



**GENERATION  
APPRENTICESHIP**  
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Ollscoil  
Teicneolaíochta  
an Atlantaigh

Atlantic  
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# Apprenticeship as an Alternative Access Route

## Civil Engineering by Apprenticeship



# Skills Shortage

- Numbers of Civil Engineering students declined significantly from 2008 to 2018.
- Civil Engineering listed on the critical skills occupations list.
- Work needed to be done to entice more into the profession





# Skills Shortage



# Civil Engineering Apprenticeship Consortium Steering Group

## Organisation

Civil Engineering Contractors Association (CECA)



Construction Industry Federation (CIF)

Association of Consulting Engineers of Ireland (ACEI)



Uisce Éireann

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)



Local Government Management Association (LGMA)

Atlantic Technological University (ATU)

*Engineers Ireland (Advisory)*



# Apprenticeship as an alternative route

- Many barriers:
  - Financial
  - Geographical
  - Social/Cultural
- Apprenticeship particularly attractive to learners seeking hands-on experience
- Enables individuals to earn while they learn.
- Builds job-ready skills aligned with industry needs.
- Supports career changers looking to enter a new field.
- Encourages widening participation and inclusion by offering flexible access routes.



# Programme Design

- 1 week residential – Project based learning introduction to WBL theme
- Lectures delivered online
  - This will be done on 1 full day (8hrs) per week. Suggested apprentice will be present at work for all 5 days.
- Apprentices will attend campus on 1 additional day (Friday) per month to carry out Labs/ workshops
- Workplace learning will be carried out with their workplace Mentor (qualified Civil Engineer).

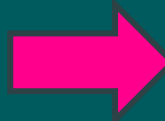


# A typical week for a new apprentice -

## Non Lab Week

### 4 days

- Working in the team on the job
- Complete tasks & diary entry
- Become familiar with work practice tasks



### 1 day

Academic Learning via ATU  
involving 4 streamed live  
lectures.

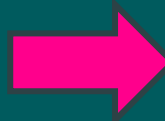


# A typical week for a new apprentice –

## Lab Week

### 3 days

- Working in the team on the job
- Complete tasks & diary entry
- Become familiar with work practice tasks



### 1 day

Academic Learning via ATU  
involving 4 streamed live  
lectures.

1 day (Friday)

**On-Campus** Academic Learning  
involving 4 in-person  
labs/workshops.



# Launch 2023

- Initially delivered - ATU Sligo
- Intake: 44 Apprentices - 27 Employers







# Expansion 2024

- Significant demand from industry
- Limited timeframe for expansion
- ATU Galway best placed for initial expansion
  - location to employers – based on first cohort employers
  - Part of ATU – same systems in place Online delivery/support.
  - Same QA procedures
- **Intake: 95 Apprentices – 51 Employers**



# Expansion 2025

- Continued demand from industry
- Increasing demand from potential apprentices
- Expressions of interest sought from all TU's
- Based on survey of industry – significant development proposed Munster region
- Expansion to MTU Cork
- **Intake: 144 Apprentices – 80 Employers**







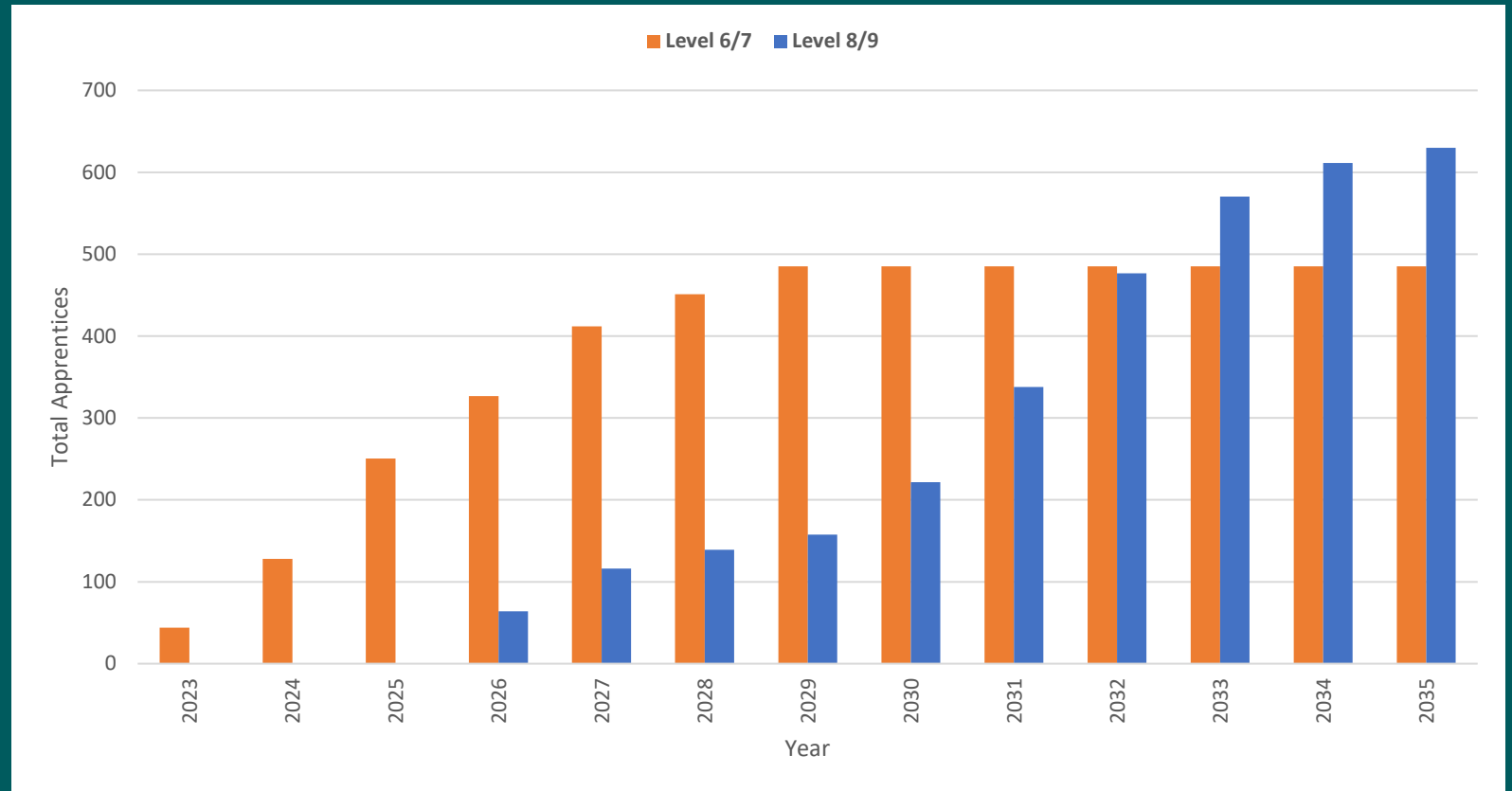
# Next Steps

- Further expansion of Level 6 and 7 programmes
- Development of Level 8 apprenticeship programme underway
  - Initially to be rolled out by ATU – Sligo Campus
  - Progression pathway for current apprentices
  - Upskilling pathway for those in industry seeking higher qualification
  - Planned launch September 2026





# Projected Apprentices











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Thank you.  
Any questions?