

13 January 2012

Press Release

NEW YEAR PRESENT FOR EMPLOYERS AS CRC WAIVES APPRENTICESHIP FEES

Cambridge Regional College is waiving all employer fees on many of its apprenticeship programmes next week to encourage businesses to take on apprentices.

The new year present, available for small and medium-sized businesses, could save companies up to £600 in fees for a range of apprenticeship programmes, from retail to business and administration.

Laraine Moody, CRC assistant principal in charge of employment and skills, said the offer was designed to help smaller businesses who might be reluctant to take on an apprentice because of the fees involved.

“CRC is one of the biggest providers of apprenticeship programmes in the eastern region and we know one of the stumbling blocks for employers is the amount they have to pay up front to take on an apprentice,” she said.

“The advantages of having an apprentice are well documented, providing a real benefit to companies, but at this time of year businesses are feeling the pinch so we thought the offer to waive the fees on many of our programmes would be a welcome new year present.

“Apprentices have been rightly described as the “gold standard for excellence in vocational training” and we hope to encourage more employers to come forward by giving them a helping hand.

“We have a record number of apprentices in training at the moment – nearly 2,200 – but we need more employers to step forward to provide openings for the increasing numbers of young people who see apprenticeships as their way into the workforce.”

The offer, which runs from January 16 to 20, is open to small and medium sized businesses and applies to 27 different apprenticeship programmes.

For more information, or to take up the offer, call CRC’s employment training team on 01223 418778 or email training@camre.ac.uk.

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MEDIA ENQUIRIES

For more information, please contact Lynn O’Shea, Communications & PR Manager, on 01223 418773 or email loshea@camre.ac.uk

NOTES TO EDITORS

Cambridge Regional College is one of the largest providers of full-time further education for 16 to 19 year-olds in the eastern region. The College has more than 4,000 full-time and 6,000 part-time students, coming from a 40-mile radius, covering Cambridge and its surrounding villages, eastern Bedfordshire, northern Essex and western Suffolk.

Over 80 per cent of full-time students are aged 16 to 18 years old and come to the College after secondary school; the rest are mature students, studying on a range of Access to Higher Education and vocational programmes. The College offers the largest and most comprehensive range of vocational courses in Cambridgeshire, and has one of the largest work-based learning contracts in the Eastern Region.