



21<sup>st</sup> May 2013

## **HSBC HONOURS APPRENTICES AT GRADUATION CEREMONY**

*Extension of programme to 2,000 apprentices  
Commitment to 500 work experience placement annually  
Development of new traineeship programme for 250 people*

HSBC reaffirmed its commitment to its apprenticeship programme and improving workplace skills and opportunities for young people on 20th May at the first of its apprenticeship graduation ceremonies for 2013.

Following the success of its apprenticeships and work experience programmes, which have seen HSBC deliver over 1000 apprentices over the last 18 months, HSBC announced that it is extending its programme to 2000 apprentices. The bank will also offer 500 work experience placements annually.

HSBC is currently developing a traineeship programme to benefit 250 young people by the end of 2014. At the event, the bank gave its support to the Government's traineeship programme as a means of opening up a career in financial services to candidates from more diverse backgrounds who might currently feel precluded from applying.

The bank is also working with the Financial Skills Partnership on a new initiative to provide additional knowledge of the financial services industry via on-line career mentoring sessions for young people run by HSBC staff.

The event was held at Lancaster House in London and hosted by Skills Minister Mathew Hancock MP.

Brendan Cook, Head of Retail Banking and Wealth Management for HSBC in the UK commented:

“Apprenticeships are a great way of offering our people new skills and opportunities to progress in their careers. They provide those who may not have gone on to higher education with another route into a challenging and rewarding career in our organisation.

“We have had a fantastic response to our apprenticeship scheme to date and are delighted to be able to extend it to even more of our people, as well as developing a new traineeship scheme to help equip young people with the skills to enter our industry.”

The HSBC Apprenticeship Programme was launched in 2011 in association with the National Apprenticeship Service and was the first of its kind run by a major UK bank. HSBC also played an integral part in developing the higher apprenticeship framework at Level 4 for retail and commercial banking managers in financial services.

Designed for people aged 16 upwards, the programmes being delivered cover the frameworks of business administration, customer service and providing financial services. Learners study for a minimum of 12 months and work towards a range of practical and knowledge based qualifications. After completion of the apprenticeship scheme students also have the opportunity to continue their study and take further qualifications.

Skills Minister Matthew Hancock said: "Apprenticeships are fast becoming the route to careers previously regarded as just for University graduates - such as banking - HSBC's Apprenticeship graduation ceremony is testament to that.

"I am delighted that HSBC have committed to extend their programme to 2000 Apprentices, offer 500 work experience placements every year as well as develop a Traineeship programme for up to 250 young people.

"We want more employers to follow HSBC's lead and to consider how Apprenticeships could benefit their business."

ENDS

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