



CASE STUDY

Niall is completing his apprenticeship with Dalton Roofing and Leeds College of Building. He started his apprenticeship aged 17 and although it was a change, he says it was a positive step into a new learning environment that allows him to develop skills and grow professionally.

**DALTON
ROOFING**

OVERVIEW

To celebrate National Apprenticeship Week 2026, NFRC invited our members to spotlight their apprentices, share their story, and tell us more about the importance of apprenticeships and what they have to offer.



BACKGROUND

Roofing has always been a part of my life from as far back as I can remember and I have always wanted to be part of the roofing industry and be part of the family business.

Once I finished school, the next steps in my plan were to start a roofing apprenticeship which I have done, having an apprenticeship is helping me learn all the theory and technical skills of roofing.

APPRENTICE SPOTLIGHT: NIALL

HOW DID YOU GET STARTED IN ROOFING?

I started my apprenticeship at 17 when I left secondary school and it was a massive change for me as at first it was a challenge being it was my first time working so it was different from how school taught us.

At school you have to follow a set curriculum but at work I chose to be there, and I wanted to learn about roofing, and it was all focused-on roofing which engaged me a lot more than traditional learning.

But this change was positive but a challenge at first as it was a new start from me, meeting and working with new people, who were strangers to me, but once I spoke to everyone, they were all amazing and really nice to me which made me a lot more comfortable.

I am currently focusing on learning about tiling and slating and learning the gauges of these materials for the battens and how to do precise cuts on these materials with hand tools.

The one-to-one help that we receive on the rigs at the yard and on-site experience really helps and works well alongside my college learning, every day I feel more and more confident.

After I have finished my apprenticeship, I want to keep on learning about the roofing industry and keep on practicing my skills.

APPRENTICE SPOTLIGHT: NIALL

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS AND ADVANTAGES OF DOING AN APPRENTICESHIP?

I think roofing is an amazing career path as the roofing industry has so many different types of materials you can use and learn about like plain tiles, slate and more technical materials like random diminishing stone slate.

As well as this there are the positive benefits of physical exercise which help keep you healthy and help best your mental health as you are being physically active, as well as being outside having fresh air and especially when you are working in the countryside like the Peak District you see some amazing places and views.

As well as this Dalton roofing is a friendly place to work. Everybody there is nice to work with, and everyone is treated equally.

At Dalton Roofing, we have a dedicated training room and training rigs which we train on, on a weekly basis with our Site Manager Paul.

Paul helps us in any areas that we have come across where we require more training on, and he helps us and passes on his knowledge and techniques that he has learnt over the years of roofing. This is a great help to me and the other apprentices, as we well as receiving training from college.

APPRENTICE SPOTLIGHT: NIALL

WHAT HAS BEEN A HIGHLIGHT OF YOUR CAREER SO FAR, AND WHAT'S NEXT?

In my career so far I have been a finalist in the BMI apprentice of the year 2025 which was an amazing experience it allowed me to learn about roofing from all over the country as some of the other finalists were from Scotland and Newcastle where the roofing industry is slightly different in those parts of the country as the weather conditions are different.

This helped me further my knowledge and career as I learnt a lot about the theory side of roofing and things like planning before jobs and having good connections within industry.

I plan to pass my EPA at Leeds college of building so I am a qualified roofer and then I will continue my training at Dalton Roofing, and they have agreed to send me on more courses like lead welding and lead bossing which will further improve my knowledge and skills.

BENEFITS OF AN APPRENTICESHIP

In this section, we invite employers to share any additional information about their apprentices.

Niall is one of two apprentices working at Leeds College of Building. We were delighted to receive extremely positive feedback on the apprentices' progress from their tutors at College.

The tutors spoke highly of their practical skills and technical knowledge, noting that they demonstrate a strong understanding of roofing principles and consistently apply best practice on site.

Particular praise was given to the apprentices' portfolios, which were described as well-structured, detailed, and reflective of a high standard of work.

As a business, we are incredibly pleased and proud of our apprentices. Their enthusiasm, dedication, and genuine willingness to learn stand out, and they continue to show a strong commitment to developing their skills and progressing within the roofing industry.