

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Industry Trained Plumbing, Gasfitting and Drainlaying Apprenticeships

GENERAL

Why another change/update?

EarnLearn's new *Industry Trained Plumbing, Gasfitting and Drainlaying Apprenticeship* programmes align with new PGD qualifications developed by Waihanga Ara Rau (Workforce Development Council).

The goal of the new EarnLearn apprenticeship training programmes is to make sure New Zealand's PGD workforce is able to grow to meet demand while being equipped with the skills and knowledge that are relevant to today's industry and recognised through national qualifications.

EarnLearn's six new PGD programmes, plus additional 'on-site wastewater treatment systems' optional strand for drainlaying programmes, offer more flexibility around which programme an apprentice can complete, and greater flexibility around workplace assessment and block courses.

The changes are designed to support apprentices in gaining the right skills and knowledge while being able to complete their training in a timely manner.

What are the six new programmes?

1. Plumbing, Gasfitting and Drainlaying with strand (63 months), without optional strand (60 months)
2. Plumbing and Drainlaying with strand (48 months), without optional strand (42 months)
3. Plumbing and Gasfitting (48 months)
4. Drainlaying with strand (27 months), without optional strand (24 months)
5. Plumbing (36 months)
6. Gasfitting (36 months)

What is different about the new PGD training programmes?

- More workplace training and assessment options means less time away on block courses for apprentices and more time spent in the workplace.
- Improved consistency in block course training through the creation of unified teaching plans.
- More online support sessions including exam preparation sessions.

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- All practical evidence is loaded directly to the EarnLearn My eLearning platform by the apprentice.
- EarnLearn reports all credits apart from safety courses.
- Most block course modules are optional and can instead be trained in the workplace by an employer and assessed in the workplace by an EarnLearn workplace assessor.
- The workplace assessor could be an internal assessor. This is where an employer can now nominate or hire one of their industry qualified employees to be a workplace assessor who is responsible for marking the apprentice's practical and theory assessments throughout their apprenticeship. The assessor must be registered with EarnLearn but is employed by the workplace.

Benefits of these differences:

- More workplace training and assessment options means less time away on block courses for apprentices and more time spent in the workplace.
- Industry qualified employers can apply to become their own in-house workplace assessor or appoint one of their industry qualified employees to take on this new optional responsibility. This reflects the true nature of industry training.
- Alternatively, employers can choose to use an EarnLearn external assessor, and undertake the responsibility for training their apprentice rather than sending them on a block course.
- The EarnLearn My eLearning platform provides secure access for apprentices, assessors and Account Managers to access all workplace evidence that is gathered by the apprentice.
 - The new access provides assessors immediate access to evidence submitted by apprentices for each unit standard as soon as it has been uploaded, allowing faster turnaround with assessment and feedback.
 - Mobile phone access for apprentices to their profile on My eLearning means all evidence of their work can be easily uploaded, from their phone, while out on the road and immediately ready for review by the assessor.
 - Having all evidence online means completion of a unit standard will trigger faster reporting to an apprentices Record of Achievement reducing reporting delays.
- Greater workplace opportunities for apprentices to learn, and more support from employers in training, adding value to the work the apprentice does in the workplace.

If I have concerns with the new PGD programmes as they are put in place, who should I provide my feedback to?

If you have an EarnLearn Account Manager, please contact them in the first instance. Otherwise, you can contact EarnLearn via [the contact page on our website](#).

ASSESSORS

What device and IT knowledge would I require to become an assessor?

All evidence will be assessed online through the Learning Management System (LMS) called My eLearning, and all results will be reported in the LMS. You will need to have a digital device and sufficient skills to download and upload material so that you are able to mark it and provide feedback to your apprentice. (ie. Not a cell phone). A laptop is preferable.

Do I have to undertake any new training to be an assessor for the new programme?

If you are an existing assessor, you shouldn't need additional training. All new and existing assessors need to meet the following criteria:

- Be registered with EarnLearn.
- Complete an application form.
- Undergo a short induction on assessing the PGD programmes.
- Hold unit standard 4098 *Use standards to assess candidate performance*.
- Hold a current PGD Board certifying licence for the qualification/s they are assessing.
- A high level of digital literacy and the ability to navigate and complete marking online.
- Participate in an assessor event, forum or workshop annually, as requested by EarnLearn.

How do I apply to become a registered EarnLearn assessor?

You need to hold unit standard 4098, if you don't have this, please refer to [our website](#) for training options. If you have unit standard 4098, you can download and complete this [assessor application form](#) and send it for review to ga@earnlearn-tepukenga.ac.nz

I am a workplace assessor, but I am concerned my employer is unable to meet the mandatory criteria for workplace modules. What do I do?

Talk to your EarnLearn Account Manager.

Has the programme course content changed?

Aside from the removal of some duplicated learning and assessment, the programme content has not changed. The main changes to the programme are how learning is delivered and assessed.

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New PGD programmes [Ma1]	Old PGD programmes
Nearly all assessments can be completed in the workplace	Block courses are compulsory each year
Block course training will focus on teaching and assessment and reinforce practical tasks	Block courses included learning and assessment
The level of performance is measured in the workplace by achieving competency through task-based and naturally occurring evidence	No set level of performance
Plumbing, Gasfitting and Drainlaying – 5 years	Programme durations longer, with Plumbing, and Plumbing and Gasfitting not offered separately.
Plumbing and Gasfitting – 4 years	
Plumbing and Drainlaying – 3.5 years	
Plumbing – 3 years	
Gasfitting – 3 years	
Drainlaying – 2 years	
The Drainlaying optional strand – Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems – will extend programmes by between 3-6 months.	

What are the different assessor and assessment options?

- An employer can now nominate or hire an industry qualified employee to be a workplace assessor who is responsible for marking the apprentice's practical and theory assessments throughout their apprenticeship. The assessor must be registered with EarnLearn but is employed by the workplace.
- All the practical assessments can be completed in the workplace through the support of your employer providing training to you.
 - The assessments can be marked through an inhouse workplace assessor, or by an external EarnLearn assessor.
 - If your employer is unable to provide the training and/or practical experience within your workplace, these assessments can take place at a block course.

Note: The in-house workplace assessor option does not exclude the apprentice from selecting and attending a block course. This is due to the company scope of work, which will vary across the industry. The modules they choose to do at block course **would not be** eligible for a fee rebate.

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