**APPRENTICESHIP EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR**  
AWARD CRITERIA

**This category celebrates employers who can showcase a strong commitment to employing, nurturing and supporting apprentices. If you can demonstrate the contribution and success that apprenticeships have brought to your organisation, then this an award for you.**

Judges are looking for exemplar employers who showcase the measurable benefits that apprentices have provided and showcase the benefits gained by developing their workforce through apprenticeship schemes. The judges will also be looking for examples of best practice and the support put in place to help the development of apprentices within the workplace. As well as receiving a trophy to mark the winner’s success, the winning organisation will also receive £2,000\* to donate to a local school of their choice to fund a science related project. *\* Subject to category sponsorship*

**Award Criteria  
1.** Employers must have employed 1 or more apprentices for a minimum   
 of 12 months.  
**2.** All employers must be located in the North East region or be able to provide   
 evidence of true contribution to the region and be members of NEPIC  
**3.** All applications will be required to provide a supporting statement   
 from an apprentice under their employment.  
**4**. All employers must be registered with a recognisable apprenticeship provider.

**Judges will be using the following criteria to score applications:**• Commitment: demonstrates that apprenticeships are fully integrated   
 within the organisation with a clear future development programme  
• Contribution: showcases how their apprenticeships has enabled the business   
 to grow and exceeded expectations for both the employer and the apprentices  
• Success: an exemplar representing outstanding levels of achievement   
 as well as inspirational qualities  
  
**How to enter**  
To apply, you must supply a short statement detailing the nature of your business and the types of apprenticeship you provide (150 words max) and respond to the six questions detailed in application form overleaf.   
 **Closing date**All entries are to be submitted by close of business on **9th February 2024**

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| **Company Details** | **APPRENTICESHIP EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR:** APPLICATION FORM  **Please complete the following application form and return electronically.** | | | |
| Organisation |  | | | |
| Contact Person |  | | | |
| Job Title |  | | | |
| Company Address |  | | | |
| Postcode |  | | | |
| Telephone No. |  | | | |
| Mobile No. |  | | | |
| E-mail Address |  | | | |
|  |  | | | |
| Number of Employees | *Less than 250* |  | *More than 250* |  |
| Date first apprentice recruited: |  | | | |
| Currently No. of Apprentices: |  | | | |
| Name of Apprenticeships provider: | *[College, training provider etc that you work with to provide your apprenticeship programme]* | | | |
|  |  | | | |
| **Your Nominated School** |  | | | |
| School Name |  | | | |
| School Contact |  | | | |
| Address |  | | | |
| Postcode |  | | | |
| Telephone No. |  | | | |
| E-mail Address |  | | | |

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| **Opening Statement (150 words max.)** |
| *Please provide a short statement detailing the nature of your business and the types of apprenticeship you provide.* |
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| **Section 1. (250 words max.)** |
| *- Give an outline of your organisation and your apprenticeship programme.*  *- Why your organisation decided to invest in apprenticeships and how this investment fits into your organisation’s overall strategy.*  *- The tangible measures your organisation uses to demonstrate the success of your apprenticeship programme and your investment in it. i.e. the benefits apprenticeship employment has made to your company the ROI apprentices bring to the business*  *- Your plans for developing and enhancing your apprenticeship programme.* |
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| **Section 2. (250 words max.)** |
| *– Why you believe the delivery of your apprenticeship programme is exceptional.  Please make use of external validation/feedback if available.*  *– How you recruit a talented and diverse apprenticeship workforce.*  *– How you make your apprenticeships accessible to people from all backgrounds.*  *– Examples of how you are committed to promoting investment in skills and sharing best practice through ambassadorial activities. Do you encourage employees and apprentices  to act as ambassadors for apprenticeships?*  *- Are apprenticeships actively promoted to sub-contractors, suppliers and customers etc?*  *- Provide details of any success stories that your company has had as a direct result  of employing apprentices?*  *– Why you are a role model for other employers.* |
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| **Section 3. (350 words max.)** |
| *– How you support your apprentices beyond the baseline requirements of the relevant apprenticeship framework(s) e.g. training, mentoring and ambassadorial activities. What support network have you in place?*  *– Ways in which apprentices have benefited from the opportunities presented by the apprenticeship programme. Include relevant quotes from apprentices.*  *– Evidence of progression/promotion/retention successes.*  *– Tangible organisational benefits that are a direct result of your investment in apprenticeships, linked back to the objectives you set for your apprenticeship programme.*  *– How your apprenticeship programme has helped to meet your organisation’s skills needs.* |

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| **Section 4. (300 words)** | |
| *Please answer why your company should receive this award?* | |
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| **Section 5. (150 words)** | |
| Please supply an apprentice statement supporting your employer's application, detailing how they rate the company as an apprentice employer. | |
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| **Section 6. (100 words)** | |
| Is the head of the business committed to the promotion of apprenticeships internally and externally and provide examples? | |
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| **Name of Head of Business:** |  |
|  |  |
| **Signature of Head of Business:** |  |

Please submit your application to NEPIC by close of business on **9th February 2024** via the following e-mail address: **awards@nepic.co.uk** stating   
**APPRENTICESHIP EMPLOYER AWARD ENTRY** within the subject line.