electrotechnical certification scheme

Tackling the demand for skilled professionals: Latest developments for ECS

October 2026

Agenda

Introduction to the JIB and ECS

- Who are the JIB? What is ECS?
- Setting the Standards and Governance
- Latest developments and updates

Building Safety

- What has happened post-Grenfell
- Super Sectors and Building Services Engineering

Smart Technology Solutions

- Managing your workforce
- Managing your supply chain
- How to verify all 2m+ CSCS Alliance cards

Upskilling and CPD

- ECS BEMS cards and routes to competence
- Funding for training/up-skilling

A membership organisation with 50+ years' experience:



Raising employment, apprenticeship, and training standards



Helping members prosper



Providing a safer built environment

Origins and purpose

Set up by constituent parties

- ECA and Unite the Union

The **National Working Rules** are part of the JIB Agreement setting out terms and conditions of employment

- e.g. Rates of pay, overtime, mileage rate and allowances

Also covers **benefits** section, training schemes, IR agreements, mediation and disputes procedure

Standard setting organisation

- Employment, productivity, health and safety, certification and training

The Electrotechnical JIB
Setting employment standards



Over 580+ JIB members - combined turnover **£4 billion+**

Top 10 electrical contractors - JIB members plus 100+s SMEs

Balfour Beatty
Briggs & Forrester
SES ENGINEERING SERVICES
dalkia EDF GROUP
Dodd Group
Lorne Stewart Engineering
INTEGRAL
GRATTE BROTHERS
NG Bailey
TClarke
PWP BUILDING SERVICES LTD
ahe engineering
VVB
BGEN NEXT GENERATION ENGINEERING
phoenixme
ENERVEO

Employer Perspective
Catherine Watts

- **Stability and certainty** – Good Industrial Relations and more accurate tendering
- **Business Growth** – Competing on high standards and client recognition
- **Productive and Competent** workforce - Investing in skills and wellbeing
- **Retention and recruitment** – keeping the best people and attracting new talent

Trade Union Perspective
Jason Poulter

- **Decent Pay & Conditions** – collective bargaining and protection, including healthcare provision – improving recruitment and retention
- **Assurance** – workers' rights are protected & peace of mind
- **Good Employer** – working with employers that invests in their people and promoting these companies to clients and industry

ECS

Digital personnel certification – essential visibility of individual competence

- Apprenticeships, qualifications, assessments, certifications
- Experienced and endorsement
- ID and vetting
- HSE awareness and technical assessment
- CPD and revalidation
- Code of practice and behaviours
- Professional membership and status





ECS in numbers

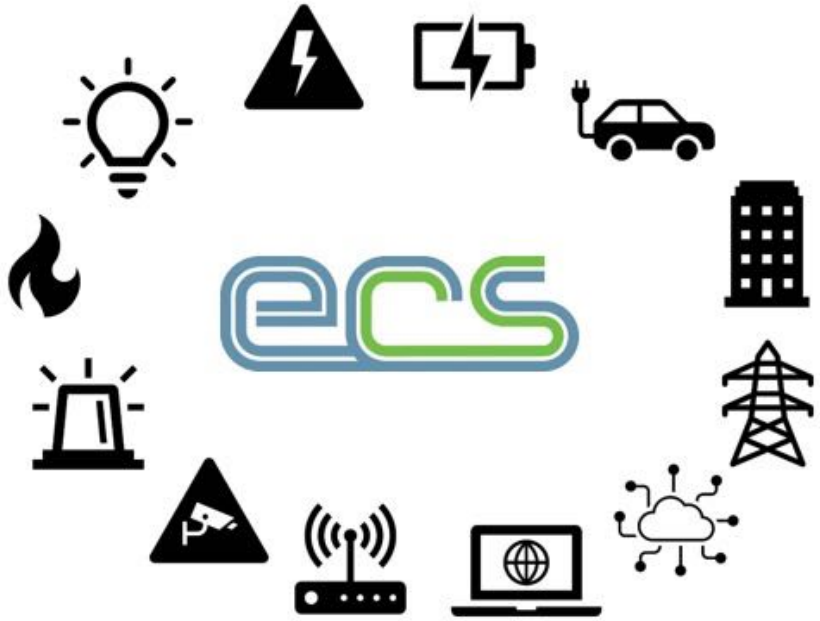
- 70,000+ registrations a year
- 50,000+ remote assessments using AI per year
- 181,000+ valid cards across the UK
- 5,000 companies on Employer Portal
- 2,500+ on ECS Check
- Covers 60%+ of the electrical market in UK
- One of 38 CSCS Alliance members – 2.1m cards



