



Ollscoil  
Teicneolaíochta  
an Atlantaigh

Atlantic  
Technological  
University

## Sligo Campus



# Tool Maker

## What is a Toolmaker?

A Toolmaker is a skilled worker who produces and maintains precision tools used in the production of metal, plastic and other materials of all shapes and sizes. The work of a toolmaker involves interpreting drawings and technical data to machine and assemble jigs, fixtures, moulding tools, dies and punches. Care and attention to detail and high precision are the hallmark of toolmaking.

Toolmakers work to high specifications and quality requirements to produce machine tools used in manufacturing. Manufacturing industries use the tools to make a diverse range of parts and products. Toolmakers also make moulds to form shapes, jigs to guide cutters or hold a part in place, and dies, which are shaped blocks that are used to cut, stamp or press materials. Toolmakers require many skills including:

- Accuracy with measurements and calculations
- Ability to interpret engineering drawings to plan the production of a given part or product in accordance with manufacturers specifications
- Operating a range of milling and boring machinery, lathes and CNC equipment in the manufacture of parts and products based on the drawings specified
- Assembling of manufactured parts ensuring correct and accurate assembly of finished components
- Use of a range of hand and power tools
- Testing finished product and assessing for accuracy in accordance with specified drawings
- Implementing all relevant health and safety legislation in their work practices
- Use of manufacturing machinery and measuring equipment

Craft Apprenticeships: Outline of Apprenticeship Stages

## Apprenticeship Phases

### On-The-Job

with Employer



### Off-The-Job

in Training Centre or Educational College

Total duration of Apprenticeship Qualification is on average 4 years

On successful completion you will be a fully qualified Toolmaking craftsman with a QQI level 6 advanced craft certificate qualification.

There are wonderful opportunities for those interested in progressing their career following completion of their apprenticeship. For more information on opportunities of progression here in ATU Sligo login in to [www.atusligo.ie](http://www.atusligo.ie)