

The Greater Manchester Apprenticeship Grant for Employers (GM AGE)

Employer Fact Sheet

What is 'GM AGE'?

The Greater Manchester Apprenticeship Grant for Employers (GM AGE) is an incentive scheme for employers who have not employed an apprentice, either in the last 12 months or at all. It provides a grant to help support an employer's costs associated with employing and training a young person on an apprenticeship.

Greater Manchester has been awarded a finite funding pot for GM AGE and Grants are allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis subject to funding availability, for Apprentices starting their programme by 31 July 2017, so eligible employers should apply as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Eligibility

Up to three GM AGE grants of £1,500 are available to any employer meeting the following criteria:

- The apprentice's workplace is in Greater Manchester.
- The company employs fewer than 250 employees.
- The company does not have any staff currently undertaking an apprenticeship.
- If the company has previously employed an apprentice, it is more than 12 months since their last apprentice completed their programme, unless the apprentice is progressing from an Advanced to Higher Apprenticeship.
- The Apprentice recruited is aged between 16 and 24.

GM AGE also includes additional incentive payments on top of the £1,500 grant, which (subject to meeting the rest of the criteria) have the potential to increase the value of the employer grant to up to £2,500, to encourage:

- Progressing a young person from a completed Traineeship* to an Apprenticeship – *additional £1,000 employer incentive*
- Starting an apprentice on a Higher Apprenticeship – *additional £1,000 employer incentive*.

*Traineeships are aimed at 16-24 year olds who are motivated to work but currently lack the skills, experience and behaviours sought by employers to secure an Apprenticeship or other sustainable employment. Traineeships provide support with English and maths, work preparation training around the skills and attributes needed to sustain employment, and work placements which offer exposure to a real work place so young people can develop the skills, knowledge, confidence, attitudes and behaviours they need to succeed at work. Traineeships can last anywhere between six weeks and six months, although they typically last four to five months. In an ideal scenario the work placement employer would offer a progression opportunity to an Apprenticeship.

How do I find out more and apply for a GM AGE grant?

If you are already working with an apprenticeship training provider, they should be able to answer any questions and support you to apply for the grant.

If you are not currently working with a training provider, visit the National Apprenticeship Service website or the Greater Manchester Skills Gateway for more information about employing an Apprentice in Greater Manchester:

<https://www.gov.uk/take-on-an-apprentice>

How is the GM scheme different to the national AGE grant?

- In Greater Manchester we are offering **bigger grants to a larger pool of employers**. Based on size, over 1,500 more businesses in Greater Manchester are potentially eligible for the grant than would be eligible under the national scheme (which is only open to organisations with fewer than 50 employees).
- There are **additional cash incentives** available within Greater Manchester which aren't available nationally, to support higher level skills that will help your organisation thrive and grow.
- With a slightly different emphasis in eligibility, we are **bringing new employers to the table** and engaging those organisations which have not employed apprentices either for a long time or at all. In this way we are investing in apprenticeship growth, rather than simply subsidising employers who are already engaging with apprenticeships and seeing first-hand the benefits of employing apprentices.

In the event of any other queries please contact the GM AGE team at New Economy who will be happy to help: GMAGE@neweconomymanchester.com