

Forestry Operations New Entrants Programme

Overview

The Forestry Operations New Entrants Programme is a collaborative initiative between Aviva Investors, Par Equity, and Scottish Woodlands, with training administered by the Scottish School of Forestry, UHI Inverness. This fully funded and comprehensive programme is designed to equip new entrants with essential skills and knowledge for a successful career in the forestry industry. The programme spans five weeks and covers a wide range of topics, ensuring participants gain both practical and theoretical knowledge, whilst being introduced to prospective employers during the course.

Course Content

The course provides a comprehensive understanding of forestry operations over five weeks at the Scottish School of Forestry in Inverness. It covers topics relevant to starting out in the forest industry, such as emergency first aid, establishment operations, pesticide use, ATV training, brushcutter/trimmer training, fencing, risk assessment and site surveys. There will be a section to support you in building an effective CV, interview skills, and an opportunity to meet prospective employers, with a view to allowing candidates to secure employment following the course.

Location and Key Dates

Training will be run on-site the Scottish School of Forestry in Inverness and accommodation can be provided free of charge to candidates as part of the programme.

Candidates will need to be available in Inverness for a 5-week block from Monday 2nd March 2026.

Candidates

Candidates should be physically fit and at least 18 years old. Whilst you do not require previous training, experience or qualifications to apply, you may have previous experience in the agriculture, farming, or contracting roles. We are seeking candidates who are highly motivated, enthusiastic, driven, reliable and adaptable. The course is likely to suit you if you're looking to start a career within the forestry sector.

Join us to gain the knowledge and skills needed to excel as a forestry operative and contribute effectively to sustainable forest management.

Why Join the Forestry New Entrants Programme?

Benefits: Course costs including assessments, where required, accommodation, essential PPE and kit will be fully funded, including a living wage stipend for the time you are attending the course.

Comprehensive Training: Gain essential skills in first aid, tree planting, maintenance, fencing, and site survey.

Core Qualifications: Earn key qualifications such as Emergency First Aid at Work plus Forestry, Pesticides PA1/PA6, ATV, and Brushcutter.

Career Prospects: Enhance your career prospects with training in key employment skills and opportunities to connect with industry professionals as part of the course.

Sustainable Forest Management: Contribute effectively to sustainable forest management and make a positive impact on the environment.



Nora Aubry

"This opportunity is incredible. I've got hands-on experience in a very supportive and supervised environment. I would encourage anyone to sign up!"

Nora Aubry, Graduate from the Forestry Operations New Entrants Programme.

Closing date for applications is 9th January 2026. Interviews commence week of 19th January. To apply, please visit this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ForestryOperationsApplication>