

# Apprentice Plumber Certificate Application form

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The Worshipful  
Company of Plumbers



The Chartered Institute  
of Plumbing & Heating  
Engineering



The City and Guilds  
of London Institute



World Plumbing Council

*Recognising excellence in the art, craft,  
science and practice of plumbing*

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Founded in 1906, The Chartered Institute of Plumbing & Heating Engineering is the plumbing and heating industry's professional body with around 7,500 members and an active overseas membership.

The Chartered Institute of Plumbing & Heating Engineering's (CIPHE) registered educational charity status ensures that the Institute has as its principal aim the improvement of plumbing standards for the benefit of the community as a whole. To this end, its members are qualified and experienced. A Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programme encourages members to keep up-to-date with the latest in plumbing and heating technology and legislation.

As part of its service to the public, the CIPHE's website, [ciphe.org.uk](http://ciphe.org.uk) provides information about the Institute, its aims and activities.

Ultimately, the Institute's strength lies in its members who voluntarily undertake to perform with competence and commitment whilst at work. Membership of the CIPHE confers status within the industry while indicating a willingness to support high standards in plumbing and heating as an important contribution to public health and safety.

### **The Apprentice Plumber Certificate**

The Livery Companies Skills Council (LCSC) and the CIPHE recognised the need for a Certificate to mark the commitment of Affiliate and Associate (ACIPHE) members who have attained NVQ Level 2 or equivalent in their chosen profession as a step towards mastery of the art, craft, science and practice of plumbing.

Following submission of all relevant documents, including independent references, successful applicants will receive an Apprentice Plumber Certificate carrying the signatures of the President of the CIPHE, Master of The Worshipful Company of Plumbers, Chairman of the City & Guilds of London Institute and Chairman of the World Plumbing Council.

### **Who can apply?**

Any Chartered Institute of Plumbing & Heating Engineering Affiliate or Associate (ACIPHE) who meets the criteria listed below and intends to pursue career development to the Journeyman Plumber Certificate and in due course to the Master Plumber Certificate.

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## Requirements to satisfy conditions for the Apprentice Plumber Certificate

In order to apply for the Apprentice Plumber Certificate the following minimum requirements must be met and necessary evidence provided to support the application:

- a) be qualified to NVQ Level 2 or equivalent;
- b) be enrolled on a S/NVQ Level 3 Plumbing Course or equivalent;
- c) be an Affiliate or Associate Member of the CIPHE;
- d) recognise that while in membership of the CIPHE, the holder of an Apprentice Plumber Certificate is obliged to conform to the Institute's Code of Professional Standards;
- e) photocopies of academic or other certificates must be submitted as evidence of qualifications;
- f) there shall be no significant complaints on the applicant's Institute record;
- g) the applicant shall provide evidence of employment in a formal Apprenticeship or written, verified statements of workplace experience as required for the award of Level 2 in Plumbing;
- h) the applicant shall have been engaged in the plumbing industry for a minimum of three years;
- i) the Apprentice Plumber Certificate is valid while the holder remains in membership of The Chartered Institute of Plumbing & Heating Engineering;
- j) two nominated referees must sign the application. They should be people who know the applicant professionally, e.g. manager, teacher, etc;
- k) the completed application must satisfy the panel of assessors;
- l) there is a one-off payment of £15 to cover administration. Payment can be made with a cheque payable to CIPHE, or by requesting a card payment link to be sent via email. No application will proceed until payment has been made..

## Processing your application

We would like to process your Apprentice Plumber Certificate application as effectively and efficiently as possible. To help us do this, please complete each section of the form opposite, providing the relevant information.

Please cut along dotted line and send with copies of certificates. Include a cheque for for £15 (to CIPHE) or arrange card payment via membership@ciphe.org.uk

# Apprentice Plumber Certificate application form

Please include copies of certificates as proof of any qualifications claimed.  
Your application cannot proceed without this information.

Title	First name(s)
Surname	
Address	
Postcode	Date of birth
Telephone (home)	
Mobile	
Email address	
CIPHE membership number	

## CV

Provide full details of your career progression including secondary and further education achievements. Review achievements in your training programme and briefly describe the main highlights. This might include student awards and qualifications, fulfilment of individual objectives and accomplishments within your employment.

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## Your commitment

Describe your commitment to achieving a worthwhile career in plumbing and to realising your full potential through the Apprentice, Journeyman and Master Certificate programme.

