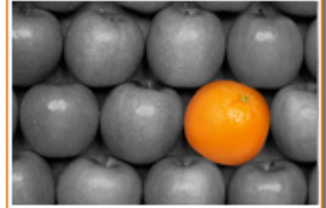


Training Quality Standard Assessment Services

Newsletter

September 2009

Achieve the Training
Quality Standard



and stand out from
the crowd

Applicant Training Course Dates

The two-day training course is designed to effectively support organisations that wish to achieve The Standard.

We are running a two-day Applicant Training Course on the following dates;

Date	Location
13 th & 14 th October	De Veers Highfield Park Hotel Highfield Park Church Lane Heckfield, Hook Hampshire RG27 0LG www.devevenues.co.uk
24 th & 25 th November	Park Inn Birmingham West Birmingham Road West Bromwich West Midlands B70 6RS www.birminghamwest.parkinn.co.uk
12 th & 13 th January	St. Giles Hotel – Heathrow Hounslow Road Middlesex TW14 9AD http://heathrow.stgiles.com/default.aspx?pg=hotel

College scoops accolade for working with local employers

January 2009

Milton Keynes College has become the 100th organisation to achieve the Training Quality Standard (TQS) – the highest training accolade possible – in recognition of its outstanding work with employers.

The award was presented on Thursday 29th January by Chris Banks, Chairman of the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), at a visit to the college's University Centre building.

The TQS recognises those colleges and training providers that put employers' needs at the heart of what they do. Part of a fundamental shift in the skills system, it gives employers the power to choose how and when training is delivered to them.

TQS highlights a college's ability to offer training which responds to the needs of businesses - more than half of those that have achieved the standard have also demonstrated excellence in a particular sector.

Milton Keynes College was awarded the TQS alongside Bradford College, which became the 101st organisation to achieve the Standard. They join a list of 101 organisations including BMW, British Gas, Rolls-Royce and the FA Premier League, all of which have been awarded the standard for their own in-house training, as well as a growing number of colleges and private sector training providers.

Further Education Minister Siôn Simon said:

"This is a time when training and skills count in keeping people in jobs and investing in good quality training will help businesses prepare for the upturn when it comes.

"By using those with the Training Quality Standard, employers can be confident that training on offer will best respond to their needs. I hope other colleges will follow the example of Milton Keynes College and work towards achieving the standard."

LSC Chairman Chris Banks said:

"I would like to congratulate Milton Keynes College for their achievement in gaining the Training Quality Standard. I believe that the Standard makes a real difference to the quality of training being offered to employers and that they can trust it as a real mark of excellence."

Rob Jones, Vice Principal of Business Development and Marketing at Milton Keynes College, said:

"We are delighted and proud to have achieved the Training Quality Standard, which is an endorsement of the excellent work that the College does with a huge range of employers in Milton Keynes.

"In these challenging economic times, the College is ideally placed to assist businesses and individuals in achieving the skills they need to maximise their potential."



Milton Keynes receiving their plaque.

From left to right: Linda Jarvis, LSC Partnership Director; Chris Banks, LSC Chairman; Rob Badcock, Milton Keynes College Principal; Rob Jones, Milton Keynes College Vice Principal; Di Cook, Head of Business Development, Milton Keynes College

New proposals to allow Training Quality Standard certificated providers to be Train to Gain Brokers

A new paper published by the UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES) has put forward proposals to allow TQS certificated providers to become Train to Gain brokers.

The proposals would allow colleges and other training organisations who have the Standard to provide brokerage services directly to employers, fully supported to offer an extended Train to Gain service.

Chris Humphries, Chief Executive of the Commission, said:

"The key is the Training Quality Standard, which is a must-have. I spoke to someone recently who had just been through it and been awarded the standard. They said it was pretty tough.

"I thought, 'good, that's what I like to hear'."

The paper, entitled 'Simplification of Skills in England', also suggests setting up 'Employee Development Centres'; shared bases for learning in business parks, industrial estates and shopping malls. TQS certificated providers would be invited to collaborate with the relevant management and tenants, and bid for funds to help set these up, with training supported by Train to Gain.

A full article on the new proposals has appeared in the TES – to read this, click [here](#). The paper can be downloaded from the UKCES website, [here](#).