

General Overview

- ✓ Typical on-programme learning: 36 months
- ✓ EPA duration: 3 months
- ✓ Maximum funding: £25,000
- ✓ Level 3



Polymer processing technicians produce polymer products to a specification. They work in a production facility - often on a large scale, using a range of machinery, control systems and engineering equipment. Products are made using continuous or in batch processes. Polymer processing technicians set up or configure equipment and tooling and prepare materials for processing. They run and monitor the process, adjusting parameters. They use unique technologies and processes such as extrusion, blow moulding, thermoforming, rotational moulding, injection moulding, internal mixing, and calendaring. They undertake quality control, complete work records, and participate in improvement. They may also complete preventative maintenance and prepare polymer process equipment for maintenance and overhaul.

They work with other members of the production team. They also have contact with people from other functions such as, process engineers, maintenance engineers, laboratory staff, supply chain staff, and warehouse staff. They may also have contact with external people such as customers, service providers, suppliers, and regulators.

They must ensure that the process and products meet quality specifications and are produced to schedule. They must comply with health and safety regulations and procedures including wearing personal protection equipment (PPE). They also need to meet environmental and sustainability regulations and procedures - minimising waste and recycling materials. They may work as part of a small or large manufacturing team. They work with minimal supervision and are responsible for the quality of their own work. They may work shifts.

Entry Requirements

There are no statutory/regulatory or other typical entry requirements.

On-Programme Competence Evaluation

The apprentice will complete on and off-the-job training, developing their knowledge, skills & behaviours as stipulated within the apprenticeship standard.

Gateway Requirements

The employer, supported by the training provider must confirm that the apprentice is ready for EPA, before the EPA process can begin.

The employer, supported by the training provider must sign a declaration to agree the apprentice has met the required criteria as set out in the Polymer Processing Technician standard.

As part of the SIAS EPA service, we will check that all gateway evidence has been met before we begin the process of EPA.

End Point Assessment (EPA)

The assessment plan defines the following methods of assessment for the Polymer Processing Technician standard.

1

Observation with Questions

- In the observation with questions, an end-point assessor observes the apprentice in their workplace. The apprentice completes their day-to-day duties under normal working conditions.
- The end-point assessor will ask the apprentice at least 6 questions.
- Duration: 3 hours (+ 10% at end-point assessor's discretion). This includes time for questioning.

2

Interview underpinned by a Portfolio of Evidence

- The interview will be structured to give the apprentice the opportunity to demonstrate the KSBs mapped to this assessment method to the highest available grade.
- The end-point assessor will ask a minimum of 11 questions.
- The apprentice can refer to and illustrate their answers with evidence from their portfolio of evidence.
- Duration: 60 minutes (+up to 10% at end point assessor's discretion).

3

Multiple Choice Test

- In the multiple-choice test, the apprentice answers questions in a controlled and invigilated environment.
- The test will consist of 40 multiple-choice questions.
- The apprentice will have 60 minutes to complete the test.



Assessment Marking & Grading & Results

Results for each individual assessment method will be available within 15 working days from the assessment date.

The SIAS end-point assessor, will combine the results of each individual assessment method and provide an overall assessment grade of Fail, Pass, Merit or Distinction.



Apprenticeship Certification

Your apprentice will receive a Certificate of Apprenticeship on successful completion of all individual assessment methods.



Guidance & Support

SIAS provide a range of resources which offer EPA guidance and support for the apprentice, the employer, and the college/training provider.

We aim help employers and colleges/training providers to support the on-going competence evaluation of the apprentices' knowledge, skills, and behaviour to ensure that your apprentice is confident for their EPA. All of our resources are comprehensively mapped to this apprenticeship standard.