## Referees

Signature

Date

Print name

Signature

Date

Print name

**Please return your completed submission together with certificates and supporting information to:**  
The Membership Team, The Chartered Institute of Plumbing & Heating Engineering,  
Saxon House, 27 Duke Street, Chelmsford Essex CM1 1HT

If you have any queries please ring the Membership Team on 01708 463116  
or email [membership@ciphe.org.uk](mailto:membership@ciphe.org.uk).

**All applications must be accompanied by a payment of £20 payable to the CIPHE**

Please cut along dotted line and send with copies of certificates. Include a cheque for £15 (to CIPHE) or arrange card payment via [membership@ciphe.org.uk](mailto:membership@ciphe.org.uk)

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# The Master Plumber Certificate

## *Background to the scheme*

### **Ancient and modern**

Master Craftsmen were key people in the building process as far back as the 13th century. Records show that in the 16th century each Master Craftsman was responsible for his own work and the training of apprentices. For exercising such skill and supervision a Master Plumber would receive a shilling a day and an appropriate livery (distinctive clothing).

In the City of London, where craft guilds originated in Britain, historic links with Master Craftsmen have been retained through today's Livery Companies. The Worshipful Company of Plumbers obtained its Grant of Ordinances in 1365 and the principal events since that time have been documented in the *History of The Worshipful Company of Plumbers*.

Meanwhile, in continental Europe, especially Germany, the national education and training programme has for many years in continuity, produced Master or 'Meister' Craftsmen. These in turn become leaders in the different sectors of industry where their technical skill supplemented by business expertise, plays an important part in the economy of the country.

Realising that changes to British vocational education, apprenticeship and training were taking place that could affect the availability of experienced, well-qualified plumbers (in effect, Master Plumbers), the Worshipful Company of Plumbers took

action in 1987. Working with the City and Guilds of London Institute, a syllabus was prepared for C&G Certificate 605 Master Plumber, resulting in publication during 1988. A pilot project commenced at a Further Education College in Kent leading to a situation where a number of candidates completed the course and the first Master Plumber Certificate was awarded in 1994. However, due to a number of unfortunate circumstances, including closure and sale of the craft campus, the pilot scheme was shelved. Subsequently, an attempt was made to revise and re-introduce C&G Course 605, but without success.

### **The pace of change**

While this endeavour was in progress, Scottish/National Vocational Qualifications (S/NVQs) had replaced City and Guilds Certificates as evidence of studying and training in the noble art of plumbing. The introduction of S/NVQs occurred in parallel with a decline in Britain's skill base. A National Skills Task Force was charged with the job of producing a report which would ultimately explain what most people would know — we had a problem called a 'skills shortage'.

Faced with this situation, the then Institute of Plumbing, The Worshipful Company of Plumbers and City and Guilds, acting also with the support of the Engineering Council, decided to adopt a new approach to identify Master Plumbers. This scheme built on the existing S/NVQ system

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and achieved a number of additional objectives. The main purpose was to offer encouragement to both students and mentors. In other words to provide incentive to those training for a career in plumbing and acknowledge the expertise of individuals who have responsibility for helping the next generation to achieve their potential. Although six centuries have passed, the demand for a transfer of workplace experience from Master Craftsmen to Apprentice still remains. In 2001 the pace of change was fast and furious. The Master Plumber Certificate offered by a partnership organisation, linked by history and professional concern for plumbing, arrived at the right time. The validity of the Certificate is conditional on the recipient remaining in membership of what is now the CIPHE, where the recipient has the support of a network of colleagues in a learning society.

### **Mastering a technicraft**

With S/NVQ Level 3 or equivalent in Plumbing now the standard target for trainees, it is important that the content of the course is satisfactory for the majority of those who practise plumbing.

Plumbing has become more technically demanding for the many thousands that ply their 'technicraft' in a small business. The Master Plumber Certificate reflects this

trend by drawing attention to the role of the Professional Plumbing Technician. Thus, in its own way the new Certificate contributed to the national quest for a rise in standards among the skilled.

This is a sincere attempt by a group of authoritative organisations to introduce a sense of ambition to people who set out to train as plumbers. At the same time, the Master Plumber Certificate presents an opportunity for those who satisfy its requirements to set the seal on a career of true value to the community.

Finally, much mention has been made of the partners in this enterprise so as a reminder of their relationship; The Chartered Institute of Plumbing and Heating Engineering has managed, since 1970, the Register of Plumbers inaugurated by the Worshipful Company of Plumbers in 1886.

The City and Guilds of London Institute was founded by City Livery Companies and it is an Awarding Body Partner for plumbing qualifications. The CIPHE is also a Licensed Member of the Engineering Council. Calling for Master Plumber Certificate holders to be, as a minimum, registered with the Engineering Council as an Engineering Technician completes a series of meaningful connections.







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