

Employers should look to apprenticeships to close the maths gap, says Perspective

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Responding to a recent report that revealed dire news about the maths skills of graduates in the UK, Perspective, a leading provider of individual learning plan (<http://www.perspective-uk.com/our-products/folio/>) software, is reminding employers to enhance their employees' education by offering on-the-job training to meet their needs.

The report was released by the Lords Science and Technology committee and found that a troubling number of students in the sciences are not developing adequate maths skills, which greatly hurts their chances at obtaining work in industries currently of critical interest to economic growth.

A dearth of fundamental skills and low enrolment in degree courses for science, technology, engineering and maths (Stem) subjects means that the educational system is not producing the type of graduate needed to fulfil the needs of several crucial industries in the UK. The study found that about 70 per cent of biology students, 38 per cent of chemistry and economics students, and 10 per cent of engineering students had not progressed to A-level maths. Additionally, the committee discovered that even those who obtained an A* in A-level maths did not always live up to that grade. Top universities have stated that they are being forced to give remedial courses in mathematics to many of their Stem students.

The report concludes that steps must be taken to remedy this issue and recommends that maths should be a requirement for all students over 16. However, Perspective advises that employers should also take steps to improve the situation by offering tailored apprenticeships to qualified applicants.

Paul Davis, managing director of Perspective, says: "Many students might not be interested in mathematics because they are unaware of its practical applications. Learning maths on the job allows people to realise the important role it plays in everyday life and gives it context."

"A highly practical solution, especially in a slow economy and sluggish job market, is training graduates through apprenticeship programmes that can give them the applicable skills they need to succeed in these vital industries. Developed to solve this problem, the Higher Apprenticeships scheme was designed to create a highly skilled workforce to meet the needs of employers in advanced fields such as accounting, engineering, IT, and so on. "

"In fact, the second round of funding for this groundbreaking programme has just been announced, with £6 million of the overall £25 million programme going to the development of over 4,000 new Higher Apprenticeships in areas such as aviation, alternative resource development, legal services, and space engineering. Employers taking part in the programme include global leaders such as Siemens, Unilever and the UK Space Agency, which will all profit from receiving world-class technical training in their workplaces."

Perspective is a pioneering education and apprenticeship software company that was one of the first in the UK to embrace the Systems Interoperability Framework (<http://www.perspective-uk.com/our-products/clm/systems-interoperability-framework.html>) (SIF), an

integrative technology that helps different platforms to communicate and share information without the need for additional programming or data entry. To discover more about this facet of Perspective's operations or to learn about education tracking software (<http://www.perspective-uk.com/our-products/clm/education-tracking-software.html>), visit www.perspective-uk.com (<http://www.perspective-uk.com/>).

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