

## Do you want to be part of the Women into STEM Apprenticeship Programme?

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The Cogent Technical Apprenticeship Service (TAS) has successfully secured funding from the UKCES (UK Commission for Employment and Skills) through the Employer Investment Fund to attract more females into science-based Apprenticeships. The programme aims to enhance female students' awareness and understanding of Apprenticeship training and potential careers in the science-based industries.

TAS are piloting this programme initially in the East Midlands, West Yorkshire and South Wales until March 2013, and we can offer you the following:

- FREE employer workshops, open to any employer in the pilot regions with places limited to 12 per session. One workshop will be held in each region, with dates and venues to be announced shortly. They are delivered by WISE, whose services are designed to build and sustain the pipeline of female talent in STEM, from classroom to board room. These free interactive workshops will help your organisation: understand the need for diversity within your business including information on the legal duty; to consider how and where best to advertise your Apprenticeship vacancies so that they reach and attract girls; run exciting girls only open days, and; avoid stereotyped assumptions so that you get the best person for the job.
- A chance to become one of the 3 employers in each region to show the female pupils around their premises, to inform them about potential career pathways and provide them with a hands-on experience that leaves them wanting to learn more. Site visits are arranged and delivered by Business Education Matters, an experienced provider in linking industry to education in an exciting, informative way, leading to positive changes in young people's perceptions of industry. Following the site visit, this new knowledge of the employer and the career opportunities available through Higher Apprenticeships is then cascaded across the school and information on science careers and Higher Apprenticeships will be provided by TAS for them to take home to share with their parents. Funding is available towards the costs of planning and delivering the site visits.
- Access to an interested pool of female students for work placements opportunities aimed at increasing their awareness and finding out more about the interesting training opportunities available to them.
- Attendance at a regional conference where the objective will be to further promote Apprenticeship careers by giving schoolgirls, their parents and teachers, the opportunity to engage with role models in small groups over lunch or in small networking groups. It will be a powerful experience for the girls to encounter real women who have "done it" and enjoyed it sufficiently to talk to them and share experiences. Attendance is expected to be between 60-90 people and this could be an opportunity for you to use women from your organisation as role models to talk about their experiences and possibly provide some hands-on experiences too. Pre-conference invitations and materials can include information on your organisation further highlighting your commitment to engaging with girls and young women.

### Higher Apprenticeship Grant for Employers

TAS can also provide a grant of £1000 when you order a HA for a January or September 2013 start. Conditions apply and the grant will be payable once the apprentice has started their framework training. Please ask for an application form if you are interested in applying and funds are limited so early application is advised.

This Higher Apprenticeship grant is available in England only.

### Contact us

If you wish to discuss this programme further, please contact Jacki Mason at [jacki.mason@the-tas.com](mailto:jacki.mason@the-tas.com) or on 01925 515293 / 07714 765956.