

# COMPOSITES TECHNICIAN APPRENTICESHIP



## SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMPOSITE TECHNICIAN APPRENTICESHIP

With the growth in composites manufacturing in the UK set to go from £2.3 billion in 2015 to £4.7 billion by 2020 and £12.5 billion by 2030, the Trailblazer Apprenticeship will help address the skills shortages in the medium and longer term, helping companies with work-force planning for their future growth.

The approval by Government of the Composites Technician Apprenticeship is a significant milestone and companies can now train apprentices on composites part manufacture. The training programme has been designed and developed by industry to provide the apprentice with a broad understanding of all elements of composites manufacture. This will enable cross-industry movement of people in the future.

There are 8 mandatory units:

- Understand employer health and safety policy (including statutory regulations)
- Interpret engineering data and work instructions
- Work effectively and efficiently – (including BIT)
- An understanding of materials
- An understanding of processes – (including tooling)
- An understanding of product design and applications
- An understanding of defects and detection in composites
- Production of a part using a hand-lay up technique

In addition, there are 14 optional units which enable the trainee to focus on specific areas and gain a deeper understanding in the specific operations the company requires:

- Producing parts using prepreg materials
- Producing parts using wet layup techniques
- Producing parts using resin infusion and resin transfer moulding techniques
- Producing parts using hot press techniques
- Producing parts using automated processes
- Composites assemblies
- Machining, trimming and finishing
- Repair techniques
- Tooling
- Curing and consolidation
- Maths for engineers
- Mechanical principles and applications
- Computer aided drafting in engineering
- Applications of computer numeric control

The number of the optional units will be increased as industry demand dictates and new processes and materials are developed.

With up to £27k of funding per apprentice available, there is now significant support for companies to train new recruits as well as re-skill existing employees. Full funding is available to companies employing fewer than 50 employees.

If you would like more information or would like to know which colleges are offering the apprenticeship, please contact Brian Thornton, Program Coordinator, at the National Composites Centre on [brian.thornton@nccuk.com](mailto:brian.thornton@nccuk.com).

**Website:** [www.compositesuk.co.uk/apprenticeships](http://www.compositesuk.co.uk/apprenticeships)