



# THE **ULTIMATE** GUIDE TO CAREERS IN GAS



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## **CONTACT US**

Tel: 0345 845 7222

Email: [enquiries@logic4training.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@logic4training.co.uk)

Unit 2, 1 Rowdell Road, Northolt,  
Middlesex, UB5 5QR

# THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO CAREERS IN GAS

**As the UK's leading building services training provider, we're proud to present this practical guide on starting and developing a career in gas.**

This guide will give you everything you need to know about progressing in a career as a gas service technician, installer and engineer. We'll cover the required training, common paths to success and qualifications needed right up to registering as an industry-recognised and trusted tradesperson.



## CONTENTS

- What to expect from the job
- Where to start
- What qualifications you'll need
- Which courses to take
- Progressing in your career



## WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE JOB

Qualified, experienced gas installers can expect an average salary of between £24,500 and £31,000 per year, increasing to £38,000 per year and beyond for highly experienced technicians. Apprentices and new starters can expect between £12,000 and £18,000 while they train.

## DAY-TO-DAY DUTIES

Typically, you'll be working in people's homes or businesses between the hours of 8am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Some employers offer their customers 24-hour emergency assistance, which is usually covered by a rota system, and you'll agree any overtime with your employer beforehand.

It can be a demanding job, at times needing you to work in cramped, dark spaces or up high, but it can also be really satisfying; you'll help customers with their gas safety and energy consumption, as well as solving problems that can greatly impact people's day-to-day lives and well-being.

You won't just be fitting boilers all the time, either. You'll find gas leaks, carry out repairs and manage records. You'll be a customer service ambassador, selling services when they're needed and dealing with any complaints you might get from your customers.

## ARE THERE ANY RISKS?

All jobs will carry some risks with them. With proper training, these can be greatly reduced and you'll learn how to handle every situation safely. Gas



is, of course, flammable; that's what makes it so useful, but it also makes it potentially dangerous.

When gas isn't burning properly, it produces excess carbon monoxide, which is invisible and odourless. Carbon monoxide poisoning can be fatal in extreme cases. It's a far greater risk to the occupants of properties fitted with gas equipment than it is to installers and maintenance persons.

These dangers are exactly why you must train and obtain the right qualifications before you're allowed to do any gas installation and maintenance work.

Although the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 refer to landlords' requirements for gas safety, they also charge gas companies, installers and anyone carrying out maintenance with a duty of care.

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## SALARY

As a gas service technician, your salary will typically increase with your experience. A new starter and apprentice can expect to make between £12,000 and £18,000 per year, increasing with experience and performance.

Once qualified, you can expect between £24,000 and £31,000 per year, increasing to £38,000 per year for highly experienced technicians.

## WHERE TO START

With any new career or job change, it can be daunting and hard to know where to start. We're here to help! There are a few routes into a career in gas installation and engineering.

## THINGS YOU'LL NEED

Before we get into it, here are a few raw skills you'll need to have:

- Good practical skills
- Full colour vision for some employers
- Good numerical skills
- Good at following technical instructions and diagrams
- Computer literacy
- Good communication skills; this includes being polite, friendly, personable and professional



- Motivation to work alone but able to work in small teams

If you're aiming to become a sole trader and self-employed, business skills like marketing, sales, accounts and work scheduling/planning will be needed too. [Take a look at this guide](#) for more detailed look at what you need to consider.

"Good practical skills" is a core requirement. You don't necessarily need to know how to fix a boiler right away - but you'll need to be used to and comfortable working with your hands and tools.

The installation side can involve lots of different skills not directly related to the heating system - plastering, brickwork, woodwork (making good holes inside and outside, lifting floorboards, passing pipework under floors and through walls).

## QUALIFICATIONS YOU'LL NEED

To begin your career in gas, you'll need to have the following qualifications:

- A recognised gas industry Level 3 qualification
- Gas Safe registration (formerly CORGI)

A fully-fledged gas technician will need a full driving licence, too.

There are several paths to obtaining your qualifications whether you're still in education or looking for a career change. Let's take a look at the different ways you can get in.

### STILL IN SCHOOL?

If you're still in school and thinking about your career path, an apprenticeship straight out of school is a great way into paid work with great prospects right away. As an apprentice, you'll be taken on by a gas company and learn on the job. Apprenticeship standards are currently under reform, with a government vision aimed for the year 2020.

