

Funding helps study to chosen career

Date of issue 5 April 2007
Publication number LSC0607 - 111
Embargo until For immediate release

Sultana Uddin gained good qualifications at school and college to pursue a career in office administration. It was only when she decided to concentrate on accountancy work that she realised her GCSEs at grades A to C and further qualifications in computing would not be sufficient to gain her the job she wanted.

That was when Sultana took the difficult decision to leave full-time work and go back into study to gain an NVQ Level 2 in Business Administration.

With the support of Apprenticeship training funded by the Learning and Skills Council North East (LSC), Sultana enrolled with Durham Business Club, Chester-le-Street to undertake her NVQ Level 2 training and further improve her office and clerical skills. For her Apprenticeship she was placed with Thermal Resources Management (TRM), at the Wear Industrial Estate, Washington, undertaking the duties of sales and admin assistant while pursuing her vocational course. She recently gained her NVQ in Business Admin, within six months of starting the training.

Sultana, aged 20, of Hilda Park, Chester-le-Street, said: "It took a lot of encouragement from my family to go back into learning but now I have my NVQ and it has given me more options. I am now improving my skills on Sage programmes to work towards my ambition of one day becoming an accountant. I

am also considering going on to study NVQ Level 3 in Accountancy or Business Administration.”

David Parker, commercial manager of TRM, said: “We have always encouraged trainees in an admin assistant role and Sultana has proved a real asset. Two of our full time staff came through the Business Club and we also have two trainees working in the warehouse. It provides an excellent route into employment.”

TRM manufacture heating products, elements and temperature instrumentation for the industrial and commercial sector, supplying installers.

Chris Roberts, Regional Director LSC North East, said: “The financial assistance available to employers through the LSC enables vocational training to take place in the workplace. Monitoring and assessment of the trainees can be provided to smaller companies that don’t have large HR departments. It is a ‘win win’ situation – the employer gains an Apprentice or trainee who is usually highly motivated and the learner gains the qualifications needed to improve their employment prospects.”

ENDS

LSC

The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for ensuring the availability of high-quality education and training for everyone. We have a single goal: to improve the skills of England’s young people and adults to world class standards. Our vision is that young people and adults in England have knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. We work nationally, regionally and locally to deliver this ambition on behalf of learners and employers.

Level 2 qualifications.

A level 2 qualification is not a qualification in itself, it is the name given to a certain level of achievement. The following qualifications are at level 2:

- 1 GCSE A*-C = 20% of full level 2 qualification
- 1 Double award GCSE A*-C = 40%
- 1 Short course GCSE A* -C = 10%
- 1 Intermediate GNVQ = 80%
- 1 Part 1 Intermediate GNVQ = 40%
- 1 BTEC First Diploma = 80%
- 1 NVQ level 2 = 80%

Qualifications at level 3 such as AS level, A level and Applied A level should usually be undertaken after gaining level 2 qualifications.

Combinations are allowed, so if a young person does not obtain a Level 2 qualification at school (5 full GCSE's at grades A* - C) they can still obtain a level 2 qualification when they leave school by going to sixth form or college or via work based learning and apprenticeships.

Example: if a young person gets one GCSE at grade A* to C which counts for 20% and then gets a full intermediate GNVQ which counts for 80% they will have 100% which is a 'level 2 qualification'.

EMA

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is a weekly payment of £10, £20 or £30 to help with the day-to-day costs of continuing in learning after 16. The amount payable is dependant upon household income. The EMA is paid directly into the student's bank account. It is available for up to three years as long as criteria are met each year. EMA does not affect any other household benefits or earnings from the young person's part-time job. More information can be found at www.direct.gov.uk/ema