



Hull College and BP

Delivering Essential Training Solutions

With over 30,000 students Hull College is one of the largest FE Colleges in the UK. Achieving success rates above national benchmarks, the College offers Further and Higher Education opportunities in the heart of the city of Hull. The impressive range of course options, from Foundation Studies to Degrees, means the College can respond to specific training needs of individuals, business, and industry. Hull College currently has four Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVEs) in Construction, Food Manufacturing, Ports and Logistics and Automotive Technologies, and has AoC Beacon Status for employer engagement.

Facilities are amongst the best in the country, with easy access from Europe or via London and other major UK airports, including Humberside International Airport, only 30kms from the city.

BP is an international company leading in oil and gas exploration, production, and the refining, marketing and supply of petroleum products. With operations in over 70 countries, BP supports all its businesses with high quality research and technology. BP is heavily involved in the manufacture and marketing of chemicals, and the Hull site is Europe's largest manufacturer of acetic acid. Hull College's fifteen year partnership with BP has resulted in the development of the highly acclaimed Quartz Training programme. The programme provides academic and vocational training for engineering, operational and laboratory trainees to graduate level both locally and on a global level.

The award winning Quartz training programme with BP

Apprentices have access to state of the art facilities based both at Hull College and BP Chemicals, Hull. Additionally the partners have been working with local industry members to provide training within CATCH, Centre for the Assessment of Technical Competence – Humber. CATCH, a brand new state of the art facility, offers a real chemical plant environment, giving apprentices hands on experience of full-scale chemical equipment and provides a venue for competency assessment of existing craftspeople.

BP Chemicals and Hull College were chosen to deliver the international BP Angola contract to train Angolan trainees to Advanced Modern Apprentice standard in engineering and operations. Angolan apprentices come to Hull to gain skills for use on the Angola oil platforms. Accommodation and pastoral care are provided in addition to training. The programme has seen three cohorts of trainees (including the first 3 female process technicians) arrive in Hull to take part in what is now intended to be a long term training project.

“ The Quartz programme has become an integral part of our succession planning. Our partnership with Hull College has been pivotal in our progression and we are delighted that our joint efforts have been recognised by the BP Helios Award, the National Training Award and the Special Training Award, which is only available to National Training Award winners. Receiving these awards recognises that the Quartz programme is truly world class and in terms of apprenticeship programmes is literally the best of the best. ”

Peter Lowsley, BP Training Advisor

- **Flexibility** – the programme has broadened, encompassing the needs of more vocational areas.
- **Achievement** – achievement and retention far higher than UK national average.
- **Support** – Companies in Humber region have been attracted to join the programme and continue to support it.
- **Growth** – Hull College are now able to provide a complete Modern Apprenticeship to trainees from a range of local engineering and operational employers.
- **Reputation** – continues to grow to the benefit of all partners. The Quartz training scheme has long been regarded as one of the best of its type in the UK, and its reputation is now global.

