



Department for
Transport

VOSA

Vehicle & Operator Services Agency

Graduate Mechanical Engineer Training Programme - 2007 intake

The 2007 Graduate Mechanical Engineer Training Programme is offering opportunities within the Department for Transport's Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA), Transport, Technology and Standards Division, (TTS) and Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA). VOSA and VCA are both executive agencies of the Department for Transport (DFT).

The Vehicle & Operator Services Agency is responsible for road safety and environmental protection on Britain's roads - we run the MOT scheme for cars, test all heavy vehicles and conduct various other enforcement and inspection schemes. The offices are spread all over Great Britain – and the head office based in Bristol. VOSA are looking for Graduate Mechanical Engineers to join the headquarters team in Bristol. At VOSA we get involved in a whole variety of tasks in headquarters, for example - developing a procedure for testing vehicle safety systems, working with colleagues from around Europe on how to test vehicle On-Board Diagnostic Systems, developing roadside camera technology to identify offenders, working on procedures for testing the design of motorcycles etc.

VCA is the UK approval authority for new vehicles. This involves the testing or witnessing of testing of new models of cars and commercial vehicles, and assessments of vehicle manufacturing facilities – this being conducted both in this country and abroad. VCA also undertakes Quality Assurance Certification for the global Automotive Industry, and some enforcement activities for the UK government. The Headquarters are in Bristol, with offices in the Midlands and worldwide locations, such as North America, Japan and Malaysia.

The Department's Transport Technology and Standards Division (TTS) is responsible for national policies and construction standards to reduce the likelihood of road accidents and lessen their impact, working closely with the EU, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and many UK bodies. TTS manages a wide-ranging research programme into existing and promising technology, particularly the Improvement of vehicle dynamic safety standards and the analysis of costs, benefits and effectiveness. The Division is also responsible for cross-Departmental work on Intelligent Transport Systems, particularly road user charging and smart card systems and technologies. TTS are based in central London.

This IMechE accredited four year training programme has been designed to ensure that the new graduates we employ have all the necessary skills and knowledge to become a Chartered Engineer and a valuable member of the VOSA, VCA or TTS teams. To achieve this the GME scheme follows the principles of the IMechE's Monitored Professional Development Programme.



IMECHE

How it works

We have designed a four year training programme to ensure that new graduates that we employ have all the necessary skills and knowledge to become a Chartered Engineer and a valuable member of our teams. To achieve this the GME scheme follows the IMechE's Monitored Professional Development Programme.

During the first two years you find out about all the different jobs in VOSA, VCA and TTS so that you understand the work that we do. We also want you to gain a wide understanding of the industry that we work in, so:

- You will go on placements with the various parts of VOSA, VCA and TTS where you will be involved in running technical projects, and involved in a variety of engineering, as well as understanding how legislation is produced and the impact it has on the agencies;
- You will spend some time at heavy vehicle and car manufacturers - providing you with an understanding of how vehicles are designed, how they are manufactured and what systems are put in place to make sure they meet legislation;
- You will work at a vehicle testing laboratory – learning how vehicles are tested before they enter production, how they are instrumented and how the work of VCA affects the running of these tests;
- You will work with a Heavy Goods Vehicle, Coach or Bus Operator - understanding how they go about keeping their fleet on the road, how they plan routes, how the work of VOSA and other government bodies impact on their operation;
- A significant amount of training will be provided - to provide you with the skills that you need.

For the second two years of the training programme you will be offered a permanent position within either VOSA, VCA or TTS. You will be responsible and involved in various projects that will help you achieve Chartered Engineer status. You will still receive all the support you need from your mentor and line manager.

At the end of the four years training programme you should be in a position to become a Chartered Engineer and continue as a valued member of the teams you have joined.

Practicalities

The post for the initial two years training will be based primarily in Bristol as an employee of VOSA, but you will be based away from Bristol for certain parts of the training.

