

Hiring Electricians from Ireland

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

Comparable job titles in Ireland

- Commercial/Industrial Electrician
- Domestic Electrician

The Commercial/Industrial Electrician is likely to be the best match for Alberta employers because they will have gained the experience to undertake all types of electrical installation and maintenance work.

There is a good match between electricians in Alberta and Ireland because they use similar technology, techniques and processes as part of the trade.

Scope of occupation

Commercial/Industrial Electricians in Ireland:

- Read and understand drawings and plans
- Make calculations
- Install wiring and electrical components including instrumentation and process control equipment
- Service, maintain and repair electrical equipment

Comparable qualifications in Ireland

Commercial/Industrial Electricians undertake a structured and comprehensive training program by completing:

- The Apprenticeship in the Craft of Electrical

The apprenticeship requires the successful completion of:

- Four (4) years employment as a Commercial/Industrial Electrician
- 72 weeks on-the-job training
- 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 of which are 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 Electricians in industry. The apprenticeship was last updated in 2009.

Skill gaps

The most significant skill gap relates to the differences between the Canadian Electrical Code and the Electro Technical Council of Ireland (ETCI) Code.

Commercial/Industrial Electricians will require a trades training course in the Canadian Electrical Code. The differences may not be substantial and Commercial/Industrial Electricians could upgrade relatively quickly if they are provided with a structured and accessible trades training course.

Domestic Electricians will also be a good match but they will not have experience of commercial and industrial applications.

Alberta employers should also consider whether a Commercial/Industrial Electrician has experience working in landscapes and climates similar to Alberta.

Alberta industry standards

Commercial/Industrial Electricians 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.

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 Electrician trade is 8,775 hours and 72 months of verifiable hands-on work experience. If the applicant has completed a Commercial/Industrial Electrician apprenticeship program in Ireland that is similar to the Alberta Electrician apprenticeship program, they may be eligible to receive some work experience credit toward their Qualification Certificate Program requirements.