HIGHER APPRENTICESHIP IN AGRICULTURE

This programme is suitable for people already working in agriculture who are involved in business decision making or are at junior management level, with the skills and competence to take on more of a managerial role within the business.

EMPLOYERS

Apprenticeships can help businesses across all sectors by offering a route to harness fresh new talent. They ensure that your workforce has the practical skills and the qualifications your organisation needs now and in the future. The mixture of on and off job learning ensures they learn the skills that work best for your business.

Over 130,000 companies offer apprentice places because they understand the benefits that apprentices bring to their business – increased productivity, improved competitiveness and a committed and competent workforce. If you don’t have an apprentice in mind but you would like to offer an apprenticeship please get in touch as we are able to help you find the right person.

At Askham Bryan College we also offer work-based programmes at Levels 1, 2 and 3 in addition to the Level 4 Higher Apprenticeship.

IMPROVE YOUR BOTTOM LINE

Apprenticeships deliver real returns to your bottom line. In a recent survey*, the majority of employers said that Apprenticeships helped them to improve productivity and to be more competitive. They also said that training apprentices is more cost effective than hiring skilled staff, leading to lower overall training and recruitment costs.

Apprenticeships deliver skills designed around your business needs. They also help you develop the specialist skills you need to keep pace with the latest technology and working practices in your sector. Employers in the Populus survey said they relied on their Apprenticeship programmes to provide the skilled workers they need for the future.

*Apprenticeships, survey conducted by Populus on behalf of the Learning and Skills Council, February 2009.
WHAT IT ENTAILS

The programme includes general business skills such as financial, staff and resource planning in addition to more enterprise-specific skills such as fertiliser planning, monitoring and evaluating crop management, planning and evaluating livestock breeding and feeding programmes. All of the units require the learner to show that they can put their skills into practice in their own workplace.

THE PROGRAMME INCLUDES:

- Level 4 Diploma in Work-based Agricultural Business Management
- Level 4 Certificate in Project Management for Land-Based Industries
- Level 2 Functional Skills Maths and English

The programme is studied part-time and takes 24-30 months. Whilst learners will be taught both livestock and crop modules they will follow a pathway that is appropriate to their requirements at their place of work.

This programme is studied on a combination of day-release and block-release from November – May.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Applicants are required to have a Level 3 qualification in Agriculture and GCSE Maths and English at Grade C, or equivalent qualifications, however people who have significant UK agriculture industry experience (3-5 years) may also be suitable. In all cases learners must be employed within suitable agricultural businesses and be involved in decision making.

UNITS TO BE STUDIED

All Higher Apprentices will study these general business units:

- Managing your own professional development in an organisation
- Prepare a plan for your business
- Produce a plan for your business
- Make changes to improve a business
- Estimate the financial needs of your business
- Improve the financial performance of a business

There is then the opportunity to specialise in more specific crops and livestock units:

- Plan and maintain the provision of livestock replacements
- Plan, manage and evaluate site hygiene and biosecurity
- Plan, monitor and evaluate the nutrition of monogastrics
- Plan, manage and evaluate breeding programmes
- Plan and manage the health and welfare of livestock
- Plant nutrients and fertiliser planning
- Plan, monitor and evaluate the management of crops
- Plan and manage the harvesting, transportation and storage of crops
- Plan and manage the control of weeds, pests and diseases

CURRENT COHORT

The majority of the current 24 Higher Apprentices have come through the Level 2 and Advanced Apprenticeship programmes, and so have at least 3-5 years’ agricultural experience. The Higher Apprenticeship programme is studied at two centres with the livestock route being studied at our Thirsk Centre and the crop route being studied at our York Campus.

Askham Bryan College is currently the only college in the North of England which offers this route into Agricultural Management. All of our Apprenticeship Programmes have learners who come from far and wide including County Durham, North Yorkshire Moors, Leeds, Huddersfield, Newark, Settle, Rotherham and Wakefield.

Please get in touch to find out more information or if you or your employer is eligible for funding.