

# Hiring Carpenters from Ireland

Ireland has a comprehensive system of vocational education, training and certification which operate uniformly throughout the country.

## Comparable job titles in Ireland

- Site Carpenter
- Bench Joiner
- Shop Fitter

The Site Carpenter trade compares most closely with the Alberta Carpenter trade because the work takes place primarily on construction sites and includes external and internal carpentry tasks such as formwork, roofs, stairs, doors and walls.

Bench Joiners carry out more specialized work such as making doors, stairs, windows and frames in workshops. Shop Fitters install pre-fabricated units in workshops and retail/commercial business premises.

## Scope of occupation

Site Carpenters work in all types of construction including the residential, industrial and commercial sectors.

Site Carpenters in Ireland:

- Read and understand drawings and plans
- Make calculations
- Select suitable materials
- Set out, produce and assemble carpentry and joinery including stairs, doors, windows, floors, roofs and built-in furniture

## Comparable qualifications in Ireland

Site Carpenters in Ireland undertake a structured and comprehensive training program by completing:

- The Apprenticeship in the Craft of Carpentry and Joinery

The apprenticeship requires the successful completion of:

- Four (4) years of employment as a Carpenter/Joiner
- 72 weeks on-the-job training and experience
- 40 weeks in school technical training
- An Advanced Certificate-Craft at Level 6 of the Irish National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ)

The apprenticeship is designed, developed and administered by Foras Aiseanna Saothair (FÁS, pronounced 'force' in Gaelic), the national training and employment authority for Ireland, and certificated by the Further Education Training Awards Council (FETAC), both executive agencies of the Irish government.

FÁS works with employers and technical training schools to ensure the apprenticeship reflects current materials, technologies and techniques used by Site Carpenters in industry. The apprenticeship was last updated in 2008.

## Skill gaps

The type of Carpentry and Joinery work described in the respective occupational standards indicates there is a good match between Site Carpenters and the Alberta Carpenter. There are strong similarities in the technology, techniques and materials used by both and the training and assessment program is current and comprehensive.

Employers should note that Site Carpenters may recently have gained the majority of their experience in the residential property construction sector and should consider this when recruiting for commercial property and industrial projects.

Alberta employers should also consider whether a Site Carpenter has experience working in landscapes and climates similar to Alberta.

## Alberta industry standards

Site carpenters from Ireland must apply to the Alberta Qualification Certificate Program in order to meet Alberta's industry standards. Applicants are responsible for ensuring they have the documentation to support their application. For more information about the program, see Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training's website at [www.tradesecrets.alberta.ca](http://www.tradesecrets.alberta.ca).

## Minimum work experience requirements

Employers must ensure potential recruits meet the minimum work experience requirement of the Alberta Qualification Certificate Program. The general requirement for the Carpenter trade is 8,160 hours and 72 months of verifiable hands-on work experience. If the applicant has completed a Site Carpenter apprenticeship program that is similar to the Alberta Carpenter apprenticeship program, they may be eligible to receive some work experience credit toward their Qualification Certificate Program requirements.