ECS

Sectors covered:

- Electrical and Power
- Fire, Emergency, and Security Systems
- Network Infrastructure
- Telecoms and Cellular
- Building Controls
- Cabling and Jointing
- Digital
- Audio Visual
- Engineering and related disciplines



Governance and Setting the Standards

CSCS

Construction Leadership Council

Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

Department for Education

Institute for Apprenticeships & Technical Education

Department for Business & Trade

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

ECS Steering Committee

ECA Excellence in Electrotechnical & Engineering Services

Electrical Safety First The UK's electrical safety experts

IET The Institution of Engineering and Technology

SELECT

unite the UNION

Building Safety Regulator HSE

SSAIB

Example: Fire, Emergency and Security Systems

BANHAM SECURITY

City & Guilds

bsia british security industry association

FESS Employer Group

FIA Fire Industry Association

TV NET

Johnson Controls

ADT

Protec Protec Camerfield Ltd

Security by SECOM

eal

bpec CERTIFICATION LTD

FSA Fire & Security Association

NSI Security.Improved

SELECT

SSAIB

NIFSEF

Chubb

SOUTH EASTERN REGIONAL COLLEGE

Building Safety and Competence



ICSG the Industry Competence Steering Group

Construction Leadership Council

Who and How

Building Safety Regulator HSE



The Building Regulations etc (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2023

