FCDO Services

APPRENTICE

Engineering Technician

If you're ready to open up all kinds of possibilities for your future, then look no further. For school-leavers, career-changers, and people who just want to progress their skills, this apprenticeship offers a competitive salary; fully funded and well-respected training; and the chance to work with government-level customers on cutting-edge engineering projects that keep people safe and information secure around the world.

What kind of projects, exactly? Well, it could be installing a sophisticated CCTV system in a new embassy, or advanced intruder detection equipment in a particularly volatile region. Perhaps you'll prevent and detect technical eavesdropping attacks, or help design the next generation of security products. Whatever you do, you'll be protecting the UK's interests at home and overseas – so they're the kind of projects that just can't fail. With a mix of practical experience, formal study, and even the chance to work overseas, we think it's fair to say: your future just got bigger.

YOUR PROGRAMME

First year

If successful, you'll start your apprenticeship with us and attend a local college on a full-time basis. During college breaks, you'll work at our offices in Hanslope Park, where you'll join teams across the organisation, helping you put your learning into action on live projects.

Once you finish your college course the following year, you'll return to Hanslope Park. This time, as well as beginning a programme of placements, you'll also complete a number of in-house courses, teaching you essential practical skills for your profession. These include basic telephony, technical security and radio transmission principles – skills you'll use to help us protect the nation's security every day.

KEY FACTS

- Level 3 apprenticeship
- Based at Hanslope Park, Milton Keynes
- Starting salary: £14,884 plus £1,750 location allowance
- Salary upon qualification could be in the region of £24,500
- 39-month programme – with a potential career at the end
- Combination of practical work and study
- First nine months spent studying full-time, learning theoretical and practical elements of engineering
- Applicants need:
  - Min. four GCSEs (or equivalent, e.g. O Levels) at grade 9-4 (A*–C) in Maths, English, and either Science (preferably Physics) or a technical-based subject such as Engineering or Product Design
  - A genuine interest in engineering and technology
  - British citizenship, having lived in the UK for the last three years before the first day of the apprenticeship, and for at least five of the last ten years
  - To be at least 16 years old by mid June 2021
- Candidates will need to undergo Security Check (SC) clearance before joining, and Developed Vetting (DV) clearance shortly after joining
- Candidates will need to undergo a colour blindness test if you reach assessment centre stage, since distinguishing between different colours of electrical wire will be a critical part of your role.

YOUR FUTURE JUST GOT **BIGGER**

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Whilst at college, you'll study the following modules:

Development Knowledge

Modules include:

- Health and safety
- Maths and further maths for technicians
- Mechanical principles
- Electrical and electronic engineering
- Engineering drawing
- Programmable logic controllers
- Principles and applications of electronic devices and circuits
- Electronic testing and measurements

Foundation Competence

Modules include:

- Wiring and testing electrical circuits and equipment
- Maintaining electronic equipment and systems
- Assembling, wiring and testing electrical panels and components mounted in enclosures

Development Competence

Modules include:

- Complying with statutory regulations and organisational safety requirements
- Using and interpreting engineering data and documentation
- Using and communicating technical information
- Working efficiently and effectively in advanced manufacturing and engineering

Functional Skills

- IT, Maths and English (exemptions possible depending on your GCSE grades)

Second year

Your second year is where you'll start to really get to grips with the practical side of your role, helping us deliver projects in the UK – with the potential to travel overseas too. Through work placements around our business and relevant in-house training, you'll experience the sheer breadth of what we do.

Wherever you're placed though, one thing is guaranteed: you'll be a crucial part of an experienced team, learning new skills first-hand from our expert technical security colleagues. They'll support you to build on a range of abilities – how to install and maintain a wide variety of security systems, for instance – and you'll learn about the work of our counter-eavesdropping experts too.

At the same time, you'll begin working towards your Level 3 Development Knowledge. It's an evidence-based qualification, so you'll need to document your practical experience too – and you'll have plenty of that to write about. You'll provide evidence through your written reports, and your assessor will track your progress and support you throughout the course.

Third to fourth year

Between your third and fourth year, you'll continue to explore our organisation through a programme of placements. You'll be moving towards professional status by now, building the skills and experience you need to pass the End Point Assessment. We'll support you at every step, and if you pass your apprenticeship, we'll help you look at your options when it comes to permanent positions within the organisation.

Apprenticeships

disability confident EMPLOYER

It takes a diverse team to protect a diverse world.

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COMPLETING YOUR APPRENTICESHIP – AND BEYOND

If you successfully complete the apprenticeship, you'll have gathered the following qualifications along the way:

Level 3 apprenticeship

- Level 2 Diploma in Advanced Manufacturing Engineering (Foundation Competence)
- Level 3 Diploma in Advanced Manufacturing Engineering – Technical Support (Development Competence)
- Level 3 Diploma or Extended Diploma in Advanced Manufacturing Engineering (Development Knowledge)

With all this under your belt, you'll have the opportunity to progress your membership with the Institution of Engineering and Technology, gaining respected professional status in your new industry.

But where to next? Once you've completed your apprenticeship, you'll have a range of options to make your future bigger.

You could:

- Work in our Technical Services Centre, installing a broad range of protective systems worldwide
- Work as part of our National Authority for Counter-Eavesdropping (UK NACE), preventing and detecting technical eavesdropping attacks
- Work as a Secure Technical Services Officer (STSO), living and working in a number of diverse locations overseas for up to four years. This role involves supporting IT, radio and telephony systems, protective security equipment as well as providing technical advice and onsite support
- Work in our Innovation and Design centre researching and designing the next generation of security products.

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