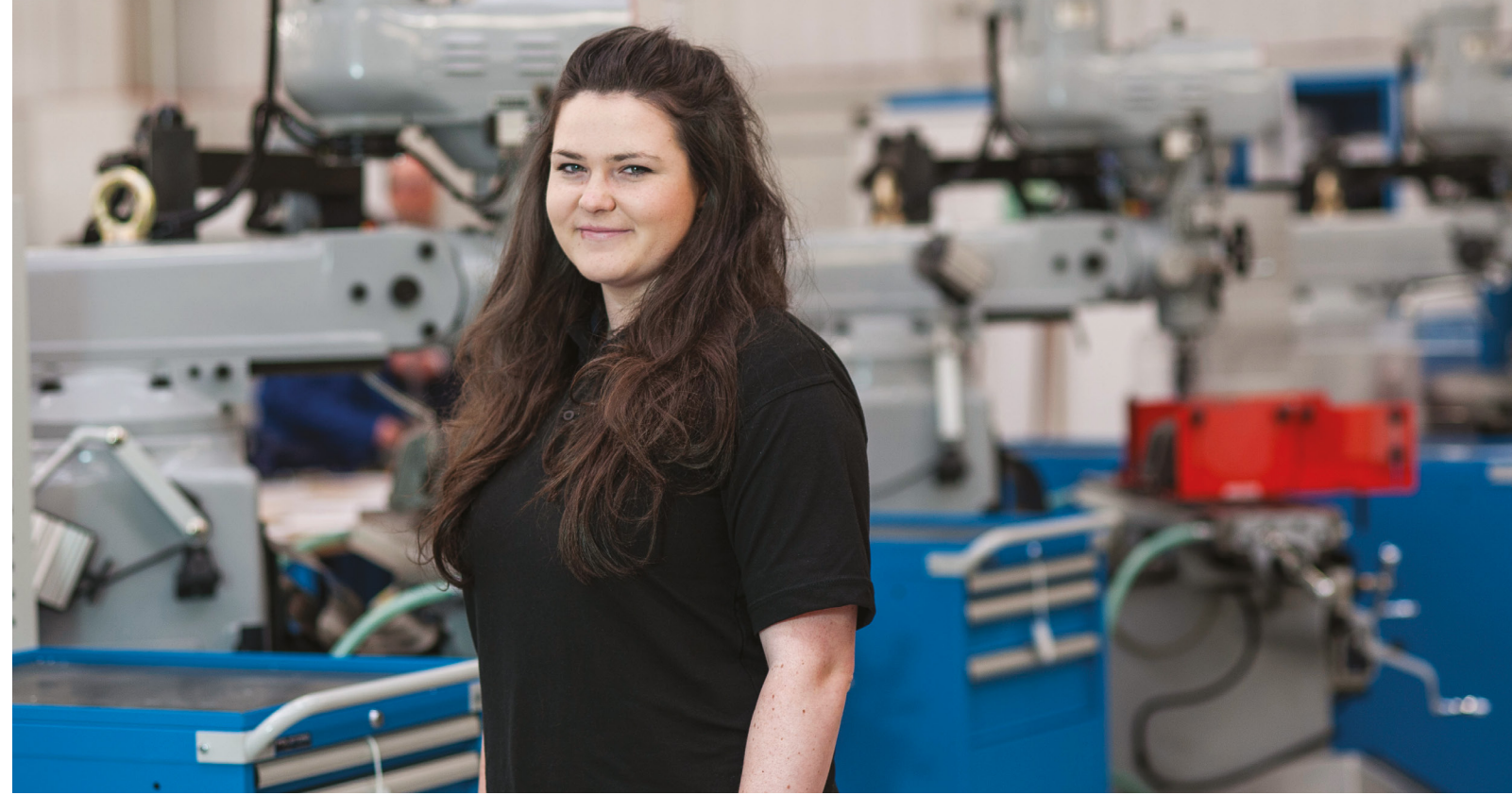




The Close Brothers SME Apprentice Programme

Supported by EEF, the manufacturers organisation, and the MTA

The Close Brothers SME Apprentice Programme



The Close Brothers SME Apprentice Programme is part of the Firm's long established commitment to supporting small and medium sized enterprises.

With the support of EEF, the manufacturers' organisation, the programme will help SMEs recruit and train a new generation of advanced engineering workers.

