



Ofsted  
Good  
Provider



acorn  
TRAINING



**EMPLOYER GUIDE**

**WORK  
WITH US**

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To find your next talent, promote an inclusive workforce & take the cost out of recruitment

# About Acorn Training

## WHO ARE WE?

We are an award-winning, national provider delivering adult education, employability programmes, apprenticeships, justice services, skills and careers development with over 15 years' experience. We have been recognised for championing equality, diversity and inclusivity within our work and continue to break down barriers for those from disadvantaged backgrounds, those battling mental & physical health conditions, returning citizens, the LGBTQ+ community, veterans and many more minority groups and underrepresented areas of society.

## WHAT DO WE DO?

We provide a range of fully-funded employability and training services tailored to the needs of local employers to fill gaps within the employment market with our customer base. To achieve this, we deliver person-centred support to individuals to help them develop the knowledge and skills for life and work. We ensure that employers and individuals are suitably matched to encourage sustainable employment and reduce staff turnover.

## WHERE DO WE OPERATE?

We deliver services directly from our centres in Hanley, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Burton, Crewe, Leek, Greater Manchester, Coalville, Melton Mowbray and Daventry. We have a robust delivery plan to reach candidates nationally through our flexible online learning and self-study platforms. We also undertake outreach work outside of our main footprint to offer recruitment and training solutions based in the community or from employer premises.



# Work with us

WE WANT TO HELP YOU FIND  
SUITABLE AND WORK-READY  
CANDIDATES TO FILL YOUR  
VACANCIES

## WHAT WE OFFER

- An end-to-end recruitment service at no cost to your business
- Access to work-ready candidates trained in qualifications of your choice
- Expertly matched candidates to encourage sustainable employment and reduce staff turnover rates
- Well-established, qualified teams and tutors in our centres and local communities
- Local, collaborative relationships with the voluntary and community sectors

## WHY CHOOSE US?

- Ofsted rated 'Good' training provider
- Recognised as a highly-inclusive and award-winning business
- Deliver outstanding quality through a robust and localised business plan
- Allocate a dedicated point of contact for all your recruitment needs
- Provide exceptional value for money as there is **no cost** to your business
- Celebrated a 98% course achievement rate in 2022

# Inclusive workforces



## OUR VISION

We want "to ensure a safe and secure future for everyone to succeed in life and work." We hope to achieve this through promoting an open and safe workspace, creating inclusive opportunities for people from all backgrounds and continuing to reduce misconceptions and stereotypes within sectors and industries.



## HOW CAN WE HELP YOUR BUSINESS?

We can help your business to break down barriers for some of the hardest hit in society and improve your social value by assessing workplace provisions and engaging with our work-ready candidates.



# About The Restart Scheme



## WHAT IS THE RESTART SCHEME?

The Restart Scheme is part of the Government's Plan for Jobs which aims to help one million people in England and Wales back into employment. It enables long-term jobseekers to access enhanced support to find work.

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

Each participant has a dedicated Employment Coach and through regular contact they will develop a strong understanding of employment history, skills, aspirations and support needs to develop the right package of support to help each participant succeed. Participants receive support to learn new skills, overcome barriers to work and gain access to vacancies to help them secure employment - all fully-funded by the scheme.



## HOW ARE WE INVOLVED?

Acorn Training are an official delivery partner of The Restart Scheme through Jobs 22. Jobs 22 were selected by the Department for Work & Pensions to deliver the Restart Scheme in Central England.



## We support participants on The Restart Scheme with:

- Training and qualifications
- CV and cover letter writing
- Developing employment skills
- Building confidence
- Jobs search and application support
- Debt advice & money management signposting
- Links to local employers

**RESTART**  
SCHEME

**JOBS**  
**22**  
UK



Department  
for Work &  
Pensions

# SWAPS

## SECTOR-BASED WORK ACADEMY PROGRAMMES

**We work closely with our customers to offer SWAPS with partnering local employers to help fill their vacancies. A SWAP consists of:**

- Pre-employment training and qualifications
- Employability skills - CV writing, Interview techniques, etc.
- Work experience in the sector
- A job interview with an employer in the sector

*There is no obligation to the employer to offer the job if the candidate is unsuitable.*

### **What costs are involved?**

Our SWAPs and courses are free/fully-funded for individuals aged 19+ who are unemployed and not in education; meaning no cost to the potential employer or the candidate.

# Training

**We deliver flexible, online and classroom-based courses to support the needs of the SWAP. Our courses teach important skills for both life & work including:**

- Warehousing & Storage
- Retail
- Business Admin
- Digital & IT
- Maths & English
- Health & Social Care
- Childcare
- Cleaning
- Customer Service
- Construction Skills
- Employability
- and many more!

*We deliver courses to meet the skills gaps identified by Local Enterprise Partnerships*



# Justice Services

## 360° DEGREE APPROACH

Acorn Training provides a range of services in partnership with His Majesty's Prison & Probation Service. We deliver our services in the secure environment, through the gate and within local communities. Our 360° approach ensures we are well-equipped to cover all aspects of the rehabilitation journey and to support individuals into sustainable employment.

We use the term 'returning citizen' to promote a positive and forward-looking approach when talking about prison leavers. We can help you to understand the benefits of hiring returning citizens and increase your social value; providing opportunities to those who want to positively contribute to society. For example, **did you know that 80% of employers of returning citizens have positively rated their reliability, motivation, attendance and performance?** - [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)



**We are committed to improving the lives of returning citizens by supporting rehabilitation through:**

- Understanding offending behaviour
- Learning and development
- Finding sustainable employment
- Developing networks of inclusive employers for returning citizens



HM Prison &  
Probation Service



**European Union**  
European  
Social Fund

# Sharing our successes

"It is a great opportunity to meet different parts of society and to have time with potential candidates."  
**Premier Inn**

"Very helpful staff at Acorn, nothing is too much trouble. I left feeling positive and willing to try different jobs."  
**John, Customer**

"Participants had a wonderful attitude to finding work and we will hopefully have some successful outcomes"  
**Keele University**

"My tutor was able to provide knowledge and experience in a variety of subjects throughout the course. This gave me the confidence to apply for a role in the care sector"  
**Stephanie, Customer**

"Each meeting is supportive with ideas and suggestions for how we can move our business forward"  
**Regency Source**

"We are really enjoying working in partnership with Acorn Training, helping people gain work within the education sector!"  
**Academics Ltd**

## Join our network



### Did you know?

*We have free tea & coffee available in all of our centres*




## Contact Us

### Telephone

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### Email

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Education & Skills  
Funding Agency