

Royal Air Force Museum short-listed for National Apprenticeship Award

The Royal Air Force Museum has beaten off competition from hundreds of entrants to be short-listed for the London final of the National Apprenticeship Awards 2014.

The Museum is nominated in “*The Nuclear Decommissioning Site Licence Companies Medium Employer of the Year (25 – 249 employees)*” category.

The Museum tells the stories of the RAF and its people from its origins to today by displaying aircraft, weapons and vehicles. It does this by interpreting the hidden and often very personal stories of Service personnel in order to retell their stories today and to preserve them for the future. In 2005 the Museum began engineering apprenticeships at the **Michael Beetham Conservation Centre** at its Cosford site in the West Midlands specifically to preserve Heritage Aviation Hand Skills; it has also offered apprenticeships in Fabrication and Welding as well as Carpentry - all in partnership with City of Wolverhampton College.

More recently at its London site the Museum recruited apprentices to develop skills in motor vehicle engineering frameworks, in partnership with Barnet & Southgate College.

The Museum is currently designing new apprenticeships to help support its First World War projects as preparation for a programme of commemoration and celebration for the RAF Centenary in 2018. This nomination is in recognition of the Museums work with apprentices across all sites.

The National Apprenticeship Awards, now in their eleventh year, celebrate the achievements of the country’s most outstanding apprentices and Apprenticeship employers. The award winners will be announced at a ceremony organised by the National Apprenticeship Service which will be held at City Hall on 23rd September 2014.

Sue Husband, Executive Director Apprenticeships and Delivery at the Skills Funding Agency said:

“Apprenticeships are thriving in England, and it’s not hard to see why. They offer ambitious young people and adults unrivalled career prospects, and give businesses an exceptional route to grow a highly qualified and motivated workforce.”

The National Apprenticeship Awards recognise the best of the best and are an excellent opportunity for individuals and employers to gain the credit they richly deserve for investing in their own futures. I am delighted that the Royal Air Force Museum has been short-listed, and would like to congratulate them on this success. All of the finalists should be extremely proud of their achievements.”

All the London winners will proceed through to a final national judging stage and the highest scoring Apprenticeship employer entries nationally will have the additional honour of featuring in the acclaimed England’s Top 100 Apprenticeship Employers list, which will be produced by the National Apprenticeship Service in partnership with City & Guilds.

The national award winners will be revealed during an awards ceremony at the National Exhibition Centre (NEC) in Birmingham on the 13 November 2014.

The National Apprenticeship Awards are sponsored by BAE Systems, BT, City & Guilds, Learndirect, Nuclear Decommissioning Site Licence Companies and Unilever.

The London awards ceremony will be supported by the Greater London Authority and Veolia.

Visit www.apprenticeships.org.uk or call 08000 150 600 to find out more about Apprenticeships.

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Note to editors

For more information on the National Apprenticeship Awards please contact

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About the National Apprenticeship Award

The National Apprenticeship Service challenged the nation's top Apprenticeship employers and apprentices to come forward and show how Apprenticeships have made a real difference to them. Now in their eleventh year, the National Apprenticeship Awards are an opportunity to highlight the many success stories and the benefits of Apprenticeships.

For the fourth year running the very best employer category entries will have the additional bonus of featuring in the prestigious annual Top 100 Apprenticeship Employers list.

The award categories are:

Apprenticeship Employer categories

- Small Employer of the Year (1 – 24 employees)
- The Nuclear Decommissioning Site Licence Companies Medium Employer of the Year (25 – 249 employees)
- The BAE systems Large Employer of the Year (250 – 4,999 employees)
- The BT Macro Employer of the Year (5,000+ employees)
- Newcomer SME of the Year (up to 249 employees)
- Newcomer Large Employer of the Year (250+ employees)

Apprenticeship Individual categories

- The Learndirect Intermediate Level Apprentice of the Year
- Advanced Level Apprentice of the Year
- The Unilever Higher Apprentice of the Year
- The City & Guilds Apprenticeship Champion of the Year

National Apprenticeship Service

The National Apprenticeship Service supports, funds and co-ordinates the delivery of Apprenticeships and Traineeships throughout England.

They are responsible for increasing the number of Apprenticeship and Traineeship opportunities and providing a dedicated, responsive service for both employers and learners. This includes simplifying the process of recruiting an apprentice or trainee through Apprenticeship vacancies, an online system where employers can advertise their vacancies and potential apprentices or trainees can apply.

A Traineeship is an education and training programme with a work placement that is focused on giving young people the skills and experience that employers are looking for. At its core are work preparation training, English and maths for those who need it, and a high quality work experience placement.

Traineeships are for young people aged 16 to 23 who are motivated to get a job but who lack the skills and experience that employers are looking for. Traineeships prepare young people for their future careers by helping them to become 'work ready'. They give young people the skills and experience to be able to compete for an Apprenticeship or other job.

Traineeships are a stepping stone to future success for young people, businesses and the wider economy.

Visit apprenticeships.org.uk or call 08000 150 600 to find out more.

The Skills Funding Agency

The Skills Funding Agency is a partner organisation of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS). Its job is to fund and promote adult further education (FE) and skills training in England, including Traineeships and Apprenticeships, in a way which supports economic growth. The Agency delivers £4.1 billion of skills training through contracts with over 1,000 colleges, private training organisations and employers, with a highly effective supply chain that means FE meets local need in the most cost-effective way.

Within the Skills Funding Agency, there are two customer-facing services: the National Apprenticeship Service, which is responsible for increasing the number of Traineeship and Apprenticeship opportunities, and the National Careers Service, which provides impartial careers information, advice and guidance online, by telephone or face-to-face.

The Royal Air Force Museum:

- www.rafmuseum.org
- First World War In the Air opens December 2014
- Follow us on Facebook – The Royal Air Force Museum
- Follow us on Twitter – @RAFMUSEUM
- Follow us on Instagram – rafmuseum
- Open daily from 10am
- Admission to the Royal Air Force Museum is free of charge.
- RAF Museum images & logo available at:
 - <http://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/research/media-vault.aspx>
- For further information and all media enquiries please contact
 - LONDON - Ajay Srivastava on 020 8358 6410 or email: ajay@rafmuseum.org
 - COSFORD – Michelle Morgans on 01902 376212 or email michelle.morgans@rafmuseum.org
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