

The Professional Coach Apprenticeship Level 3 Candidate Information

Background Information

Apprenticeships in the Active Leisure and Learning sector have been designed to present opportunities for young people to develop a mix of practical and technical skills that will allow them to develop both at work.

Apprenticeships are the current Government's flagship programme for entering the workforce in all sectors and apprentices learn on the job, building up knowledge and skills, gaining qualifications and earning money at the same time.

There are different levels of the Apprenticeships available within the Active Leisure and Learning Framework, they all lead to a National Vocational Qualification (NVQs), Key Skill qualifications and a range of Technical Certificates which give the underpinning knowledge necessary to achieve the NVQ and allow for broader learning and development opportunities.

What is the Professional Coach Apprenticeship?

This is a new coaching pathway programme developed for young people who want to pursue a full time professional career in coaching. The programme leads to the achievement of Level 3 Advanced Apprenticeship in Active Leisure & Learning – Coaching. The idea behind the programme is to provide young people the opportunity to undertake training and qualifications, receive coach mentoring and learn from some of the best coaches in England, work with the ASA England Talent Team and obtain employment as an apprentice coach with an approved employer. The programme will start in October 2009.

Training Framework?

The apprenticeship takes 2 years to complete, during this time apprentices will undertake the following qualifications alongside their employment.

1. Level 3 NVQ Coaching, Teaching and Instructing awarded by (1st for Sport)

This qualification allows candidates to demonstrate competence within the coaching environment. To gain the full NVQ candidates must achieve 3 units from a choice of 6 mandatory units and 2 units from a choice of 20 optional units. Candidates will be given a portfolio to collect evidence for their NVQ. Candidates will be able to use the UKCC Level 3 in Coaching as evidence for the NVQ as many of the units map across. Most of your evidence for your NVQ will naturally occur from your employment as a coach apprentice. This qualification is portfolio evidence based, however you will be required to attend 6 workshops to support your achievement of the NVQ.

2. Level 3 Certificate in Industry & Organisational Awareness for the Active Leisure and Learning Industry (1st for Sport)

This qualification is a mandatory technical certificate component for an advanced apprenticeship in the active leisure and learning industry and is appropriate for anyone who has an interest in working in the industry. The L3IOA has been developed to provide you with an appropriate understanding of your employment rights and responsibilities, the organisation you work in, and how the organisation sits within the active leisure and learning industry. It also enables you to explore the industry you are working in. This qualification will be delivered as a course.

3. Level 3 UKCC Coaching (Swimming, Diving, Waterpolo, Synchro)

The UK Coaching Certificate is a nationally recognised standard for coach and teacher education spearheaded by Sports Coach UK and centred on the needs of athletes. The qualification is made up of 11 units. Candidates will learn to plan, implement, analyse and revise annual coaching programmes. This qualification will help towards 70% achievement of the NVQ. This qualification will be delivered as a course.

4. Level 2 Certificate in Fitness Instructing – Gym (Awarded by Central YMCA Qualifications)

This award qualifies the individual to work within a gym environment. Upon completion you will be able to carry out inductions on gym equipment and to plan and supervise athlete workouts. It covers areas such as resistance and free-weights. Where you will learn a broad range of exercises and understand the basic principles of resistance programme design and delivery. This qualification will be delivered as a course.

5. First Aid at Work or in Sport

This will be a generic first aid course that will focus on sporting environment and your place of work. This qualification encompasses both theoretical understanding and practical applications of first aid. This qualification will be delivered as a course.

6. Key Skills Application of Number Level 2 and Communication Level 2.

Candidates who have achieved Grade C or above in GCSE English and Maths will be exempt from this component. Candidates who need to achieve these will do so via online learning.

Delivery of Apprenticeship and Qualifications

You will be allocated a Coach Assessor from the Institute of Swimming who will guide and assist you through your apprenticeship. You will receive an induction to the apprenticeship and your employer will also carry out an induction to your workplace. Over the two years you will be required to attend 6 workshops at Beacon Centres to support you with your achievement of the apprenticeship and attend all course workshops to achieve the necessary qualifications. In addition you will receive 6 individual visits per year from your coach assessor to carry out assessment of your NVQ.

Employment

The Institute of Swimming will source an approved employer for you to be placed with for the 2 years of the apprenticeship. You will have equal employment rights and will be paid an absolute minimum salary of £95 per week. Your employer will support you through your training and achievement of your qualifications. You will be required to work for a minimum of 16 hours per week

Entry Requirements?

To be eligible to do this apprenticeship you must meet the following criteria:

- Aged 16-24
- Living in England
- Not in Full-Time Education
- Do NOT hold a degree or HND Qualification
- Hold a UKCC Level 2 Coaching Qualification (Or be prepared to undertake UKCC Level 2 Coaching or Teaching course before October 2009.)

If you are aged 16-17 and have any individual queries regarding entry age for UKCC coaching qualifications please contact Michelle Kiff Tel: 01509 615456, Mobile: 07793545234, Email: apprenticeships@swimming.org

All of the qualifications and training are fully funded by the Learning and Skills Council and your employer.

Benefits of completing an Apprenticeship

- Obtain all training and qualifications for FREE!
- Gain valuable work experience with national governing body approved employers
- Experience working with field experts
- Receive mentoring from some of England's experience and well regarded coaches
- Earn money whilst training
- Exposure to different coaching environments
- Increases employment opportunities post apprenticeship

Express your Interest

If you are interested in joining the Professional Coach Programme for October 2009 please complete the Professional Coach Application Form and return to:

Michelle Kiff 35 Granby Street, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE11 3DU. Tel: 01509 615456, Mobile: 07793545234, Email: apprenticeships@swimming.org