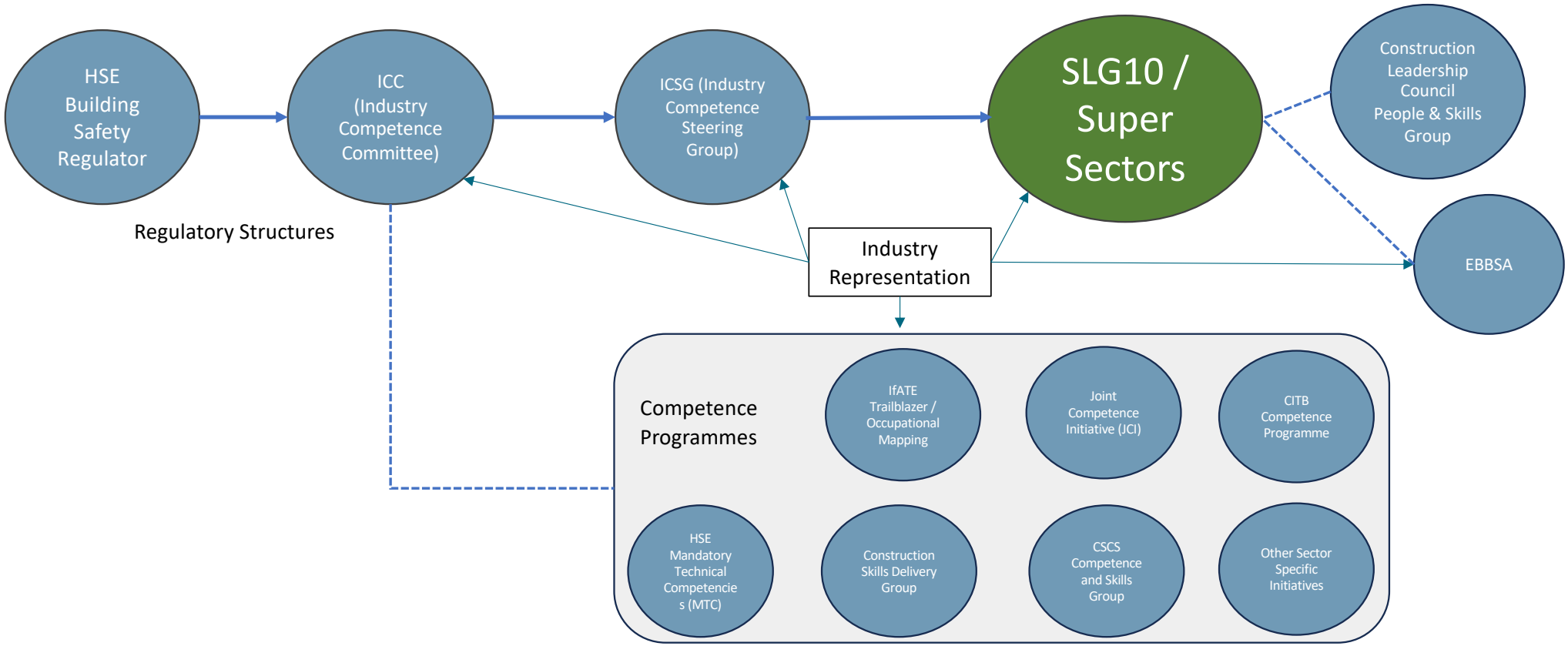
Competence: general requirement

11F.—(1) Any person carrying out any building work or any design work must have—

(a) where the person is an individual, the skills, knowledge, experience and behaviours necessary,

(b) where the person is not an individual, the organisational capability,

Alignment with Industry – Individual Installer Competence



Building Safety – Working Group 2: Installers (now SLG 10)

- Third party certification of business
- Level 2 / 3 vocational qualification
- CSCS Alliance scheme card
- CPD / revalidation / refresher training
- Fire safety in buildings awareness

Engineering Super Sector Reporting Group (SLG 10.2)

Run by Mike Smith – Actuate UK / EBSSA

Function: Electrotechnical
Lead Org: JIB / ECS
Contact: Andy Reakes

- **Sector:** LV Electrical
  Lead Org: ECA
  Contact: Mike Smith
- **Sector:** Power distribution & controls
  Lead Org: BEAMA
  Contact: Nick Hayler
- **Sector:** Fire Emergency & Security Systems
  Lead Org: SSAIB
  Contact: Trevor Jenks
- **Sector:** Building Controls & Automation
  Lead Org: BCIA
  Contact: Catherine Walker
- **Sector:** Network Infrastructure
  Lead Org: JIB / J Brand
  Contact: Andy Reakes / Dan Little
- **Sector:** Cabling & Jointing
  Lead Org: JIB
  Contact: Andy Reakes
- **Sector:** Telecomms - Mobile
  Lead Org: Institute of Telecoms Professionals
  Contact: Charlotte Goodwill
- **Sector:** Domestic & Commercial Electrical products installation & servicing
  Lead Org: ESF
  Contact: Luke Osborne
- **Sector:** Telecomms - Fixed
  Lead Org: TBC
  Contact: TBC
- **Sector:** HV Electrical
  Lead Org: TBC
  Contact: TBC

Function: Plumbing & Mechanical Services
Org: CIPHE
Contact: Jerry Whiteley

- **Sector:** L2 Plumber
  Lead Org: CIPHE
  Contact: Jerry Whiteley
- **Sector:** L3 Plumber
  Lead Org: CIPHE
  Contact: Jerry Whiteley
- **Sector:** Domestic Gas Installer
  Lead Org: TBC
  Contact: TBC
- **Sector:** Plumber Plus:
  - Domestic Heat Pumps
  - Domestic Solar Thermal
  - Domestic Heat Recovery & Ventilation

  Lead Org: TBC
  Contact: TBC
- **Sector:** Domestic Solid Fuel Heating Installer & Chimney Sweep
  Lead Org: Chimney Skills Training
  Contact: Phil Cleaver / Chris Geeves

Function: Mechanical building services engineering
Lead Org: EBSSA
Contact: Kate Milford

