

Hiring Electricians from the United Kingdom

The United Kingdom (U.K.) has a comprehensive system of vocational education, training and certification based on apprenticeship programs which operate throughout England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Comparable job titles in the U.K.

- Electrotechnical Services – Electrical Installation (Building and Structures)
- Electrotechnical Services – Electrical Maintenance

Scope of occupation

Electrotechnical Services – Electrical Installation (Building and Structures) in the U.K.:

- Diagnose and correct electrical faults
- Provide technical and functional information
- Prepare and install wiring systems, wiring enclosures and equipment
- Install wiring systems, wiring enclosures and equipment
- Connect wiring systems and equipment using safe and approved methods
- Inspect, test and commission and electrical installation

Electrotechnical Services – Electrical Maintenance in the U.K.:

- Diagnose and correct electrical faults
- Provide technical and functional information
- Prepare and maintain electrical systems and equipment
- Maintain electrical systems and equipment
- Inspect, test and commission maintained electrical systems and equipment

Comparable qualifications in the U.K.

The National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) and Scottish Vocational Qualification (SVQ) Level 3 is most comparable to Alberta's apprenticeship program. NVQ and SVQ Levels 1 and 2 are lower or entry level standards. Levels 4 and 5 are more comparable to management, technology and engineering standards and qualifications in Alberta.

SummitSkills is responsible for the design, development and governance of the apprenticeship program for the electrotechnical industry in the U.K. The SummitSkills Advanced Modern

Apprenticeships for Electrotechnical Services are typically 42 months in duration. Apprenticeship Certificates are awarded by SummitSkills when an apprentice has provided evidence of successful completion of:

- Level 3 N/SVQ (practical competency)
- Level 3 technical certificate (theoretical knowledge)
- Key/core skills (computer literacy, numeracy and communication)
- AM2 Final competency assessment
- Full time permanent employment (employment contract)

Skill gaps

The primary training shortfall for the SummitSkills Electrician is related to the Canadian Electrical Code. Code upgrading courses are available at a number of Alberta post-secondary institutions. Self-study resources are available at www.tradesecrets.gov.ab.ca/ilm. When ordering modules, follow the link to "Trades Qualification Certificate Program".

Alberta employers should also consider whether an Electrician from the U.K. has experience working in landscapes and climates similar to Alberta.

Alberta industry standards

Electricians trained in the U.K. must apply to the Alberta Qualification Certificate 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.

Minimum work experience requirements

Employers must ensure potential recruits meet the minimum work experience requirement of the Alberta Qualification Certificate Program. The minimum requirement for the Electrician trade is 8,775 hours and 72 months of verifiable hands-on work experience. Given that the Electrotechnical Services *Advanced* Modern Apprenticeship is a program similar to the Alberta apprenticeship program, the applicant may be eligible to receive some work experience credit towards the Qualification Certificate Program requirements.