

## Mersey Gateway Project

# THINKING ABOUT BEING A CONSTRUCTION OPERATIVE?

### WHAT DOES A CONSTRUCTION OPERATIVE DO?

If you enjoy practical work and want a job outdoors, then working on a construction site could be for you. You will need a good level of fitness and have a basic knowledge of building methods and materials. You may also need a good head for heights.

**Projects you may work on could include:**

- **BRIDGES, TUNNELS, ROADWORKS**
- **COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL UNITS**
- **MULTI STOREY HOUSING**

### IN ANY OF THESE ROLES YOUR REGULAR TASKS COULD INCLUDE:

- Preparing the construction site
- Setting up site cabins, unloading, storing building materials and setting up scaffolding
- Groundworking – marking out and digging shallow trenches for foundations and drains
- Formworking – putting up or dismantling shuttering to hold concrete in place
- Steel fixing – bending and fixing bars for reinforced concrete structures
- Concreting – laying and smoothing concrete for foundations, beams and floors
- Road working – concreting, laying kerbs, paving and re-surfacing

### WHAT ARE THE WORKING CONDITIONS?

You would usually work around 40 hours per week and sometimes weekend overtime will be necessary to meet deadlines. Your work would be outdoors and sometimes at heights and the job can be physically demanding. Your employer would provide you with personal safety training and protective clothing and equipment.

### WHAT SALARY COULD I EXPECT TO RECEIVE?

Starting salaries can be up to £15,000 a year. Experienced operatives can earn up to £21,000 a year. Operatives with supervisory responsibilities could earn up to £24,000 a year.

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## WHAT SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE WILL I NEED TO BECOME A CONSTRUCTION OPERATIVE?

- Good head for heights
- Excellent practical skills for using tools
- A good level of fitness
- Good team working skills
- Understand health and safety issues
- Ability to follow written and spoken instructions

## WHAT QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE WILL I NEED?

While there are no set qualifications, a potential employer would be looking for you to have GCSEs in Maths, English and Science. Equivalent work-based qualifications in construction or engineering, or site experience may also be considered.

Apprenticeships are available.

Most building contractors will require you to hold a CSCS card before you can work on their sites. This card is proof of your skills and ability to carry out the job safely. Your employer will help you apply for the correct level of card and support you with any necessary training.

Training could be on the job and there are various work-based qualifications you could take such as:

- Level 1 Certificate in Building Crafts
- Level 1 Certificate/Diploma in Practical Construction Skills
- Level 1 Certificate/Diploma in Work Preparation for Building and Construction
- Level 1 or 2 NVQ in Construction and Civil Engineering Services
- If you are over 18 years old, and have a driving licence, then you can train on construction plant machinery

## FOR FURTHER INFO:

[www.apprenticeships.co.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.co.uk);

[www.cskills.co.uk](http://www.cskills.co.uk)

[www.citb.co.uk](http://www.citb.co.uk)

