

Celebrating our next generation of gas engineers

National Grid Gas Distribution plans to recruit 50 apprentices in 2017, adding to 115 currently in training

10 Mar 2017

A former submariner, an ex-fitness centre supervisor, school leavers and a one-time bank advisor – this group of apprentices are now in training to ensure you have a safe and reliable supply of gas to your homes.

National Grid Gas Distribution is proud of its apprenticeship programme, and proud to support National Apprenticeship Week (6 to 10 March). The company, which has 115 apprentices already in training, has plans to welcome another 50 recruits this summer.

Sixty-five of the 115 apprentices are learning to become first-call operatives, or FCOs. These teams of engineers are available 24/7 to respond to gas emergencies in homes or commercial premises.

The company's popular recruitment [Facebook page](#) is updated regularly with latest vacancies and will be the place to look for more details about this summer's apprenticeship recruitment campaign.

This group of apprentices took time out of their training during National Apprenticeship Week to explain what attracted them to a career in the gas industry:

- William Bold, 21, said: "I used to be a banking advisor. It was a good job and good pay, but I'm not built for an office. I wanted an engineering job. This apprenticeship has a good reputation, so I decided to apply."
- Luke Hughes, 19, said: "My dad works here, so he'd told me all about it and I knew it was a good career to get into. I know a lot of the people and it was a logical step for me."
- David Walters, 32, said: "I am a bit older than the others, but that's not been a factor at all. We're good mates and we help each other out."
- Jason Plant, 25, is a former Royal Navy submariner. "I wanted to work for National Grid when I left the forces," he said. "I was a marine engineer, maintaining the submariners and going to sea. Getting into this sort of work is something I wanted to do."
- Ryan Webb, 18, said: "After school, I worked for an engineering company for two years. I looked at a few apprenticeships and this one stood out. It's keeping me in engineering – and it's not a desk-based job."
- Hugh Thomas, 18, said: "I knew National Grid is a good company to work for. It's a job that interests me, with good opportunities to go far once I've finished this apprenticeship."
- Callum Bell, 17, said: "I like being hands-on and just didn't want an office-based job. I came here straight from school and am really enjoying it."
- Richard William, 24, said: "My last job was as a supervisor for a fitness centre, but I didn't see that as a career that suited me. I saw this was good money, and a job that gives me skills."

National Grid Gas Distribution operates four of the UK's eight gas distribution networks, maintaining the infrastructure that delivers gas to 10.9 million homes and business in North West England, the Midlands, East of England and parts of London.

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Notes for editors

Notes to Editors:

National Grid is pivotal to the energy systems in the UK and the north eastern United States. We aim to serve customers well and efficiently, supporting the communities in which we operate and making possible the energy systems of the future.

National Grid in the UK:

- We own and operate the electricity transmission network in England and Wales, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. We also operate, but do not own, the Scottish networks. Our networks comprise approximately 7,200 kilometres (4,474 miles) of overhead line, 1,500 kilometres (932 miles) of underground cable and 342 substations.
- We own and operate the gas National Transmission System in Great Britain, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. Our network comprises approximately 7,660 kilometres (4,760 miles) of high-pressure pipe and 618 above-ground installations.
- As Great Britain's System Operator (SO) we make sure gas and electricity is transported safely and efficiently from where it is produced to where it is consumed. From April 2019, Electricity System Operator (ESO) is a new standalone business within National Grid, legally separate from all other parts of the National Grid Group. This will provide the right environment to deliver a balanced and impartial ESO that can realise real benefits for consumers as we transition to a more decentralised, decarbonised electricity system.
- Other UK activities mainly relate to businesses operating in competitive markets outside of our core regulated businesses; including interconnectors, gas metering activities and a liquefied natural gas (LNG) importation terminal – all of which are now part of National Grid Ventures. National Grid Property is responsible for the management, clean-up and disposal of surplus sites in the UK. Most of these are former gas works.

Find out more about the energy challenge and how National Grid is helping find solutions to some of the challenges we face at <https://www.nationalgrid.com/group/news>

National Grid undertakes no obligation to update any of the information contained in this release, which speaks only as at the date of this release, unless required by law or regulation.

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