Under the scheme, Close Brothers will help pay for 20 apprentices to learn their skills at EEF's technology training centre. Close Brothers will fund half of the new recruits' wages during the first year and a quarter in the second, meaning participating SMEs won't have to bear the full cost of employing the apprentices until they are making a positive contribution to their business. The first intake will be in September 2016.

This is the second year of the programme, the first year was with partners the AMRC in Sheffield who currently have 20 apprentices coming to the end of their first year of training. The objective is to recruit a further 20 apprentices in this our second year and 20 more in year three, meaning Close Brothers will be supporting up to 60 apprentices in the scheme at full capacity in what is a banking first.

Close Brothers believes the SME sector is the lifeblood of the UK economy and also firmly backs the role of apprentices in helping SMEs grow. Apprenticeship schemes can help SMEs, particularly those in engineering and manufacturing, to bridge a looming skills gap that threatens their success and the health of the wider UK economy. Engineering UK has warned that the UK does not have either the current capacity or the rate of growth needed to meet the forecast demand for skilled engineers by 2022.

Close Brothers has been a long-term supporter of SMEs, doubling its lending to the sector since 2009, and in launching this innovative new scheme is again demonstrating this commitment. The scheme is open to all SMEs, not just those currently working with Close Brothers.

Close Brothers and EEF, the manufacturers' organisation, will offer further support for participating companies and there are plans to bring the SME apprentices and Close Brothers' own financial apprentices together for team building and other events.

“ We know from our work with SMEs that many would like to take on apprentices but they are worried about the cost, time, and resource involved. Britain's manufacturing companies urgently need to recruit and train a new generation of skilled engineering workers if they are to grow in an increasingly competitive global market: we hope our initiative will help more SMEs to do just that. We believe this pioneering scheme will provide genuine financial support to the SME sector.

Stephen Hodges
Chief Executive, Close Brothers Banking Division



Company Enquiries

Companies wanting further information about The Close Brothers Apprentice Programme should contact Mark Farrant at EEF's technology training centre. Applications from companies will be accepted in July 2016.

Email: mfarrant@eef.org.uk
Tel: 0121 331 3931

“ We are excited to be working with Close Brothers to give manufacturers a unique opportunity to deliver an apprenticeship programme where financial constraints are a significant barrier.

The value of the sponsored apprenticeship goes beyond building technical skills for the shop floor, they come with fresh and innovative ideas that impact productivity and with the solid foundation provided by EEF they can also provide apprentices with the capabilities to become the company leaders of the future.

Neil Withey
Technology Training Centre Director, EEF

EEF, the manufacturers' organisation

EEF, the manufacturers' organisation, is dedicated to the future of manufacturing. Everything we do is designed to help manufacturing and engineering businesses evolve, innovate and compete locally and globally.

Having the right skills is vital for the future of our industry and we are dedicated to developing the workforce of today and of the future. Our apprenticeship programmes are focused firmly on the skills our industry needs with comprehensive programmes that cover key manufacturing and engineering specialities.

www.eef.org.uk

The EEF Technology Training Centre

The EEF Technology Training Centre in Birmingham is a purpose-built facility for manufacturing and engineering. Since moving to its new home in 2014 £11million has been invested in state-of-the-art machines, high tech computer labs, and robotics, to ensure the facility offers the best available training for apprentices to start their manufacturing and engineering career and employers to train their future workforce and upskill their existing workforce.

The Manufacturing Technologies Association

The Manufacturing Technologies Association is a trade association for companies working in the engineering-based manufacturing sector. Many of its members are involved in the construction and supply of manufacturing technology whilst others deploy these technologies or are involved in providing services to the industry.

MAX

U.S. Patents 814,477; 794,545; 833

MACHINE		PART		MANUAL	
X	0.0001	0.0001	AGES STATUS	UNCALIBRATED	SET ACTIVE TOOL
Z	-0.0000	-0.0000	TOOL/STATION	0 / 1	MANUAL FUNCTION
FPM %	68	RAP %	59	RPM %	101
JOG % 95					
AXIS LIMIT SWITCHES:					
FEED (IPM) 0.0000					
CONVEYOR STOPPED					
COOLANT OFF					
PARTS CATCHER RETRACTED					
TAILSTOCK RETRACTED					
TOOL SETTER RETRACTED					
CHUCK STATE OPENED					
CHUCKING TYPE EXTERNAL					
FOOTSWITCH MODE TOGGLE					
DIAGNOSTICS					
ACCESSORY OPERATIONS					
CHUCK OPERATIONS					
TOGGLE WORKLIGHT					
TOGGLE WORKING CLIP					
CALIBRATE MACHINE					

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