

December 2011

Ideas for the Future.

Although it will be a number of years before anyone in education is looking for a job some thoughts from The Graduate Recruitment Fair at the NEC could prove useful.

It is not only the big companies such as Jaguar/Land Rover, Nationwide, and the banks who recruit graduates, but also firms you may not have heard of such as Hilti (power tools for the building industry), DHL (parcel deliveries), Enterprise Car Rentals, and Qunitiq (defense equipment).

The exhibitors report that there are many people applying to them, what they would like to see are more good applicants. What they mean by this varies from company to company, but in general they mean people who have the degree they are looking for at a high level, people who get on well with others, some work experience is useful, and are prepared to move to where the company is based.

1909 Advert

Cowman wanted. Must be good milker. Witton Lodge Farm, Erdington Near Birmingham.

These are comments from some of the exhibitors;

British Airways. Pilot training is paid for by the trainee pilot usually by taking out a loan. The cost is approximately £70,000. They recruit engineers, (with an aeronautical degree), finance people, and people to work in human resources. Most jobs are based at Heathrow.

The Army. Swamped by people wanting to join as officers. There is a six day selection test with a 50% failure rate. Practically all trainee officers have a degree. They say it is much better to come in with a degree than try and become an officer after serving as a soldier. There are some soldiers (non-officers) with a degree. The army is shrinking in size and therefore it will be even harder to be selected for officer training.

Nationwide Building Society. Will accept a degree in any subject, at 2:1 level. Most jobs at the head office in Swindon, so people must be prepared to move there.

1928 Advert

Girl, strong for housework and to help in the shop, to live in. Aston.

Apprenticeships

The number of people starting apprenticeships in England this year has risen by more than 50% on last year, official figures show.

There were 442,700 apprenticeship starts in the academic year 2010-11 compared with 279,000 the previous year.

Of these 175,000 were aged over 25, 138,900 aged 19 to 24 and 128,300 aged under 19.

The government wants to see more degree-level apprenticeships.

It set up a £25m fund in July to support 10,000 more advanced level and higher apprenticeships in firms, particularly small businesses, where there are skills shortages.

Universities Minister David Willetts has been encouraging young people who fail to get a university place to opt for an apprenticeship instead.

A recent BBC survey suggested more young people were considering an apprenticeship as an alternative to university.

The previous Labour government also urged school leavers to consider taking apprenticeships and made efforts to increase the number available.

Business Secretary Vince Cable said he was pleased that sectors like construction, manufacturing and engineering were continuing to back apprenticeships despite tough economic times.

New Hotels

Travelodge is to open 26 hotels in London over the next two years. Ten of these should be ready for the start of the Olympic Games next year. Around 710 jobs will be created in the new hotels.



A New Lotus

Lotus has confirmed that it will produce its new range of sports cars in the UK, creating 1,100 new jobs.

Lotus says its Esprit supercar, the Elite coupe, a new Elise roadster, the Eterne - a four-seat supercar - and a luxury electric motor the Ethos will be built at its factory in Norfolk.

Lotus says it plans to double its annual production to 6,000 cars by 2015.

It believes the knock-on effect of the extra work will create 800 new jobs in the supply chain.



New Jobs at Toyota

At a time when there is so much gloom about jobs it is pleasing to report that 1,500 new jobs will be created at the Burnaston factory of Toyota. A new model is to be made at Burnaston to include petrol, diesel, and hybrid models. About 500 of these jobs will be started by the middle of 2012, the remainder in the following year.

1928 Advert

Probationer nurses wanted at the South Western Fever Hospital, Landor Road, Stockwell, SW8. No less than 18 years of age with good education. Salary £29 per annum rising to £31 per annum, to include board, lodging, washing, and uniform. Two years training for the examination in fever nursing. Apply to The Matron.

Spotlight on NITP



The NITP (National IT Partnership) opened the Birmingham office in September this year. Their modern well equipped office is a five minute walk from Colmore Row in the centre of Birmingham at Cornwall House, 31 Lionel Street.

They are running two advanced apprenticeship training schemes for people aged 16 to 18, (they may take a few in the 19 to 24 age range), one course in computer work and one in accountancy. The accountancy course will start in January 2012. They intend running new training every 4 months with 30 trainees on each programme.

