

30th November 2012

HSBC HONOURS APPRENTICES AT GRADUATION CEREMONY

More than 100 HSBC employees were honoured at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office in London on Tuesday (27th Nov) during the first HSBC Apprentice Graduation ceremony.

The HSBC Apprenticeship Programme was launched in 2011 in association with the National Apprenticeship Service and is the first of its kind by a major UK bank. The bank is on target to deploy almost 1000 apprentices across UK by the end of 2012.

The programme is designed for people aged 16 upwards and offers apprentices the opportunity to build their skills in a number of specific areas, including business administration, customer service and providing financial services.

Apprentices at this week's graduation, who are based in London, Coventry, Sheffield, Birmingham and Leicester, were presented with certificates by Skills Minister Mathew Hancock MP.

Antonio Simoes, Head of UK and Deputy Chief Executive of HSBC Bank plc, said: 'We see the upskilling of our staff through apprenticeships as one of the ways in which we can offer even better customer service.'

'Apprenticeships play an important role in our recruitment strategy and provide young people who may not have gone to university, with another route into a challenging and rewarding career in our industry.'

Skills Minister Matthew Hancock said: 'I enjoyed celebrating the achievements of HSBC's apprentices with them on Tuesday.'

'Every apprentice is part of a growing band of those who have trained, and worked, and become a vital part of the workforce. I congratulate every one.'

David Way, Chief Executive, National Apprenticeship Service, said: 'The HSBC Graduation Ceremony shows the importance that leading employers are placing on Apprenticeships to help recruit and train talented young people to drive businesses forward.'

'It is increasingly obvious to business that attracting the best young people means demonstrating how you will invest in their development and personal growth. HSBC understands this and the celebration rightly puts the spotlight on the achievements of their employees; and HSBC's positive approach to their current and future workforce development.'

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