

Experienced Worker Assessment - FAQs

Candidates

Is this the right qualification for me?

The Experienced Worker Assessment is for electricians who have been working in the industry for at least 5 years (not including time spent in full or part time training) but have not formally completed an industry apprenticeship or equivalent Level 3 NVQ qualification. You will need to demonstrate knowledge, understanding and competence to the standard of the Level 3 electrotechnical apprenticeship. There is a Skills Scan at the start of the process to assess this.

It's suitable for both self-employed and employed electricians who have worked for a number of years but have never gained full, formal recognition of their skills or experience.

The qualification is not suitable for new entrants to the electrotechnical industry, apprentices, or those who have completed an electrotechnical technical qualification with less than last five years relevant experience as an electrician.

Your previous technical qualifications may also meet some of the Experienced Worker Assessment requirements, which means you only need to provide any outstanding items of evidence.

What is the Skills Scan?

The Skills Scan is designed to determine your eligibility for the Experienced Worker Qualification by helping you understand the depth of knowledge, skill and experience that will be expected to complete the assessment. It has designed to help you avoid wasting money and struggling to complete qualification or the assessment process if this is not quite the right pathway for you.

What if this is not right for me?

If you are working in the industry but the Experienced Worker Assessment is not right for you at this time due to gaps in your knowledge or experience, do not give up! It may be you just need a more time or experience in certain areas before you are ready to apply.

It's always recommended you complete a relevant industry-approved Level 3 route, recognised by employers.

If you're employed, the [Electrotechnical Apprenticeship qualification](#) may be suitable. There is no age restriction or financial contribution from you, you do not have to start at the beginning and prior knowledge and qualifications can be recognised to reduce the typical 4-year duration.

Otherwise, the NVQ Diploma in Installing Electrotechnical Systems and Equipment (Buildings, Structures and the Environment) can be taken whether you are employed or self-employed.

What is in the Experienced Worker Qualification?

There are six Level 3 Performance Units to be assessed before you can gain the Experienced Worker qualification:

- Apply Health, Safety and Environmental Considerations
- Organise and Oversee the Electrical Work Environment
- Apply Design and Installation Practices and Procedures
- Terminate and Connect Conductors
- Inspect, Test and Commission Electrical Systems
- Apply Fault Diagnosis and Rectification

To pass these units, you must provide evidence from a site of your previous work to demonstrate you can fully meet the performance requirements of each unit.

You'll be assessed via a range of methods and an assessor will need to observe you at work on at least one occasion during the evidence gathering process.

Additionally, units for BS 7671:2018 and Initial Verification are examined within the Experienced Worker qualification, if you do not already have these qualifications.

How long will it take to complete the Experienced Worker Assessment?

This will depend on what evidence you already have that counts towards the qualification. For instance, if you hold the BS 7671:2018 qualification and/or the Initial Verification qualification you can eliminate the time and cost needed to gain those. We estimate anywhere between 3 and 15 months depending on what evidence you need to provide. Most of the time spent will involve portfolio building and on-site assessment of your current work.

If you do not hold BS 7671:2018 and Initial Verification, these are taught and assessed as if they were taken separately outside of the Experience Worker Assessment.

The AM2E Assessment, which is separate to the Experienced Worker Qualification, is a practical assessment where you will have to attend a NET-licensed centre (this cannot be taken with your training provider). This can only be booked after the Experienced Worker qualification is achieved.

How much will it cost?

Each training provider will set their own price for delivery of the Experienced Worker Assessment process and so we are unable to provide a definitive price. However, we expect that where you have existing skills, qualifications or experience that counts towards the criteria, the cost will be reduced if you do not require training or assessment on every unit of the qualification. This should be discussed with your training provider, TESP does not have any influence in this area. Furthermore, some training providers will include the cost for AM2E in their overall price, others may not. The training provider should provide you with clear, written information.

What is AM2E?

The AM2E is a practical assessment where you have to carry out a series of tasks covering safe isolation, installation, fault finding and inspection and testing, which are then marked by an assessor. It is identical to the AM2S assessment, which is taken by apprentices at the end of their training programme. You can find out full details about each section of the AM2E and the tasks you will need to carry out on the [NET website](#).

Where can I register for the Experienced Worker Assessment qualification?

The EWA will be available from [City & Guilds](#) accredited training centres across England, Wales and NI.

Where can I take the AM2E End Point Assessment?

The AM2E is available from NET's network of licensed centres – visit the [NET website](#) to view the centre locations.

Are any L2 and L3 technical qualifications accepted as counting towards the EWA, or just certain ones? To see what qualifications are accepted refer to Recognition of Prior Learning document on 2346 [webpage](#).

