

# Vehicle Damage Panel Technician (ST0403) Level 3 Apprenticeship

## Overview

A Vehicle Damage Panel Technician works within the Collision Repair workshop, demonstrating expert working knowledge in relation to the removal, repair and replacement of vehicle body panels to vehicle manufacturer specification. The vehicles can include cars and light commercial vehicles. A technician is able to work independently and as part of a team following a defined process, using their skills to correctly identify the different body panel types and have the ability to use the correct repair tools to carry out the work to the highest possible standard. With motor vehicle technology changing all the time panel technicians keep up to date with the most relevant equipment and advanced repair techniques within the automotive industry. They do so by adhering to the

manufacturer's literature and modification bulletins. The equipment they use can include using jigs, resistance welding equipment, riveting and bonding tools, as well as new equipment such as Reinforced Plastic Carbon Fibre diagnostic ultrasound tools.

## Expected course duration

**39 months**

## College attendance

**TBC – depending on location, year and start**

## When can the apprentice start employment?

The apprentice can start employment anytime. However, if they are being employed as an apprentice, they cannot start employment until the apprenticeship starts.

## When can the apprenticeship training start?

September 2025.

## Course content

### Knowledge

- Motor vehicle chassis and body alignment, e.g. underbody measurement and its impact on suspension and steering geometry
- Vehicle body types, panel identification, safety systems, materials and alternative fuel
- Use of Body Panel Repair tools, equipment and devices used in the process e.g. alignment jigs, resistance welding equipment, riveting and bonding tools
- Removal and replacement of body panels and associated parts e.g. mechanically fixed components, chemically fixed components

- Interpretation of technical data for joining techniques and replacement panels
- Quality control process and the implications of poor quality
- Knowledge of key process for vehicle panel repair such as Welding utilising either Tungsten, Inert Gas (TIG) and Metal, Inert Gas (MIG) & brazing along with spot welding, riveting utilising self-piercing rivets and utilising panel adhesive bonding as specified by the manufacturer
- Health & Safety and compliance requirements of the bodyshop industry
- Their direct commercial productivity and efficiency impact of their role within the whole repair process. E.g, understanding the cost of mistakes and the need for accuracy. The impact of rework on resources and reputation.

## Skills

- Ability to undertake appropriate job preparation prior to commencing repair, including safety precautions, panel preparation and body measurements.
- Ability to identify the material used in the construction to enable the correct joining techniques and manufacturer specifications to be adhered to.
- Ability to interpret relevant technical data and methods to make sure that any joints are in line with vehicle manufacturer specification and the vehicle/body panels are aligned correctly.
- Ability to identify and understand the correct joining technology, e.g. when to use resistance spot welding or mig brazing or bonding.
- Ability to remove, repair and replace vehicle body panels and components of the vehicle safely and efficiently
- Ability to identify and operate the correct repair tools, equipment and devices used in the process, panel pulling systems, jig and alignment tools, spot welders, brazing tools.
- Ability to identify and communicate supplementary damage such as panels that were deemed to be reparable but once worked on were found to be beyond repair along with damage that could not be established on original inspection.
- Ability to detect and rectify faults within a vehicles structure that's integral to its safety

## Behaviours

- Use all the knowledge and skills developed to carry out tasks in a safe and efficient manner, complying with all business operating procedures and policies
- Operate as an effective team member and take responsibility, be honest and accountable when things go wrong, tracking their own progress and informing others if deadlines are at risk
- Proactively find opportunities to learn about the wider business.
- Commitment to customer service and meeting deadlines by being flexible with their time and willingness to engage on tasks outside of their job role to ensure goals are met
- Take responsibility for personal and professional development, keeping knowledge and skills up to date with emerging technology to perform the role effectively

- Anticipate problems and put steps in place to avoid them, where problems do occur explore and address the cause
- Demonstrate the ability to effectively communicate

## Entry requirements

Candidates should demonstrate an interest in the occupation as well as an ability to work in an organised and methodical way to identify and solve problems; also demonstrate an ability to communicate both orally and in writing to a level 3 standard. Candidates will also need to have some industry experience or a level 2 qualification in this area.

Apprentices will need a minimum of level 1 in Maths and English. Apprentices without level 2 English and maths will need to achieve this level prior to taking their apprenticeship end-point assessment.

## What training is required in the workplace?

Employers need to ensure they can provide regular weekly exposure to all of the skills and behaviours set out in the standard.

## Assessment methods

- Portfolio
- Knowledge test
- Professional discussion
- Skills test

## Further study and career options

Students completing this apprenticeship will be fully qualified to work in the industry.

## Additional information

### Equipment

Steel toe cap boots, overalls or work wear.

## Campuses

This course is available at our Bedford College, Brunel Road Campus.

## Further details

For more information, please visit here:

<https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/vehicle-damage-panel-technician-v1-2>

## How to apply

Through the apprenticeship vacancy page of our website:

<https://bedfordcollegegroup.ac.uk/study/apprenticeships/apprenticeship-vacancies/>

and the national apprenticeship website:

<https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/>