- **Sector:** Refrigeration
  Lead Org: BESA
  Contact: Kate Milford
- **Sector:** Commercial Plumbing
  Lead Org: TBC
  Contact: TBC
- **Sector:** Service & Maintenance
  Lead Org: TBC
  Contact: TBC
- **Sector:** Air Conditioning
  Lead Org: BESA
  Contact: Kate Milford
- **Sector:** Heat Networks
  Lead Org: TBC
  Contact: TBC
- **Sector:** Commercial Heating
  Lead Org: TBC
  Contact: TBC
- **Sector:** Ventilation Hygiene
  Lead Org: System Hygienics
  Contact: Mark Poultney
- **Sector:** Fluorinated Greenhouse Gasses
  Lead Org: BESA
  Contact: Kate Milford
- **Sector:** Ductwork & Fire-resistant Ductwork and Dampers
  Lead Org: Malcolm Moss & ASFP
  Contact: Malcolm Moss
- **Sector:** Fire Sprinklers / Fire Suppression
  Lead Org: BAFSA
  Contact: Alasdair Perry
- **Sector:** Industrial and Commercial Heat Pump
  Lead Org: BESA
  Contact: Kate Milford
- **Sector:** Smoke Control Systems (including natural smoke & heat ventilators)
  Lead Org: TBC
  Contact: TBC
- **Sector:** Water mist
  Lead Org: TBC
  Contact: TBC

Function: Cross Sector Groups

- **Sector:** Solar
  Lead Org: Solar UK
  Contact: John Davies
- **Sector:** Batteries (including heat and storage)
  Lead Org: TBC
  Contact: TBC

Function: Operations / Support Services

- **Sector:** Thermal Insulation
  Lead Org: TICA
  Contact: Marion Marsland
- **Sector:** Fire Stopping (Duplicate – Envelope)
  Lead Org: ASFP
  Contact: Niall Rowan
- **Sector:** Lightning Protection
  Lead Org: ATLAS
  Contact: John Jolly
- **Sector:** Lifts & Escalators
  Lead Org: LEI
  Contact: Rosanna Williamson
- **Sector:** HV Earthing
  Lead Org: ATLAS
  Contact: John Jolly
- **Sector:** Steeplejacking
  Lead Org: ATLAS
  Contact: John Jolly

Competence Framework Complete

Sector Group Launched

Sector Group To Be Set Up / To launch

Fire Safety in Buildings Awareness

Update to ECS HSE Question Bank

- Effective 6th May 2024
- Mapped against CITB FSiB outcomes
- Free training online from CITB



ecs electrotechnical certification scheme | employer portal

Now over 5,000 organisations using Employer Portal to **manage their workforce**

Company level management of the workforce

- Add and remove employees
- View qualifications and certifications
- Apply or renew cards for employees
- Upload documentation to employee record
- Warnings when cards/ assessments / certificates are expiring
- Updates and progress on applications
- Full financial records

Plus – Remote Invigilation systems used by companies through the Portal

Access for free by downloading an application form from the ECS website

ECS CHECK

- **Validation of Qualified Personnel**
- Web-based verification of ECS cardholders
- Identity, HS&E, qualifications, employer endorsement & grade





Workforce demographics

- Set ratios / numbers for types of worker (e.g. apprentices)
- Identify and measure social value and skills gaps
- Reports on local labour

Contract compliance

- Ensure projects meet industry requirements
- LTP in Northern Ireland
- Construction Charters, direct employment – terms above Real Living Wage for all operatives, healthcare insurance etc.



Over £30bn revenue and 400,000 employees globally

ECS CHECK

"**ECS Check gives us necessary visibility on our supply chain** to ensure the high standards for competence and qualifications to which we hold our employees are also true for our subcontractors."

Balfour Beatty Kilpatrick

"The ECS Check service gives Mace, our clients and suppliers, confidence that the electrotechnical workforce engaged on our projects **meet the high standards we expect**."

mace DRAGADOS

The 38 CSCS Alliance members











How was this delivered?

CSCS Smart Check

- Lots of systems and very complex to check workers
- Launched April 2022
- One App to check all 38 Partner Schemes – 3.1m plus cards

What happens at the site gates?