What is Recognition of Prior Learning?

This is where the training provider, in accordance with guidance set by the Awarding Organisations, accepts a previous qualification as meeting the learning outcomes for one or more units, so you do not need to take it as part of your Experienced Worker Assessment.

This reduces the number of units (and the length of time) required to complete your qualification.

What ECS card am I eligible for throughout this process?

Once you are registered on the EWA programme, you can gain an ECS Experienced Worker card, which is valid for 18 months. Once you successfully complete the AM2E assessment, you can apply for an ECS Gold Card. You will still also need to hold a valid ECS Health, Safety & Environmental test as part of the application process. For more information, please visit the [ECS website](#).

Employers

Who is this qualification for? Self-employed or employed workers?

It is suitable for both self-employed and employed individuals who have been working as an electrician for more than 5 years but have never gained full, formal recognition of their knowledge, skills or experience.

Prior to undertaking the qualification, learners must have their suitability assessed by the completion of the qualification's pre-entry skills scan.

Learners MUST possess the knowledge and understanding comparable to the Level 3 Electrotechnical apprenticeship qualification, which can be evidenced by relevant electrotechnical qualifications as given on the qualification (RPL) document. Where learners do not hold the relevant qualifications, their eligibility will be probed through the skills scan to verify if they have the equivalent knowledge and understanding.

Will they need time off the job to complete this – how much?

Most of the work will be assessed on site, the candidate will also need time to complete portfolio work, but this can be done inside or outside of work hours. As each candidate's experience will differ, we are unable to provide an estimate of time required off the job.

They will have usually attend an approved centre to undertake the online exams for BS 7671:2018 and Initial Verification (if required).

The AM2E Assessment, which is separate to the Experienced Worker Qualification, is a practical assessment where the candidate will have to attend a NET-licensed centre.

What if the Experienced Worker Qualification is not suitable?

An apprenticeship can be taken by a learner of any age to develop the knowledge, skills and behaviour required by an electrician. The typical 4-year duration of an apprenticeship can be reduced if the learner has relevant prior experience and knowledge. To be eligible for an apprenticeship, the learner must require at least 12 month's training with 20% off-the-job learning within the learner's usual working hours.

Recognition of Prior Learning will reduce the level of funding required for the apprenticeship. The maximum funding available for the Electrotechnical Apprenticeship is £18,000 for the full programme.

Small employers (who do not pay apprenticeship levy contributions) share the costs of apprenticeship training with government and pay only 5% of the total funding required, spread over the duration of the apprenticeship. For example, a two-year apprenticeship would cost the employer a maximum of £450 over the two-year period, including the cost of end-point assessment and any technical training or assessment required with the provider.

Large employers fund apprenticeships through their existing levy contributions.

Otherwise, the Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Installing Electrotechnical Systems and Equipment (Buildings, Structures and the Environment) can be used to assess performance in the workplace. This will require full funding by either the learner or employer.

Centres

Where can I find out more information about the qualification?

The 2346 qualification [webpage](#) will have centre information and qualification manuals

How do we offer the Experienced Worker Assessment?

This qualification is no longer restricted to JIB registered providers and can be offered by all accredited City & Guild centres

If already accredited or wish to become an accredited centre visit [City & Guilds](#) centre information.

Questions about Skills Scan / how they administer this?

The Skills Scan is designed to help assess the learner's eligibility for the Experienced Worker Qualification. There is a self-assessment of the depth of knowledge, skill and experience expected of the assessment. The centre is then responsible for verifying the learner's suitability and recording on the Skills Scan.

This is an auditable part of the Awarding Organisation's external quality assurance requirements; importantly this must be undertaken by occupationally competent staff.

How do we assess each candidate? What is the RPL process?

Refer to the Recognition of Prior Learning document, qualification manuals and to the Recognition of Prior Learning strategy on the 2346 [webpage](#).

What if a candidate is not eligible for the Experienced Worker Assessment?

If employed, explore the option of an apprenticeship with the employer, many employers remain unaware the apprenticeship is available to learners of any age, and that prior experience, knowledge and skill reduces the duration and cost. Otherwise direct the learner to relevant technical training depending on the gaps in knowledge, or sensitively explain that a greater breadth and/or depth of work experience would help develop the skills required and produce valid evidence for work-based assessment.

How do I book AM2E?

The AM2E should be booked via [NET](#) but this cannot be done until the candidate has achieved the Experienced Worker qualification. You will need to provide the qualification certificate as evidence as part of the booking process.

What is the application process for the ECS card?

[ECS](#) to provide info on two separate processes for EW card on registration and gold card on completion. Be clear on who applies and how for each stage.