People on the IT training will get the industry recognised qualifications of CompTIA+ and Microsoft MCTS. They can also get the Diploma in ICT Professional Competence and a Certificate in ICT Systems and Principles. Training includes HTML, computer repairs, and a full knowledge on software such as Word and Excel. The first task is to get everyone employed, staff at NITP help with this, and of the 30 starters in September only four have not yet found an employer. Once employed the minimum pay is £2.60 an hour. Those not yet employed get a £5 a day meal allowance and their fares paid. Trainees spend a week in the centre and a week with the employer for 28 weeks. If trainees find their own employer they get a bonus. They have people working with web designers, working in Birmingham Council, working on apps for phones, and working as IT technicians in schools. They take people with 5 GCSEs including English and maths.

People on the accountancy training course will study for AAT (Association of Accountancy Technicians) which is the recognised qualification in accountancy at technician level. This will go to the Level 4 Diploma level. The Level 4 qualification gives exemption from the first year of finance degrees and the professional body qualifications such as ACA, ACCA and CIMA. Some of their present trainees intend to go onto a degree. Trainees will spend three days each week with an employer and two days training in the centre. They point out that this is a demanding course and will only take those who are willing to accept this. They are looking for 5 GCSEs A to C and maths and English must be included. All trainees will be employed by the company they are working for. NITP point out that the AAT qualification can be gained in 14 months on this apprenticeship, and it also gives practical experience of work which employers look for.

It is interesting to note that people from degree courses in IT have a higher unemployment rate than in some other subjects. NITP say the reason for this is that graduates lack the practical knowledge that is only gained by working in a real work place.

1962 Advert

The Midland Bank has vacancies in central Birmingham for ladies between 16 and 27 years of age to be trained as ledger posting machine operators and on general clerical duties. Total annual remuneration rises from £295 at 16, to £385 at 19, £510 at 24, £634 at 31 and substantially beyond this figure for those who continue to make a career in banking. For single ladies there is a non contributory pension scheme and marriage gratuities after 5 years service.

5000 New Jobs

The coffee business Starbucks is to open 300 new centres which will result in 5000 jobs over the next five years. This should help people in the younger age group to find work as half of their staff are under the age of 24.



Jobs for Scotland

Supermarket giant Sainsbury's has announced plans to create 800 jobs in Scotland as it opened its 1,000 UK store.

The new posts will be created over the next 18 months from new stores in Montrose and Pitlochry, an extension to its East Kilbride supermarket and opening of new Local stores.

Mike Coupe, Sainsbury's group commercial director, said as the new store opened in Irvine: "We are thrilled to be able to announce these new jobs today and we are sure that they will make a real difference to communities across Scotland.

"Since opening the first Sainsbury's in Scotland in 1984 we have gone from strength to strength and we now have over 8,000 colleagues working in nearly 60 stores. We are also a huge supporter of the wider Scottish economy, sourcing over £600 million of Scottish lines annually and stocking around 1,500 Scottish lines in our stores around the UK.

"The opening today at Irvine and the 800 jobs we will create is just part of our wider commitment to Scotland. Through the proposed Public Health Levy, Scottish Ministers are penalising one of the few sectors which continues to grow and create jobs and which is crucial to Scotland's economy."

Continental Apprentices.

The figures are convincing. Almost half (40pc) of Austria's teenagers go on to study a work-based apprenticeship after compulsory schooling. A similar number join vocational colleges, which combine practical trade skills with general education. Just 20pc follow the academic path in regular schools. The country boasts consistently low youth unemployment rates, currently at 8.3pc, according to official figures.

Elsewhere in Europe, Germany – which offers a similar "dual-education" system to Austria and is renowned for vocational learning – currently has one of the lowest youth unemployment levels across all 27 member states, at 8.9pc.

As Britain grapples with record high youth unemployment, at 21.3pc, industry experts are turning their attention overseas to ask what the UK could be learning from those countries with low jobless rates.

The Coalition seems to have grasped how important work-based learning is to develop young people with the right skills. In September, Prime Minister David Cameron pleaded with firms to offer more apprenticeships, with the Government injecting more cash into the scheme to encourage take up. Yet money alone appears to have made little difference to the number of British employers offering the scheme: in the UK there are just 11 apprentice-ships for every 1,000 employees. That figure jumps to 33 for Austria and 40 for Germany – where the schemes are largely unfunded by the state

1962 Advert

Boy wanted for paint works laboratory to train as lab technician. Apply to Llewellyn and Ryland, Moseley Road, Birmingham B12.