- Contactless
- QR code
- Manual input

Existing systems (security gates etc)

- Period of transition
- Employers expected/encouraged to migrate over time



BEMS Control Engineer Level 4 Apprenticeship

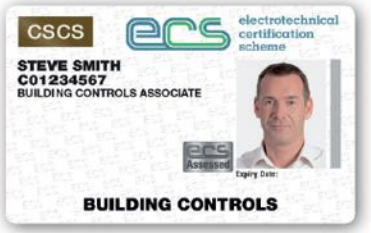
Routes to Gold Card

- BEMS Apprentices
  - Standard developed through BCIA BEMS Trailblazer Employers Group Skills Group
  - **311 Apprentices** in learning
  - **135 employers**
  - **91% retention** rate
  - Overall Success rate 89%
  - **92** appretices completed End-Point assessment, **59** of Which Achieved Distinction Grade
  - **453** total learners
  - Excellent feedback from End Point Awarding Organisation





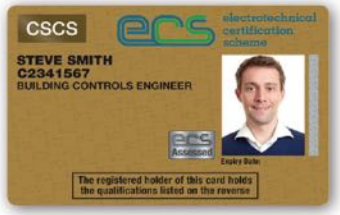
Updated Building Controls Framework

Card Type	Who is the card for and what is required?	Card Image
Building Controls Apprentice	For those on an apprenticeship programme being undertaken for Building Controls, such as the Level 4 Building Energy Management Systems (BEMS) Controls Engineer apprenticeship Must hold a current ECS Health, Safety and Environmental Assessment (there are no exemptions that can be used when applying for this card)	
Building Controls Associate	For those who are generally working under supervision or deploying engineered elements and defined tasks and activities. Provides a progression route for people working in the BEMS sector BCIA BCM00 – Introduction to Building Controls and HVAC **OR** BCIA BCM01 – Fundamentals of HVAC and Building Technology, **OR** CIBSE Practical Controls for HVAC Systems **AND** ECS Electrical Safety Unit AND ECS Health, Safety and Environmental Awareness Assessment	

Updated Building Controls Framework

Building Controls Installer (Electrical)	For technical staff that need to support the installation of building control systems in areas of set up, programming and end user training of the installed system BCIA technical training modules in invigilated conditions - BCM01, BCM02 and BCM03 **AND** Current edition of BS7671 qualification **AND** ECS Health, Safety and Environmental Awareness Assessment	
Building Controls Technician (Commissioning)	For technical staff that need to support the installation of building control systems in areas of software, fault finding, and commissioning, but do not undertake installation or electrical works BCIA technical training modules in invigilated conditions - BCM01, BCM02 and BCM03 **AND** Approved electrical safe isolation course completed within the last 3 years **AND** ECS Health, Safety and Environmental Awareness Assessment	

Updated Building Controls Framework

Building Controls Experienced Worker	For applicants that have enrolled onto the BEMS EWA route and completed the BEMS EWA knowledge assessment (as a prerequisite for eligibility onto the EWA), but do not yet have a full industry qualification such as BEMS Controls Engineer apprenticeship BEMS EWA knowledge assessment **AND** ECS Health, Safety and Environmental Awareness Assessment	
Building Controls Engineer	For operatives who work unsupervised to install and maintain integrated building controls that manage the environmental services within a building, for the comfort of its users One of the following: Successful completion of the Level 4 BEMS Apprenticeship Standard **OR** Successful completion of the Level 3 NVQ in Building Management Systems (no longer available) **OR** Level 3 NVQ in electrical installation PLUS successful completion of the Building Controls Professional Assessment (BCPA) (no longer available), **OR** Successful completion of the BEMS Experienced Worker Assessment. **AND (for all routes)** ECS Health Safety & Environmental (HSE) Awareness Assessment	

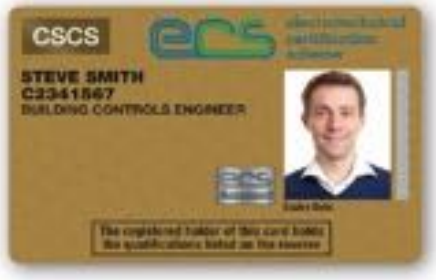
Experienced Worker Assessment

GroupHorizon
LIGHTING UP YOUR FUTURE

bcia
the building controls industry association

- Route to a Building Controls Gold Card
- Assessment method for those already working in the industry
- Haven't had chance to undertake apprenticeship / NVQ or similar
- Doesn't require people to go back to college / retrain
- Assessing to the same standard as the BEMS apprenticeship
- Skills scan, knowledge test and work-based assessment

