



Financial support for skills development



*Joint Industry Board Further Education Fund
Electrical Contractors' Association Training Fund*



Joint Industry Board



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In today's economic climate it's difficult to find money for training, so it makes sense to apply for extra financial help where you can.

Whether you're an employee or an employer wanting to up-skill yourself or your workforce, there are two industry training funds that might be able to help towards the cost of training:



Representing the best in electrical engineering and building services

- The Further Education Fund from the Joint Industry Board
- The Electrical Contractors' Association Training Fund

Developing skills is a key objective for both the ECA and JIB – employees with improved skills will greatly boost the success of electrical contracting businesses and the industry as a whole. Training benefits the employee and their employer by bringing new thinking, knowledge and experience to work.

What funding is available and can I apply?

The table below shows the eligibility criteria and what's on offer from both funds:

	JIB FE Fund	ECA Training Fund
Available to...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - JIB-graded operatives participating in the combined benefits scheme - JIB registered apprentices - Anyone wishing to undertake studies in the electrical contracting industry which will be of benefit to the industry as a whole 	ECA members on behalf of their company and their employees
Amount of funding available	Up to 50% of the course fee up to a maximum of £500 in any one year	Maximum of £5000 per year in any ECA region in which the company is registered with a representative

Garry heard about the funding from a fellow electrician. The application process was simple and effective.

Once he has qualified, Garry hopes to pursue a career associated with the course such as an electrical consultant.

Garry Larkham is studying for an HNC in Building Services Engineering. The funding paid for 50% of the yearly course fee.

"Any financial support that SMEs can obtain for training has got to be a positive, especially during difficult economic conditions. Training budgets are necessary to maintain a competitive and motivated workforce in today's highly demanding markets.

The process was relatively easy and once the associated information was collated, it took about 10 minutes to complete.

We would recommend that any of our fellow members do take the opportunity provided by the ECA and apply for training support funding. It is an extremely good initiative whereby a professional membership body is providing benefits back to its membership, which is available to both the small and the larger organisations within it."

Keith Gaylor, Director, D&S Engineering Facilities Ltd

What courses are covered?

For the JIB FE Fund, applications must be for courses that are classed as furthering your industry education beyond the basic qualifications needed to be an electrician. Funding will also be considered for industry research projects.

For the ECA Training Fund, a range of high level (Level 3 or above) technical, health and safety, management and professional qualifications are eligible. Please see the application form for the full list.

Some examples of courses that might be funded are:

- NVQ Level 3/4
- City & Guilds CAD and HPD
- BTEC National Certificate
- HNCs, HNDs, Degrees,
- Management training
- Higher level health and safety qualifications

You can also suggest others and we'll consider them, subject to eligibility.

"We heard about the funding scheme at a JIB regional meeting - the employee in question is studying for a City and Guilds qualification and received 50% funding.

We are very keen to invest in our employees and keep them within the organisation. If we can find some funding then it's a bonus - any contribution is appreciated - it all helps."

Tim Rhodes, MD Brown and Co – M&E contractor

"I have been a member of the JIB for the past 15 years, since I was an apprentice so I have known about the funding throughout my career. The application process was great, the forms are easy to fill out and the response for my applications was dealt with very quickly.

I have completed the first year of my HNC and have made another application for the second year and hope to have this granted once my company has paid the 2nd year fees. I would encourage any electrician who would like to work as a contracts manager to take this course.

After my HNC I'm hoping to take the degree course in business and then complete my Masters."

Clint Cottee received a 40% contribution to his Fire and Detection course and 40% towards the first year of his HNC in Contract Management.

How to claim funding

Both the JIB and ECA work on a fee reimbursement basis - this is the best way to ensure the funding is spent on training that is seen through to full completion. On occasions, the JIB will pay funds directly to a college or training centre.

"I read about the JIB funding in a trade magazine so I researched it on the JIB website. Completing the application form was simple and straightforward and the evidential information requested all made sense.

I hope to progress into a career as an electrical engineer from my current position; I may go on to study for an HND or specialist courses such as Computer Aided Design."

Lee McKay did a HNC in Electrical & Electronic Engineering and received 25% of the total cost

"I think the fund is an excellent idea - I didn't know it existed and found out about it at a branch meeting. It is a good business asset and provides a better profile for the client.

Development programmes provide better trained operatives and in turn, a better skilled workforce to offer to our client. This is critical in such economic times as it is very competitive out there and we need to tick as many boxes as we can. We are going to send another person to do an HNC in Electrical Engineering."

Mick Pointon, MPE Staffordshire Ltd, ECA member



"Unite the Union as the largest union in the UK is pleased to offer its support to the JIB Further Education Fund; we are sure the fund will benefit our members who work in the industry."

Mike McCartney, Head of Health and Safety

Apply now!

If you think you or an employee might benefit from one of the two training funds, contact us now for more information. Application forms are available on the websites or you can call the ECA or JIB for further information:

- JIB Further Education Fund: visit www.jib.org.uk/funding or call 020 8269 8546
- ECA Training Fund: visit www.eca.co.uk/funding (please log in using your ECA website login) or speak to your ECA regional office.



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