

Machine Print Apprenticeship – Further Information

The Role

This is a unique opportunity for the successful candidate to develop a broad understanding of the lithographic print production process working on state-of-the-art offset printing presses through a two year apprenticeship.

Machine printers, also known as print 'minders', operate and maintain printing presses. The work involves taking instructions from the press operator and setting up the press with the right materials for the production run.

Full on the job training will be provided on all aspects of the job. The successful candidate will learn and progress to:

- Matching colours to the pre-press proofs.
- Restocking ink levels.
- Feeding the print materials into the presses.
- Putting job data into computerised control units.
- Carrying out quality checks during the print run.
- Identifying problems and fixing faults.
- Cleaning presses after a print run has finished (either manually or using automatic cleaning systems).
- Carrying out basic machine maintenance.
- Make the press ready.
- Run the press.
- Control output and quality.
- Plan and implement maintenance.

The successful apprentice will also study the following:

- The City & Guilds Level 2 Award in Printing and Graphic Communications – Machine Printing qualification.
- Employment Rights & Responsibilities (ERR).
- Personal Learning & Thinking Skills (PLTS).
- Functional Skills in Maths, English and ICT.

Weekly Hours & Wages

Over 18s: Shift work 6am – 6pm (2 x 15 mins unpaid breaks).
Average 42 hours per week.

Under 18s: Monday to Friday. 08:45 to 17:30 (one hour unpaid lunch break).
37.5 hours per week.

£5.16 per hour.

Future prospects

On successful completion of the Level Printing & Graphic Communications – Machine Printing qualification the apprentice will be promoted to the position of Press Minder. This role is seen as a career progression not just a job.

The Ideal Candidate

Skills required

- The ability to work as part of a team and think on your feet.
- Able to concentrate, work to deadlines and manage own workload.
- Good communication skills and attention to detail.
- Flexibility towards tasks and the needs of the business.
- Basic literacy, numeracy and IT skills.

Personal qualities

- A high level of self-motivation and commitment to training and professional development.
- Enthusiastic, with a positive and mature attitude.
- Honest, punctual and reliable with a strong work ethic.
- Friendly approachable nature.
- Open to feedback and proactive towards personal development.
- A keen interest in the Print industry.

Qualifications required

The successful candidate must have a minimum of GCSE Level C in English and Maths (or equivalent).

Things to bear in mind

This is a fast paced industry requiring exceptional attention to detail and a willingness to learn new skills and put them into practice. The majority of time will be spent working on machines. The work includes heavy lifting and will be physically demanding as you will be on your feet all day.

How to apply:

If you like the sound of our scheme and are passionate about pursuing a successful career with us, please send your CV with a covering letter to vacancies@sterlingsolutions.co.uk with 'Apprenticeship Scheme' as your subject line.

Alternatively, you can post a copy to:

Apprenticeship Scheme
Sterling Kettering
Sterling House
Kettering Venture Park
Kettering
NN15 6XU