide as much information as possible and to demonstrate relevant qualities and experience to support your application).**

2. Aptitude test(s) and/or practical exercises,

3. A competitive interview,

4. Any other tests/exercises deemed appropriate.

Curriculum

Our apprenticeships offer an excellent opportunity to develop a unique set of skills, through a standards based system, following a modular pattern which generally takes four years to complete. The apprenticeship is divided between periods both on and off the job which concentrate on learning both practical skills and theory.

The Office of Public Works provides on the job training in Phases 1, 3, 5, 7. During the on the job training modules the apprentice has an exciting opportunity to work at various monuments and in our workshops.

Training off the job takes place in SOLAS (formerly FAS) training centres and in different Institutes of Technology as follows.

Phase 2: SOLAS Training Centre. **(Please note that the craft stonecutter/stonemason apprenticeship phase 2 training will probably be provided at the SOLAS Training Centre, Tralee, Co Kerry only).**

Phase 4: Institute of Technology or College of Further Education.

Phase 6: Institute of Technology or College of Further Education.

**(Please note that apprentices may now be required to pay an examination fee directly to the Institutes of Technology while attending off-the-job training.)**
The key factor in delivery of an off-the-job training phase is that it is delivered in a single training environment to ensure the integration of practical training with the necessary theoretical and personal skills.

The duration of the 3 off-the-job training modules in the case of a craft stonecutter/stonemason is expected to be for up to 20 weeks in phase 2, 10 weeks in phase 4 and 10 weeks in phase 6.

An Advanced Certificate Craft (Level 6 on the National Framework of Qualifications) is awarded to successful apprentices. This is recognised internationally as the requirement of craftsperson status.

If you are interested in taking up an apprenticeship with the National Monuments Division of Office of Public Works, which is both challenging and rewarding, please complete the attached application form and return to:

Industrial Personnel
Office of Public Works
Jonathan Swift Street
Trim
Co Meath