

TECHNICIANS: THE BACKBONE OF OUR ECONOMY

Our country's 1.5 million technicians are the linchpins of the economy.

Every day, they marry knowledge of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) with hands-on skills across industry and vital services to identify and solve problems.

WHO ARE TECHNICIANS?

Some technicians work in labs. But most work elsewhere, in fact, everywhere:

...in electronics, engineering, forestry, science, architecture, textiles, welding, air transport, farming, graphic design, pharmaceuticals, conservation, dentistry, insurance, art, accounting, construction, civil engineering, forensics, environment, photography, broadcasting, clothing design, medicine, horticulture, veterinary, mining, telecommunications, plumbing, optometry, IT, aerospace and space, schools, military, transport, research and development, universities, town planning, animal care, colleges, water treatment, manufacturing, food technology...



WHAT IS NEEDED



HIGHER QUALITY
APPRENTICESHIPS



SPECIALISED
TECHNICAL EDUCATION



PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION
FOR TECHNICIANS



REFORMED
CAREER GUIDANCE



Apprenticeships policy should focus on quality, not just quantity. All new apprenticeships should be at Level 3 or higher and expansion should be targeted in growth industries, particularly those relating to STEM.



New 'Institutes of Technology' should be created, offering the very best facilities and highly-skilled staff to deliver the qualifications and training really valued by employers.



Professional registration should become the norm for all technicians, providing a quality mark for their skills and status. Government should support professional bodies in efforts to ensure the benefits of technician registration, both to individuals and employers, are more widely understood.



Career guidance should be reformed to give pupils the information they need about the full breadth of opportunities available. Gatsby's eight benchmarks of good career guidance are available to view at: gatsby.org.uk/careerguidance



GATSBY



TECHNICIANS ARE CRITICAL TO OUR ECONOMY YET WE ARE NOT PRODUCING ENOUGH PEOPLE WITH THE RIGHT KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS.

WITHOUT THEM, HOPES OF REBALANCING OUR ECONOMY WITH A RENEWED FOCUS ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND MANUFACTURING WON'T BE ACHIEVED.

REWARDING CAREERS

Every year, tens of thousands of great technician jobs remain hidden from young people who would benefit from these opportunities.

These are not just important but also well-paid and interesting jobs leading to fulfilling and rewarding careers.

For many bright students, a technical qualification should be the first not a last choice.

The careers suit all-rounders and problem-solvers.

For young people who enjoy science, technology, engineering or maths and want to put what they learn into action; there could hardly be a better employment destination.

They bring long-term employability as technicians can move between sectors as the job market changes.

For many bright students, a technical qualification should be the first not a last choice.

BACKBONE OF THE ECONOMY

Technicians are critical to our economy yet we are not producing enough people with the right knowledge and skills.

Without them, hopes of rebalancing our economy with a renewed focus on science, technology and manufacturing won't be achieved.

We need 70,000 newly qualified technicians each year to replace those retiring and to fill the new opportunities opening up.

But not enough people are gaining the right science, technology, engineering and

maths (STEM) knowledge and skills to replace them – denying many young people the opportunity to embark on a rewarding and fulfilling career.

Companies are already complaining that they are being held back by the lack of technicians.

Over a quarter of firms working in STEM are reporting difficulties in recruiting technicians and 35% are expecting problems in the next three years.

SMEs say their growth is being stifled. Larger companies have

been forced to move work that technicians do overseas.

Our international competitors, such as Germany, place much greater value on technicians and technical education.

35%

The percentage of firms working in STEM that are expecting problems in recruiting technicians in the next three years.

700,000

More technicians are needed in the next decade to meet the demand of employers

For more information visit gatsby.org.uk/technicians