New Trailblazer Apprenticeships are replacing the current model, to help meet the changing needs of employers, give better training and simplify the funding system.

If you're between 16 and 18 years old, the government will incentivise your training through employers. Find out more about the new [apprenticeship reforms](#) and how the [new funding model](#) works.

An apprenticeship can take between one and four years, depending on the level of study. You'll typically have a normal five-day working week, with one day a week reserved for studying for your qualification.

To become a gas installation and maintenance engineer, you will go through an advanced-level 3 apprenticeship. Completing higher-level

apprenticeships can give you the equivalent qualification to a degree or master's degree, depending on your field of study.

If you're in school, talk to your tutor and arrange a chat with a careers adviser who can guide you further – see which local companies offer apprenticeships.

If you have friends or family working in the industry, talk to them to see if they can help you start as an apprentice.

### APPRENTICESHIPS FOR OVER-24S

Although there's no age limit for an apprenticeship applicant, if you're over 24 years old, you'll have to fund it yourself. You can [apply for an advanced learner loan](#) to pay for your apprenticeship.

### WHICH COURSES TO TAKE

Apprenticeships aren't the only path to a career in gas; here are the courses to take if you want to qualify as a gas engineer.

To qualify fully as a gas installer, you will need:

- A recognised gas industry qualification and/or
- Accredited Certification Scheme (ACS) training and assessment
- Gas Safe registration

To become a gas installation and maintenance engineer, you will go through an advanced-level 3 apprenticeship. Completing higher-level apprenticeships can give you the equivalent qualification to a degree or master's degree

## RECOGNISED GAS INDUSTRY QUALIFICATIONS

To study independently for a career in gas, you'll need to work towards the following qualifications:

- Level 3 NVQ in Domestic Natural Gas Installation and Maintenance
- Level 3 Diploma in Gas Utilisation
- Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Domestic Plumbing and Heating (Gas-Fired Water and Central Heating Appliances)

### CCN1

CCN1 (Domestic Gas Safety) is the core domestic certificate of competence covering gas safety for domestic installations. Every installer working on domestic gas installation must hold this or an equivalent to it.

For new entrants, this can only be taken at the end of one of the managed learning programs listed above and will need to be taken for each different type of appliance you'll be working on.

Once you've achieved this qualification, it has to be renewed every five years, but the reassessment process is shorter for working engineers and can be taken up to six months in advance to avoid missing any work.



### GAS SAFE REGISTRATION

Once you've picked up the required qualifications, you can apply to the [Gas Safe Register](#) – a comprehensive list of qualified individuals, fully trained to the latest safety standards.

If you work for a company, they will add you to their registration. To apply yourself as a sole trader costs £362 plus VAT per year and can be done online or by paper and post.

### NEW ENTRANTS WITH NO PRIOR EXPERIENCE

To access the courses needed to gain recognised qualifications industry experience is required. So, what can you do if you're completely new to the field? Logic4training has a course designed to help you [become a gas installer](#) without any previous training or work experience. The Domestic Gas Heating Installer (DGHI) New Entrants course applies to complete newcomers (as long as you have practical skills!)

### NEW ENTRANTS WITH EXPERIENCE IN A RELATED TRADE

If you have two or more years' experience in a similar field like plumbing or kitchen fitting, you can take our DGHI course for Experienced Trades.

Both the DGHI New Entrants course and Experienced Trades route give you everything you need to take the CCN1 (Domestic Gas Safety) tests.

On completion of the course, you'll be at the correct level to undertake the appropriate Gas ACS training and assessment for your chosen field.

### **PROGRESSING IN YOUR CAREER**

Okay, so you're now a fully qualified, Gas Safe registered engineer – congratulations! Where to go from here? You've got plenty of options for growth now you're qualified.

With experience, hard work and dedication to your employer, you can climb the chain of command to a supervisor or manager role, giving you more responsibility and better prospects.

You could shift your career path into commercial gas engineering roles using the experience you've gained on the job.

Or, you could even start your own gas fitting business. While it's definitely not for the faint-hearted or the inexperienced, it does make you the boss of what could eventually become an industry-leading company. Read [our guide](#) to setting up your own business.







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