



## THE TEXTILE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE HAS LAUNCHED YORKSHIRE'S FIRST:

# Fashion Industry Training Academy

*The Textile Centre of Excellence is pleased to announce the launch of Yorkshire's first dedicated fashion, stitching, garment making and furnishings Academy, based in the heart of the UK's textile and clothing industry, Huddersfield. The Academy will provide new employment opportunities to address the growing demand for skills in apparel manufacturing across the region.*



### What is the Academy?

Following detailed industry based research, the FIT Academy has been established to create a supply of skilled operatives to meet current and future industry demand. It will provide customised training for to fill job vacancies in occupations including sewing machinists, garment technologists, fabric cutters, pattern graders, fabric menders, seamstresses and many other roles working with Yorkshire textile and apparel manufacturers.

### How is the training delivered?

Specialist industry tutors and assessors will deliver practical training to students joining in the Academy using a wide range of apparel machinery to develop the skills and techniques needed across the variety of occupations in the sector. Training will be offered from entry level, running through intermediate level training and where required into advanced skills delivery.

### How do companies engage?

To learn how the Academy can work with your business, contact the Centre. We will guide you through the programme requirements, agree suitable training arrangements and identify funding opportunities. Together, we will develop a 'learning journey' to ensure your employees are trained in line with your business requirements.

### How does it work?

The Academy will be managed by the Textile Centre of Excellence who will train and develop individuals to industry standards in workplace conditions. Programmes will differ in content and length based on employer need, providing the future workforce to meet local skills needs and increasing apprenticeship take-up across the sector.

### Who can enrol?

The FIT Academy will be open to everyone. The Academy will work with employed individuals who need to increase their skills a variety of machinist operations. It will also work with school leavers and job seekers, helping to develop the skills and interests of young people who may have little or no knowledge of the growing number of opportunities within the sector.

### When can we start?

You can enrol your staff now! We are open for business. If you are looking to recruit new employees, we can handle that for you too. If you are looking to enrol existing staff, we can start to plan their training programmes now.

### How much does it cost?

Various funding packages are available. Further details on costs and funding eligibility are available by contacting the Centre with details of how many vacancies you have, or how many existing staff require training to particular levels.

## **EXAMPLE PROGRAMME FOR NEW RECRUITS WITH NO EXPERIENCE: THE 'PRE-WORK' PROGRAMME**

Week	Programme Attendance	Hours per Week	Learning Content/Detail
Week 1	Monday to Friday 09:00 – 13:00 each day	4 hours per day (20 hours per week)	Introductions. Safety briefings. Portfolio building. Machinery overview. Machine parts and exploring lockstitch, overlocker, button-hole equipment. Cutting tools and equipment. Lockstitch trainability practice/exercises. Ongoing tutoring and training throughout the week.
Week 2	Monday to Friday 09:00 – 13:00 each day	4 hours per day (20 hours per week)	Refresh and review. Sewing templates, understanding lockstitch machinery, design, principles. Practical accuracy, back tacking, speed and efficiency, practical exercises, formal progress review.
Week 3	Monday to Friday 09:00 – 13:00 each day	4 hours per day (20 hours per week)	Refresh and review. Sewing templates, understanding the overlocker and button-hole machinery, design, principles and methods of use. Practical accuracy, speed and efficiency, practical exercises.
Week 4	Monday to Friday 09:00 – 13:00 each day	4 hours per day (20 hours per week)	Refresh and review. Industry efficiency and speed testing (with practical assessments). Theory of needle sizing and type, understanding seam types and applications (flat seams, reinforced seams and hems).
Week 5	Monday to Friday 09:00 – 13:00 each day	4 hours per day (20 hours per week)	Workshop organisation. Process of zip insertion and practical use, quality control and fault analysis and processing, top pressing and under-pressing.
Week 6	Monday to Friday 09:00 – 13:00 each day	4 hours per day (20 hours per week)	Practical assignments using all cutting apparatus and machinery. Formal assessment. Portfolio finalisation. Sample work and programme project. <i>*For job seekers - work readiness assessments, CV, interview prep*.</i>

**FINAL ASSESSMENT, REVIEW, JOB INTERVIEW, POTENTIAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY IDENTIFIED**



**PAID EMPLOYMENT WITHIN THE FASHION, TEXTILE, APPAREL AND FURNISHINGS INDUSTRY**



**ENROLMENT ONTO THE FORMAL INDUSTRY APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMME**

The Centre of Excellence will provide complete support for all aspects of advertising vacancies, review, interviewing, selection, pre-screening, induction training and work placement.

Candidates will be screened and offered employment where a vacancy exists within a local company and meets both the needs of the business and the preferences of the candidate.

After completing a two-month probationary period in the workplace, candidates can be enrolled onto the ABC Awards Level 2 Intermediate Apprenticeship in Manufacturing Apparel Products.

Candidates will be able to continue to develop their skills through this programme, which will be delivered at the candidate's place of work. A 'day release' scheme will allow candidates to access to the FIT Academy one day per week.

The timescale for achieving an apprenticeship is a minimum of 12 months (from enrolment). Where a job role provides sufficient opportunity learners are offered progression onto the Manufacturing Apparel Products Advanced Apprenticeship.