First ever metalforming apprenticeship – now open for members

Do you need a qualified Tool Process Design Engineer? Our new apprenticeship standard is ready for you

As you know from our ongoing Metal Matters updates, the CBM has been spearheading development of a new Tool Process Design Engineer apprenticeship. We kickstarted the process in response to member feedback on skills shortages in this area, and the CBM has collaborated with a wide range of stakeholders to create a programme that meets metalforming specific needs.

It's been a 3-year process, and we're delighted to announce that the new Tool Process Design Engineer level 6 (degree) apprenticeship is now ready.

Who's eligible to enrol?

You can use your apprenticeship levy to fund both new starters and existing employees wishing to formalise their qualifications.

A useful starting point is to conduct a demographic and skills analysis of your organisation's tool process design capability. This will help determine whether it's best to recruit new talent or upskill your existing workforce.

Who provides the training?

You can choose your preferred training provider, including universities.

For example, In-Comm is offering 2 apprenticeship options you can l ook into.

What does the apprenticeship involve and what are the qualifications?

The training is designed to be flexible, so it's easy to provide training in a way that meets your business needs in these difficult times. To give you an idea of what's involved, In-Comm offers 2 options:

- **Option 1:** Apprentices have practical and theoretical training on a block release basis at Aldridge (typically 88 days over 2 years) covering an EAL Level 6 qualification in Tool Design delivering both knowledge and competence skills. Then, an In-Comm assessor visits the apprentice's workplace every 2 months. Once training is finished, the apprentice must complete an independent end point assessment.

  The funding for Option 1 covers the full cost of the training and end point assessment.

- **Option 2:** This expands on Option 1, giving apprentices the additional opportunity to complete a Higher National Certificate (HNC) in Engineering.

  There's an additional cost associated with completing the full HNC.

There's also the possibility for suitable candidates to achieve a B Eng degree via collaboration between a university and your chosen training provider. The apprenticeship can also lead to Incorporated Engineer status with the Institute of Mechanical Engineers.

What skills do apprentices learn?

The apprenticeship is designed to meet our sector's unique technical requirements. As part of the development process, we put together a Trailblazer Group of 10 member companies representing Tier 1 and 2, SMEs and those with 200+ employees. Therefore, the skills, knowledge and behaviours are specific to the needs we identified across the metalforming industry.

The apprenticeship develops the ability to take component CAD drawings through the tool process design steps to mass production, meeting customer criteria. The syllabus includes:

- Manufacturing process development
- Cost estimating
- CAD tool design & forming simulation CAE
- Capacity planning
- Pre-production component manufacture
- Related H&S
- Metrology
- Metallurgy
- Related maths

A key component is the opportunity for apprentices to work on industry-standard training equipment. The CBM obtained this equipment on behalf of members, and it's sited at In-Comm's Aldridge training workshop.

Who assesses the apprentices?

The CBM is the independent end point assessment organisation. This means industry specialists will make up the assessment panel, ensuring apprentices have achieved the appropriate competency level.

How can we enrol people on to the apprenticeship?

Please encourage new and existing staff to become professionally qualified via this apprenticeship.

To learn more and book, contact Geraldine Bolton at geraldine.bolton@thecbm.co.uk.