

The Upstream Oil and Gas Industry

TECHNICIAN

TRAINING SCHEME



"A challenging career,
a great package - **and the
opportunity of a lifetime.**"

Sinead Kelly, Electrical Technician Trainee, Shell Dunlin Alpha Offshore Installation

The Upstream Oil and Gas Industry TECHNICIAN TRAINING SCHEME

The industrial face of the UK is changing.

The traditional supply of experienced technicians and process operations personnel has dwindled. In early 2001, the leaders of the UK upstream industry – the sector which explores for and produces oil and gas – agreed the need for a unified programme which would confirm the industry's commitment to training and development and establish a new source of competent technical staff to support its operations for decades to come.

This programme has now been established. Its aim is to bring together the Operating and Contracting companies and their training organisations Cogent (the sector skills council for the oil, gas and chemicals industry) and the ECITB (the Engineering Construction Industry Training Board) to deliver a steady stream of highly competent technical staff, trained as a minimum to Higher

National Certificate (HNC) level. Working in unison, a team representing these groups, together with the DTI, have developed an integrated programme which will train over 100 new young technicians each year for at least the next

five years. Safety is the highest priority and the programme looks to locate and train highly motivated individuals who will maintain and enhance the exemplary standards in place throughout the industry.

The scheme provides 18-24 months of practical learning and further education followed by around two years of on-the-job training either onshore at oil and gas terminals around the UK, or offshore. During this period, ongoing assessment and training is provided, leading to the attainment of National or Scottish Vocational Qualification level 3. Trainees may work on the producing installations in the North Sea, Morecambe Bay or even in the deeper waters of the Atlantic Margin. All training fees are covered and all trainees receive a generous allowance during the off-the-job phase. No parental contribution is required. During the on-the-job phase, a highly competitive salary is paid. On completion of training, professional placement support is available to help trainees to secure suitable positions. Within 2-3 years of completing the scheme, most individuals will attain the stature of fully trained technician. Salaries for technical staff trained to this degree of competence are highly competitive. Additional opportunities are available to widen and enhance skills, competency and personal expertise.





Q What does the future hold for the upstream oil and gas industry?

The upstream oil and gas industry has a bright future and is committed to ongoing investment, both in the UK and overseas. It is one of the world's most dynamic and progressive users of cutting-edge technology, and maintains the supply of energy to major industries as well as to individual homes. Oil and gas have powered the 20th century and if used responsibly with all due regard for health, safety and protection of the environment, will undoubtedly also fuel the 21st.

Q What type of skills does the industry require?

The industry has a long term need for highly competent technical staff trained in the electrical, mechanical and instrument core disciplines, together with specialists in well services and in process operations. The latter increasingly requires multi-skilled individuals who have trained in one of the first four disciplines and who have then undertaken additional training in process operations. Technicians of any discipline in the industry work in closely knit teams, where every member has a key role to play.

Q Where is training carried out?

Off-the-job training is currently delivered in North East Scotland, Central Scotland, North East England and East Anglia. On-the-job training is carried out at onshore terminals and offshore installations around the UK. Travel and accommodation allowances are paid to trainees where applicable.

Q Who can enter the scheme?

Entry is open to persons aged 16 ½ – 21. The minimum entry requirements are Standard Grade level 1, 2 or 3 or GCSE A, B or C in Maths, English and two of either Chemistry, Physics or a technical subject. Candidates who already possess technical or vocational qualifications are also encouraged to apply. Applicants over 21 who are interested in conversion courses for careers in oil and gas may also contact the scheme organisers for further details.



"Technician training was a great alternative to going from school to higher education. I enjoyed the mixture of education, practical training and teamworking that we got during off the job training.

"Staff here have helped me all along the way during on the job training. I've been given responsibility for tasks and learned about how to work with others and apply myself."

Scott Findlay, final year Instrument Technician Trainee at Mobil North Sea's St Fergus gas plant

The programme is endorsed by **ILT**



with the support and commitment of:



Applications and requests for additional details should be made to:

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