

Proposal for the Development of the Piling Apprenticeship Standard at the Tunnelling and Underground Construction Academy (TUCA)

Background & Employer Led Training

Prospects College of Advanced Technology (PROCAT) has a long history over more than 40 years in delivering apprenticeships and workforce training for the engineering and construction industries.

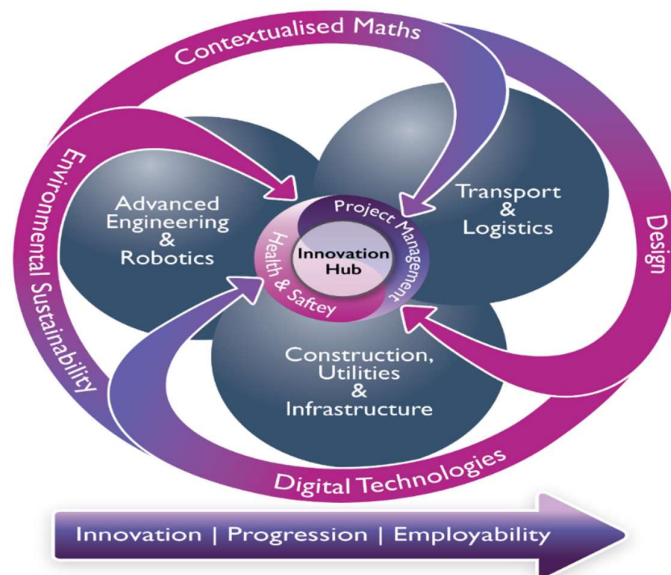
Established in the 1960's through the Industrial Training Act, the organisation was set up as a Group Training Association (GTA), amongst others, to satisfy the training needs of industry. The GTA was Governed by employers and financed largely through a levy system.

Despite the levy system falling away and long standing Government policy that has commissioned qualification output through learner led funding, PROCAT has remained steadfast in its focus on delivering training for industry and has continued to strengthen its employer relationships and reputation for high quality apprenticeships.

Now we find ourselves with a new apprenticeship levy system in place and industry are faced with the same challenge of ensuring they can commission quality training to recoup their levy and bring about the next generation of technical employees.

PROCAT currently train almost 1000 apprentices for our c.400 industry partner employers. Our mission is *"to make a contribution to the success of key sectors of British industry by taking a leading role in providing excellent technological education and skills training which is open to all people of ability and commitment* and employers remain at the heart of everything the college does.

We feel that this alongside our specialist focus (please see diagram below) makes PROCAT an excellent choice of provider for those operating in the engineering, construction or transportation industries who want a genuine partnership approach to training.



Focus on Industry

All apprenticeship programmes at PROCAT are industry led in their design. At the outset this is undertaken through close working to design the programme and then on an ongoing basis is facilitated through our GTA Employer Committees. These committees have c.20 members, only three of which are college staff, the remaining are all employer members. They feed directly into our Corporation Board, which itself has employer representation and to which the Committees can nominate two employer members to.

This structure, in addition to serving over 500 employers and developing close working relationships with a vast number, enables us to shape the training offer, improve quality and develop the training needed for the future workforce in our industries.

The title of 'College of Advanced Technology' recognises the direction of travel for our industries. They are becoming more technology reliant, requiring an agile and skilled workforce that can design, build and maintain that technology. In recognition of this, PROCAT has developed a strategy to move the college to a position where we can strengthen and broaden our training offer to industry and provide more opportunities to young people looking to start a career in these industries, with the right skill sets.

This strategy means PROCAT has an open door to work with employers who wish to bring new provision into the market.

Curriculum Development and Cost

PROCAT has already made much progress in the development of curriculum and in this academic year has introduced 15 new apprenticeship standards to both replace frameworks and to introduce new subject areas.

Although positive, this is placing high demands on what is already limited development capacity amongst the staff base.

In order to successfully bring about development of more provision in a timely manner, PROCAT would need to bring in resource in addition to its own resource to complete this work. The work to be undertaken includes the following:

Task	Number of days
Building a full understanding of the standard and EPA requirements	2
Ascertaining how employers wish the standard to be delivered inc. mode of delivery, content, timescales, equipment etc.	2
Designing a programme overview and testing with employers	3
Writing schemes of work for delivery of the apprenticeship	5
Writing lesson plans for delivery readiness	5
Delivery staff training and development	3 (1 prep/2 training)
TOTAL	20 days
Consultants time is charged at £350 per day	£7,000

PROCAT will of course provide its own resource to support this work so will be match funding the development. We have estimated 10 days of staff time will be needed to work with the consultant to project manage and ensure the programme is embedded, can be timetabled and resourced appropriately.

Internal resource will include the Assistant Principal, Head of Transport (who leads on provision at TUCA), Head of Apprenticeships (or team member) and Head of HR.

PROCAT is therefore seeking revenue funding from FPS to support the cost of external resource to develop the Piling standard in a quality and timely manner.

Following confirmation of this funding, we foresee the development work would be conducted between February and June 2018.

Please note that due to the Standard not currently being approved, any development work that takes place in advance of this is done so at a level of risk.