

International Trade Summer School inspires next generation of exporters

16-18 year old students in Scotland will join the next generation of business leaders and trade experts tomorrow (Tuesday 25 June) at the National Trade Academy Programme Summer School organised by the Department for International Trade (DIT).

The Summer School will take place at the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh, where students will design their own export strategy, develop entrepreneurial skills, work alongside business leaders and participate in a National Competition.

The National Trade Academy Programme Summer School was established by DIT to inspire the next generation of exporters, upskill young people as they explore various career paths, and increase knowledge around the opportunities and benefits of international trade.

The participating schools this year include Preston Lodge High School, St Andrew's RC High School, West Calder High School, The James Young High School, Viewforth High School, Balwearie High School and Knox Academy.

International Trade Secretary Dr Liam Fox MP said:

The National Trade Academy Programme Summer School is a great initiative to inspire and educate the next generation of business leaders and entrepreneurs, giving them great insight into the world of international trade.

It is a great opportunity for students to learn more about the potential of a global Britain and explore the economic benefits of free trade.

During the day, students will increase their knowledge of international trade, build their confidence, experience an interactive style of learning outside the classroom, and compete with other Summer School students across the UK in a series of challenges.

Successful exporting experts from the Scotch Whisky Association, Blazing Griffin, Faraday Grid, Tissue Solutions, Aggreko and the University of Edinburgh will also deliver learning sessions and inspirational talks during the day.

Scotch Whisky Association Chief Executive Karen Betts said:

I am delighted to help the entrepreneurs of tomorrow learn from the global success of Scotch Whisky.

The industry's exports flourished because of the entrepreneurial spirit of previous generations. With the whisky sector's important contribution to the UK economy, it is vital that we inspire young people to learn the skills needed for future success.

Jobs in the Scotch Whisky are high-skilled and high-productivity. I hope the National Trade Academy will help those about to leave school understand better the career opportunities in exporting and international trade, including in Scotch Whisky.

Dr Morag McFarlane at Tissue Solutions Ltd said:

With this program, students get a rare opportunity to participate in something that will not only help them gain valuable knowledge about international trade, but also a chance to develop their own capabilities

Working alongside business leaders who have first-hand experience of exporting gives students practical insights while helping them develop their leadership and management skills with a specific focus on business growth and innovation.

Aine Finlayson, Director of Manufacturing at Aggreko, said:

This is great opportunity for the students to learn and network with people from many businesses who export and have a global presence. This type of programme really helps young people solidify their career choices.

Winning teams from each of the three Summer School days will be invited to London for a Prize day, where they will further their learning and the overall challenge winner will be announced.

The National Trade Academy Programme is part of the Board of Trade and aims to upskill the nation on international trade, building a culture of exporting through a range of educational projects and initiatives.