

National Apprenticeship - Occupational Profile

Apprenticeship Title Supply Chain Specialist

NFQ Level 8

Duration 2 Years

**Typical tasks/
responsibilities**

Individual

- Subject matter expert responsibility for forecasting and planning, purchasing, procurement, logistics, operations, inventory management, customer service, transport, distribution and warehousing
- Safeguard compliance with internal and external policies and procedures
- Guarantee compliance with external regulations
- Embrace and encourage digital transformation through information and awareness of disruptive technologies
- Oversee the implementation of IT solutions and the adoption of new supply chain technologies
- Influence and advise on financial resources (securing and raising) and appropriate deployment of financial resources (use of funds)
- Mitigate against and resolve transportation and logistics issues
- Proactively anticipate and troubleshoot day to day problems
- Implementation of track and trace solutions
- Execute strategy to ensure appropriate available and time critical resources
- Implement Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

Team

- Project Management: Deploy lean/sigma project methodology (Green Belt) in pursuing process improvements
- Guide internal or distributed teams
- Implement and align team and organisational vision and goals
- Develop professional business relationships with internal and external team members (suppliers, customers, remote teams, partners etc.)
- Implementation of designing, planning, executing, controlling and supervising supply chain activities
- Comply with strategic vision to ensure the organisation sustains competitive advantage and infrastructure, leverages international logistics and synchronises supply with demand
- Guide and contribute to team dynamic through sound moral, ethical, confidential, respectful and honest principles. Celebrate successes and ensure that credit falls where it is due
- Good communication and negotiation skills
- Knowledge of current organisational performance metrics and direct involvement in associated improvement actions

On successful completion of the proposed apprenticeship, a Supply Chain Specialist will:

Knowledge

Individual

- Have specialist knowledge and subject matter expert on one or more areas of forecasting and planning, purchasing, procurement, logistics, operations, inventory management, customer service, transport, distribution and warehousing
- Have a deep knowledge of Quality Management Systems, key business processes, the internal and external policies & procedures and the know-how to safeguard compliance with same
- Have a cognisance of digital transformation and disruptive technologies and ability to consult, research and implement transformation
- Have a solid understanding of financial and costing systems behind financial resources (securing and raising), appropriate deployment of financial resources (use of funds) and ability to influence same

Team

- Understand and influence team dynamic (internal or distributed)
 - Implement design, plan, execute, control and supervise supply chain activities
 - Have knowledge and compliance with strategic vision to ensure organisation sustains competitive advantage and infrastructure, leverages international logistics and synchronises supply with demand
 - Understand how to optimise team operational dynamics to achieve the organisational vision and strategic objectives
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Skills

Individual

- Have technical know-how to oversee the implementation of IT solutions and the adoption of new supply chain technologies
- Have specialist expertise to mitigate against and resolve operational (sourcing, transportation and logistics) issues
- Recognise, anticipate and ability to resolve day to day problems
- Implement and support (coach) process improvement initiatives
- Have the capability to implement, track and trace solutions
- Have the ability to implement new and existing Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives

Skills

(cont'd).

Team

- Know-how and experience to implement and align team and organisational vision and goals
- Have communication skills to interact with internal and external team members (suppliers, customers, remote teams, partners etc.)
- Implement design, plan, execute, control and supervise supply chain activities
- Have experience and know-how to guide and contribute to team dynamic through sound moral, ethical, confidential, respectful and honest principles
- Practice good communication and negotiation skills and facilitate two-way communication up and down the hierarchy

Competencies

- Exercise sound moral and ethical principles at work and respect for co-workers
- Demonstrate ability to improve personal awareness, sensitivity to others, and accountability
- Comply with confidential legal obligations and respect confidentiality of co-workers
- Be honest and open in communication to help foster effective relationships within and between co-workers
- Be flexible and responsive to the modern changing work environment and decision making
- Understand organisational behaviour and how to apply performance management interventions to enable positive engagement(s) and behaviour(s)
- Have the ability to deal with ambiguity and frustration
- Engage in supply chain collaboration and partnership (internal and external)

Industry/industries served by the apprenticeship

MedTech, Pharmaceutical, Support Services, Outsourcing, Engineering, Aviation, Healthcare, Technology, etc.

Proposed minimum entry requirements for apprentices on the programme

- Minimum requirements for a Supply Chain Specialist apprenticeship would typically be a NFQ Level 7 (Diploma or Ordinary Degree) in a relevant area and related disciplines
 - Applicants who have completed an NFQ Level 7 apprenticeship, in a cognate field, are also eligible to apply
 - The consortium will also facilitate recognition of prior learning (RPL) and will recognise candidates who have a lower qualification than Level 7, provided the applicant has considerable industrial experience and evidence of the ability to study at Honours Degree level
 - Also, modules taken under the auspices of Engineers Ireland, APICS SCC, and other providers of CPD programming could be accumulated to meet entry criteria
 - The normal University of Limerick progression pathway will be available to successful graduates of this programme, providing a pathway to Level 9 (Masters) in Supply Chain Management