



Defence Weapons Degree Apprenticeship Scheme

This is a unique opportunity to be involved in the UK Ministry of Defence Weapons Programmes

Defence Equipment and Support is a bespoke trading entity, and arm's length body of the Ministry of Defence.

We manage a vast range of complex projects to buy and support all of the equipment and services that the Royal Navy, British Army and Royal Air Force need to operate effectively.

Cutting edge engineering is a critical component in supporting this effort, with modern battle winning forces being necessary to defend the UK's interests and to contribute to strengthening international peace and security.

As a DE&S Weapons Degree Engineering Apprentice you will be part of the team responsible for providing the UK's Armed Forces with battle winning weapons, ordnance, munitions and explosives.

Successful applicants will undertake a comprehensive framework of practical and academic training, including a foundation degree and full degree for individuals with the greatest potential.

Apprentices will also complete a number of work based training placements and defence specific weapons training at various locations within the UK - while completing relevant vocational qualifications in preparation for engineering roles within the MOD Current and Future Weapons Programmes

Entry requirements

5 GCES at grade C to A* or Grades 4 – 9 including English, Mathematics and Science / Engineering subject.

Plus

3 A Levels including Mathematics, science or other related engineering subject, plus one other.

Grades typically expected are B B C or

A National Diploma in engineering at typically at Distinction * Distinction * Level (minimum 112 UCAS Points under the new system)

Selection process

Following an initial sift candidates will be called for:

Functional Skills numeracy, literacy, electrical, mechanical engineering and general logic aptitude tests.

The top performers from these tests will be taken forward to an assessment process involving leadership, team working and practical problem solving challenges

Success at the assessment day will be followed by formal interview.

Successful candidates will be offered a place on the apprenticeship subject to obtaining satisfactory grades, references, security and health checks.

Additional guidance will be given before each stage of the process.

Potential candidates should note that, as this apprenticeship is a pilot scheme, some elements may subject to alteration.



Following Freshers' Week and induction to the college, workshops, and DE&S, you will spend a few days getting to know your fellow apprentices while enjoying a range of challenging team building activities.

Phase 1 – Year 1

Attendance at University College Weston in Somerset to complete National Vocational Qualification NVQ Level 2 Performing Engineering Operations (practical workshop experience including hand and machining skills, mechanical and electrical) and Commence Foundation Degree FD Engineering (mechatronics with either an electrical or mechanical bias)

Note the completion of the FDS allows us to enjoy greater flexibility in the subjects you will study.

Also note that many of our degree apprentices enjoy the use of the college halls of residence during the first year of fulltime study.

Phase 2 - Years 2 and 3

Complete your foundation degree part time at the University of West of England UWE while undertaking work based placements. Your placements will be selected to provide you with much of the experience that you will need to, eventually, take on a role within the business. These placements will also provide you with the evidence that you will require to complete the NVQ Level 4 in Engineering Manufacture. The placements are based in Bristol, and other UK based MOD and industry teams, and will introduce you to some of the many varied areas of the business. You will be working alongside experienced project managers and engineers working on real projects and you may be expected to spend significant time away from Bristol.

End of Phase 2 Assessment

Congratulations! At this point you should be qualified and experienced to a level that allows you to be registered with a Professional Engineering Institution as an Engineering Technician (EngTech). For some this will be the end of the apprenticeship and, potentially, you will start work within the business.

However, for some, and hopefully all, you will have shown yourself to have the aptitude, attitude and desire to continue into Phase 3.

Phase 3 - Years 4 and 5

A further 2 years of study will see you complete a part time degree in engineering BEng through the UWE. At the same time, you will continue to move around the business gaining further knowledge and experience to prepare yourself for registration as an Incorporated Engineer (I Eng).

Bespoke Training

Years 2 to 5 will also include a range of defence weapons specific courses that are expected to provide credits towards your degree – and will also provide you with knowledge of technologies that, in many cases, are unique to the UK Armed Forces.

Subjects covered may include:

Fuses, Ballistics, Weapons Systems Technology, Ammunition Systems, Introduction to Guided Weapons, Light Weapons Design, Propellants and Explosives, RADAR and Sensor, Integration of Weapons and Vehicles.

After Qualifying

Few apprenticeships come with a guarantee of permanent employment at the end. However, DE&S has an exceptional record of finding challenging and rewarding jobs for successful apprentices - and the good news is this is only the start of your career! Many of our ex- apprentices continue their studies with more specialised training - and perhaps even a Master's Degree in explosives and ordnance, while at the same time gaining promotion.

Help and Support

Make no mistake, this apprenticeship will challenge you and you will need to apply yourself diligently in order to succeed. However, you will be supported all the way by a dedicated manager who will support you throughout your apprenticeship. You will also have assistance from an independent training assessor and a whole host of experienced and knowledgeable placement supervisors. As well as end point assessments, you will be assessed and reviewed on a very regular basis - to ensure that you are making the progress we expect in both your academic and vocational studies.