

[News story: UK Hydrographic Office is Highly Commended at 2018 National Apprenticeship Awards](#)

The UKHO's apprenticeship scheme received national recognition as Highly Commended in the 'Large Employer' category at the National Apprenticeship Awards last week. This follows its success in winning the Royal Navy Award for 'Large Employer of the Year' in the South West at the regional finals held in September, and another Highly Commended at the 'STEM Inspiration Awards' in November. The UKHO was among nine organisations shortlisted for the national 'Large Employer' category, for organisations with 250 to 4,999 employees.

Held in Old Billingsgate, London on Wednesday 28 November, the national awards were attended by employers and apprentices across the country, as well as the Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills, the Rt Hon Anne Milton MP, and the Secretary of State for Education, the Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP. The evening celebrated outstanding apprentices, employers and individuals who go above and beyond to champion apprenticeships across the UK.

The UKHO's apprenticeship scheme gives applicants an opportunity to gain an industry recognised qualification whilst getting hands on experience in the workplace as a paid employee. Since beginning its apprenticeship scheme back in 2016, the UKHO has worked to develop its offering and currently employs over 50 apprentices across a wide variety of roles.

Amy Carrillo, Head of People at the UKHO, commented:

We're delighted our apprenticeships programme has been recognised in the National Apprenticeship Awards 2018. Our apprentices are a credit to themselves and to the whole organisation.

Our success has been dependent on collaboration across the organisation, building a close network between apprentices, line managers and the teams they work in, as well as the important role of our outstanding training providers.

Our apprentices and the skills they're developing are essential to the future direction of our organisation. Since our first apprentice joined in 2016, we have grown our programme, both in numbers and variety. Today, approximately 7% of our work-force is made up of apprentices across digital, data and technology roles, as well as in management, finance, HR, marketing, customer services and more. Our broad offering is made up of a diverse mix of upskilling current staff and external talent, qualifications, age-ranges. This is a platform for us to further develop and expand our apprenticeship programme.