

REVISITING OUR LEARNERS ONE YEAR ON

Following our joint programme with KATO back in the summer of 2013, the Cambridge Traineeship pilot scheme was developed to test the concept that such schemes only produce measurable results if the needs of the individual are addressed. The Kent-based training provider Profile, delivered the scheme which was advertised through JobCentre Plus, giving young people in Kent the opportunity to access qualifications and employment.



Charlotte Bosworth

Charlotte Bosworth, Director of Skills and Employment at OCR said:
"We are delighted at the response we received to our Cambridge Traineeship, which was the first pilot scheme of its kind in England. Many of the people who took part in the programme have gone on to be employed by their placements, secure full-time work elsewhere, or pursue further education programmes."

We place significant emphasis on ensuring that our range of qualifications are flexible, fit for purpose and exciting for learners whilst taking account of new technologies and developments. The courses are structured around engaging workbooks, allowing learners to organise and evidence their learning effectively.

One such applicant who was enrolled onto the scheme was Claire Moore, aged 23, from Kent. Claire was approached by her local Job Centre to take part in the scheme after she struggled to gain employment and had applied for Jobseeker's Allowance. Follow her story....



Andrea Webb

Andrea Webb, Managing Director at Profile, commented:
"Over 80 per cent of our students come to us from the care system, and are therefore tackling emotional, mental and skills wellbeing issues. Part of our service is to get our students to learn what it means to take responsibility for themselves and learn about the workplace, such as how to behave in a professional environment, and how to get along with others."

"The Cambridge Progression and Employability pilot scheme was hugely successful for the 15 candidates that took part at our centre in Kent because it was supported by a structured framework. We have since taken the model forward in our four subsequent cohorts, reaching a further 30 young people."



Claire Moore

Claire said: "The advisors at JobCentre Plus made me aware of the traineeship programme when I enrolled as unemployed. When I moved away from home I suffered from depressive illness, which eventually forced me to return home.

"When I signed up at the Job Centre my confidence was very low; I didn't feel I would be able to cope in pressured or stressful situations. I lacked any hands-on work experience, which essentially made me undesirable to employers as I had no office-based experience.

"I was encouraged to interview for a place on the pilot traineeship scheme, and was placed with my employers, International Claims Agency, who specialise in dealing with claims for goods in transit. Over 12 weeks, I learned how to juggle workloads as well as how to deal with a variety parties including claimants, removal companies and brokers, which really improved my confidence.

"I received on-the-job training during my work placement as well as completing OCR's Cambridge Progression qualification. Once the programme ended I was kept on, and am proud to have been trusted with the opportunity to train others, allowing me to develop my own leadership and management skills. Both Profile and ICA have been incredibly understanding of my mental health condition, and as a result of their ongoing support my mental health has improved dramatically."

"The Cambridge Progression programme was so brilliant because it provided such a rounded experience, combining more traditional study methods, completed through structured workbooks, with real-life work experience. The most enjoyable project I worked on whilst studying for the qualification was an event for Cardio Risk in the Young (CRY), a charity fundraising event which raised over £500 – it's something I'm really proud to have delivered."

Since joining her placement company through the Cambridge Traineeship pilot, Claire is now employed full time, and the hard work has paid off as she has been promoted and received several pay rises.

As well as supporting young people through its pilot Traineeship programme, OCR supports students through its own bespoke Cambridge Progression and Employability vocational qualifications (levels 1-2), which allow learners to develop transferable, work-specific skills whether accessing employment for the first time, entering a new profession or progressing into further educational pathways.

Charlotte Bosworth added: "As a business, we strive to create structured qualifications that teach young people valuable transferable skills for the workplace. Our bespoke Cambridge Progression and Employability modules encourage students to develop their skills around time management, teamwork, confidence and communication in a safe environment, whilst being supported and endorsed by businesses. It's great to hear Claire's story and there are many more like her also finding their feet in the workplace thanks to the support vocational qualifications provide."

The Government has recently released the 2014/15 Traineeship Framework for Delivery, which took effect in August 2014. The launch of Traineeships is a valuable step towards helping those learners caught in a cycle of being long-term unemployed and out of education, and is designed to encourage more learners to access meaningful employment.

For more information on Cambridge Traineeships visit ocr.org.uk/traineeships

We can help with your delivery of Cambridge Traineeships.

Call us on **02476 851509**

or email vocational.qualifications@ocr.org.uk