We want graduates on our training programme to get the best possible development, to ensure that they become valuable members of the team - and we therefore do all we can to ensure that they receive all the help they need. The post holder will be supervised by a senior manager - who is a graduate engineer. The post holder will also be allocated a "Mentor", an experienced professional engineer who will be there to ensure that the professional development needs of the graduate are also taken into account.

Provided that performance is satisfactory pay progression is rapid. Based on current pay rates for VOSA, annual gross pay will be as follows (pay award pending August 2006):

| Graduate Mechanical Engineer | Year 1, Level 4, Entry | Year 2, Level 5, Entry | Year 3, Level 6, Entry |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Base Salary | £19,788 | £20,988 | £24,216 |
| Market Forces Factor | £2,950 | £2,950 | £1,450 |
| Total | £22,738 | £23,938 | £25,666 |

From Year 3 onwards there will be pay progression based on the individual pay arrangements of VCA, VOSA or TTS.

There are allowances available to cover the cost of being on detached duty away from Bristol when this occurs.

Other benefits include membership of a non-contributory pension scheme, holidays of 30 days annual leave per annum, 8 Bank Holidays and 2 1/2 Privilege Days, as well as good career opportunities within the Civil Service.

Who Are We Looking For

We are looking for graduates who possess up to date knowledge and skills, i.e. graduates who have gained an accredited IMechE Masters or Bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering, or a similar engineering degree (eg. Automotive Engineering, Aeromechanical Engineering, Aeronautical Engineering, etc.).

We are looking for someone who:

- is keen and interested to learn more;
- has a good grasp of engineering principles;
- is able to get on with people at all levels and disciplines;
- can work on projects as a part of a team;
- is able to think through solutions to problems - be they engineering or otherwise;
- is willing to muck-in and get on with a job, whatever it is;
- can understand complex issues, and has the ability to explain them in a simple way; and,
- is flexible, adaptive and has the ability to travel throughout the training programme.

What to do now

If you are interested in joining our graduate training programme, then please fill in the application form. This should be sent to us at the address overleaf, or can be e-mailed to us. Applications must be received by 2 March 2007.

In early March we will look at the applications and let you know if we want to see you. If you are selected we will invite you to an assessment centre - which will be in April. At the Assessment Centre we will give you an interview, as well as ask you to take part in a few exercises. There will also be opportunity for you to find out more about VOSA, VCA and TTS and how we work. The people assessing the candidates are trained and will make sure that candidates feel at ease on the day.

If you are successful at the Assessment Centre we would be looking for you to start working for us in September 2007 (once you have had your degree results, if you are completing your degree that year).

Contact Details

For copies of the Graduate Mechanical Engineer Training Programme application form, please contact us by one of the following means (quoting reference 07806/TB):

Telephone - phone our enquiry unit on 01792 454395, and we can mail or e-mail a form to you.

E-mail - send us a note to recruitment@vosa.gov.uk, stating that you require an application pack for the Graduate Mechanical Engineer Training Programme and we will e-mail the forms to you.

Internet - download form at www.vosa.gov.uk/vacancies

By post - write to us at:

Human Resources Department
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency
Room V18
Berkeley Annex
Croydon Street
Bristol
BS5 ODA

When we send you an application form we will also send you more details of the work of our organisations. However you may also like to look at our websites, which will provide you with some more background. The addresses are: www.vosa.gov.uk, for VCA is www.vca.gov.uk, and www.dft.gov.uk.

Application forms can be returned to us either by post or e-mail to the addresses above, by 2 March 2007.

If you require more details of the programme then please contact us by any of the above methods.

If at the time of reading this leaflet you are too late for the 2007 intake, we do intend to recruit again at the same time of year for the 2008 intake. If you are interested please register an interest with us by post or e-mail, and we will send you an application pack when it is ready in November 2007.

Note: Due to the expected high number of applications, we are unable to provide feedback to those candidates not invited to interview