HIRING THE HANDS-ON: CELEBRATING NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK IN THE UK

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Apprenticeships are a great way to build your skills while earning, and we fill hundreds of these programme roles across our commercial, helicopter and defence and space divisions - from HR and the back offices to the production lines and clean rooms. UK National Apprenticeship Week has been all about recognising the benefits an apprenticeship can offer for those looking to start their career. So what did this look like at Airbus in the UK for 2024? Airbus looks for people who have a passion for learning and want to work in an industry that is always looking to the future. We support that by paying for apprentices who complete their apprenticeship to take their studies on at university.

Apprenticeships and aerospace

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The sectors Airbus leads in - aviation, space, cyber, defence and more - are highly technical fields that rely on the passing down of institutional knowledge through hands-on training with experienced professionals. Apprenticeship programmes are a vital enabler of this process for Airbus and the wider industry. They're also a great option for people looking for a post-school alternative that allows them to tailor a career path to their strengths.

Airbus has carefully designed apprenticeship programmes to give these future aerospace professionals valuable practical training while they complete their studies.In the UK, our commercial aircraft business employs the most apprentices, with more than 250 across our two major sites in Broughton and Filton. Defence and Space has 71, and Helicopters - our smallest division in the UK - employs 5.

"I believe working on the job and gaining your skills that way is much more effective," said one of our helicopter programme apprentices based in Oxford.

Something new in Newport

In September 2023, Airbus Defence and Space Newport site welcomed its first ever cohort of Degree Apprentices. 10 apprentices joined Cyber UK across Cyber Security, Test, Hardware and Software Engineering. This was a major step forward for the site's strategic ambition to grow the number of early careers employees at Newport campus, with a further six apprentices scheduled to join the team in September 2024.

Alongside their work at Airbus, each apprentice attends university one day per week for the next five years to complete their undergraduate degree. The Cyber team at Newport works closely with the universities to ensure that the work the apprentices carry out onsite aligns with their academic studies.

Airbus Defence and Space strongly believe that recruiting apprentices is a productive and effective way to grow talent and develop a motivated, skilled and qualified workforce. It allows them to learn from first principles the way we work here at Airbus, and brings them into the Airbus family from the outset.

One of our new apprentices highlighted, "the chance to work with the team in Newport, with so many different engineers who are experts in their field; from the day I got here it's just been non-stop learning."

In addition to the growing cohort of apprentices at the Newport site focused on cyber security, there are over 30 apprentices each at the Portsmouth and Stevenage sites developing skills for the future space industry.

A week of wins

Airbus celebration of UK National Apprenticeship Week involved a full schedule of activity across our sites throughout the country. Lucky for you, we're able to share the key highlights!

An array of apprentices from across all parts of Airbus UK took over Westminster in London, attending a reception put on by the ADS Group in Parliament on Tuesday. They had the opportunity to meet senior government officials and network with apprentices from other companies in the sector.

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