

The Forshaw Group Apprenticeships



We talk to Liam Hanlon, Managing Director at The Forshaw Group, and apprentices Connor Corlette, Martin Groves and Shay Farrell-Velloza about what apprenticeships bring to their business and the apprenticeship experience.

The Employer Perspective: Liam Hanlon, Managing Director

Q. How has your organisation benefitted from recruiting apprentices?

Liam: We are property restoration specialists, working closely with insurance companies and loss adjusters to renovate commercial and residential property damaged by fire or flood. Often, we are the first point of contact for people who have extensive property damage. So, we are not just about repairing the building. Our team need to have a range of soft skills to assist the residents and users of damaged property appropriately and empathetically. Our apprenticeship programme is an important part of our recruitment structure. We take 10 apprentices a year into the business and also train 75 apprentices a year in our academy that brings new talent into the sector for organisations in our industry. Apprenticeships help the business engage, train and retain employees with specialist niche restoration skills.



Liam Hanlon

Q. What advice would you give to potential apprentices wanting to join your business?

Liam: We operate in a specialist market in the construction industry. Across the industrial, domestic and commercial markets we help to restore over 4,000 properties a year. Approximately 250 of these will be major restorations. We look for apprentice joiners, plasterers and plumbers and also provide additional training in specialist skills relating to property damage, such as drying and cleaning. We look for enthusiastic people who have an interest in the construction industry and an appreciation of our specialist sector. We also want applicants for apprenticeships in our organisation to understand who we are and commit to our values and ethos. In today's digital environment it is easy to find out what we do and be able to show your interest in joining us at interview.

Q. What advice would you give to other businesses who are thinking about recruiting apprentices?

Liam: Apprentices are a crucial part of the future. All businesses have a responsibility for training and securing the skills required for the future. Apprentices bring youth, enthusiasm and an open book perspective to your business. This provides a good opportunity to train employees in the skills, qualities and company ethos you are looking for. An apprentice arrives with no preconceived ideas and everything they learn, they learn with you, making their training very relevant.



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The Apprentice Perspective:

Connor Corlett, Apprentice Joiner
Martin Groves, Apprentice Plasterer
Shay Farrell-Velloza, Apprentice Joiner



Q. How did you find out about your apprenticeship?

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Connor: My friend is an apprentice and I wanted to follow him as the work was interesting and it looked like something I would enjoy doing.

Martin: In school I was offered an apprenticeship, so I thought it was a good idea to take it.

Shay: Through school. I chose this route because I was interested in becoming a joiner.

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Connor Corlett



Martin Groves



Shay Farrell-Velloza

Q. What's being an Apprentice like?

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Connor: It is good being an apprentice. I get to learn a trade and it is interesting to learn new information.

Martin: Being an apprentice is quite fun, getting to learn a trade whilst getting a wage.

Shay: I enjoy being an apprentice as I learn a lot of new skills whilst working.

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Q. What advice would you give to someone who is thinking about becoming an apprentice?

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Connor: If they have the opportunity then take it as you won't be able to learn the skills anywhere else.

Martin: Make sure they pick the right trade for them

Shay: Decide what trade / profession you would like to do and apply for it.

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