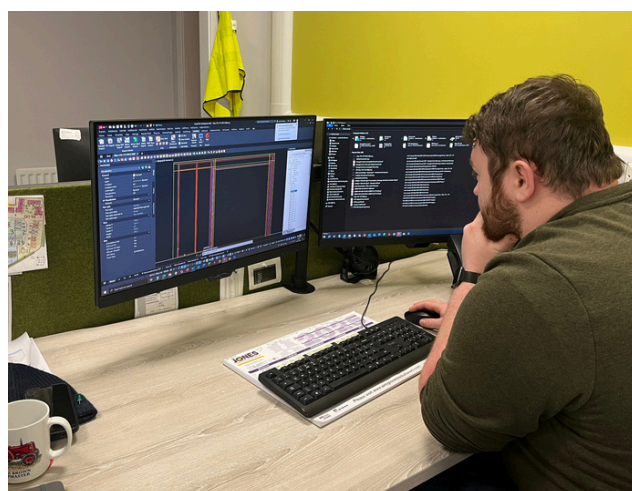


Western Building Systems

Western Building Systems have been recruiting Higher Level Apprentices for several years and have found the programme to be a valuable part of their workforce development strategy. They currently have higher level apprentices employed across key operational and professional areas of the business.

For Western Building Systems, Higher Level Apprentices bring a strong combination of academic learning and practical, on-the-job experience. They develop skills that are directly relevant to their business needs, while also gaining an understanding of their company culture from an early stage. HLAs help them build a skilled talent pipeline, improve staff retention, and support succession planning.



Western Building Systems have found SRC's support during recruitment very positive, with clear, timely communication and guidance on candidate selection and programme requirements.

They identify the ongoing support through regular check-ins with themselves and their apprentices as helpful in keeping HLAs on track and balancing their work and study.

Western Building Systems would 'strongly recommend' employing HLAs, saying, **'They offer a cost-effective way to develop skilled employees who are tailored to the needs of the business. HLAs are motivated, committed, and bring fresh perspectives while developing long-term careers within the organisation.'**

What the Higher Level Apprentices say:

Ryan Gorman – "I have gained valuable experience both in college and through my role as a Junior Quantity Surveyor at Western Building Systems. Working at Western has enhanced my skills, and I've learned a lot from my colleagues and mentor."

Maurice Hayden – "I am studying Technical Design and Manufacture at SRC, Newry, focusing on CAD and engineering design. As a Design Engineer at Western, I convert architectural plans into modular formats, creating wall layouts and production drawings. The work aligns perfectly with my studies, and the team has been very supportive. I believe the HLA pathway is the best approach, combining practical experience with academic learning for better career preparation."