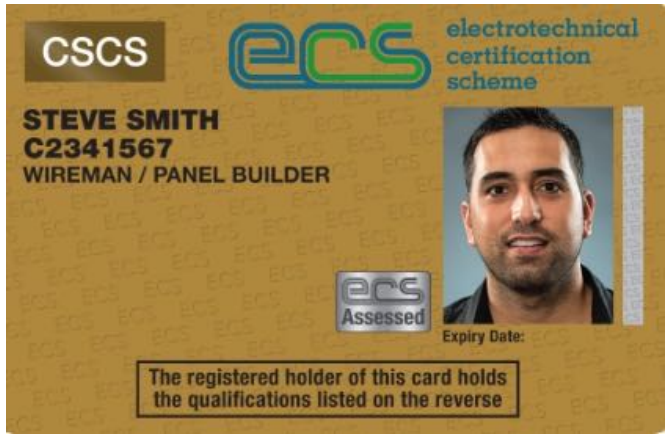




Experienced Worker Assessment

Routes to Gold Card

- Installation / Maintenance / Domestic Electrician
- FESS – two routes live February 2024
- Building Controls – live May 2024
- Network Infrastructure – live August 2024
- Panel Builder – live September 2024



Funding available for JIB companies – 75% up to £750 per person

Skills Development Fund - Joint Industry Board

business-support@jib.org.uk

Skills Development Fund

Which courses are covered?

Level 3 Courses – up to £750 per person per funding year.

Including: Continuing Professional Development (CPD) courses for qualified electricians - such as EV Charge Point Installation and Maintenance; Solar PV; and routes to gold card such as Experienced Worker Assessments (EWAs).

Level 4–5 Courses – up to £1,000 per person per funding year.

Including: HNCs/HNDs in subjects such as Building Services or Electrical and Electronic Engineering; Design and Verification of Electrical Installations.

Level 6 Courses and above – Up to £1,250 per person per funding year.

Degrees and postgraduate courses.

Level 3 Courses

Ordinary National Certificate (ONC)

Including Building Services Engineering

Other Level 3 qualifications

Including:

- Fire Detection and Alarms Systems in the Workplace (e.g. BS5839-1)
- High Voltage Operation and Safety
- TESP Electrician Plus approved Low Carbon qualifications at Level 3 including:
  - Solar Photovoltaic Systems Installation or Maintenance
  - Electric Vehicle Charging Installation or Maintenance (Domestic or Large Scale)
  - Electrical Energy Storage Systems

Level 4 and 5 Courses

Higher National Certificate (HNC) or Higher National Diploma (HND)

Including:

- Building Services Engineering
- Electrical and Electronic Engineering

Other Level 4 and 5 courses

Including Design and Verification of Electrical Installations

Level 6 Courses and above

Including:

Degree level qualifications or postgraduate courses. Up to £1,250 per person per funding year.

The Paul Corby Bursary

Up to £5,000 per person.

This is a discretionary award recognising exceptional talent and accomplishment to help offset the costs of those undertaking a degree or postgraduate course.

Courses not eligible for the Skills Development Fund

- AM2 / AM2S / AM2D / AM2E
- BS7671 IET Wiring Regulations
- CompEx courses
- Inspection and Testing (e.g. C&G 239)
- IOSH / NEBOSH / SSSTS / SMSTS or other H&S certificates

Course not listed?

If your course does not appear on this list please email business-support@jib.org.uk as it may still meet the criteria.



Grants of up to 75% of course fees to support education and training

Who may be eligible?

- Those employed by a JIB member under the JIB Agreement.
- Apprentices registered with the JIB.
- Operatives who are unemployed will also be considered.

How to Apply

Funding is provided directly to the college or training centre or is reimbursed to the operative (or their company) on the production of proof of payment.

Download the application form at www.jib.org.uk

ecs electrotechnical certification scheme

JIB Skills Development Fund

- ✓ **JIB Member**
- ✓ **Operative holds ECS card**
- ✓ **Operative having JIB benefits Credits Purchased**
- ✓ **Course is on the list**
- ✓ **Simple application ££££**
- ✓ **Now includes Experienced Worker Assessment (Electrical Installation)**



Questions

