

PPG Apprenticeships



We talk to Karen Spencer, HR Manager at PPG and Amelia Liptrot, Quality Control Technician Apprentice, about what apprenticeships bring to their business and the apprenticeship experience.

The Employer Perspective: Karen Spencer, HR Manager

Q. How has your organisation benefitted from recruiting apprentices?

Karen:

It has provided an opportunity to bring new ideas into the business. In addition, it allows us to apply the latest thinking into the business that is being taught to the apprentices. Employing apprentices reduces costs to the business and helps to improve productivity.



Karen Spencer

Q. What advice would you give to other businesses who are thinking about recruiting apprentices?

Karen:

Whenever you have a vacancy consider can it be filled by an apprentice. Identify your local apprenticeship providers and build a network that can support you through the process. It is a great way of bringing fresh ideas into your business, reducing costs and increasing productivity. It's also a great way of offering jobs to people in your local area.

The Apprentice Perspective:

Amelia Liptrot, Quality Control Technician Apprentice

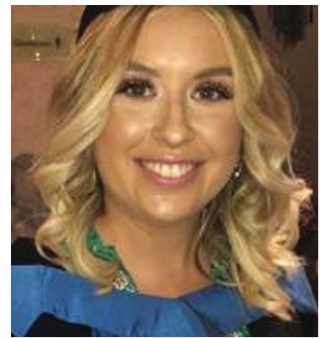


Q. How did you find out about your apprenticeship?

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I completed access to an HE course in science and had an unconditional offer at the University of Liverpool to study Chemistry and a place at UCLAN for Pharmacy. Then I heard about STEM apprenticeships at a careers event & looked at the direct gov website whilst continuing access to HE course. I found Cogent Skills, a learning provider who specialise in STEM apprenticeships. I applied for the opening at PPG as a Quality Control Technician. I completed apprenticeship and EPA in September 2019.

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Amelia Liptrot

Q. What's being an Apprentice like?

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Being an apprentice has its major benefits, since leaving college I have been paid to learn and develop my skills in a career I truly enjoy. I have had great opportunities to succeed as a Quality Control Technician gaining experience and knowledge that you can only find in a professional workplace. This includes health and safety requirements, behavioural expectations and how to work well within a team. Meeting new people every day and forming bonds within departments is rewarding and you access vast amounts of knowledge about the business. At times being an apprentice is challenging. You need to be organised and motivated. One day your manager may expect you to complete X amount of work. However, that may be your allocated study day, so communication is key. Ensure your workload is discussed with your team so you don't become overwhelmed with work and studying.

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Q. What advice would you give to someone who is thinking about becoming an apprentice?

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Take the leap. As a practical, hands on, worker this was the best decision I have ever made. I have learnt so much about the 'real' workplace by getting involved and tackling challenges that you may not see at university. It has made me a more confident worker and I have developed my career successfully, Don't lose your voice and make sure you're heard and respected as a person and worker.

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