

# Press release: UKHO Apprentice wins Bridgwater and Taunton College Apprenticeship Award

Sophie Hodson has won the 'Apprentice Champion' award at Bridgwater and Taunton College's Celebration of Apprenticeships Awards, which was held on 29 November at the college's McMillan Theatre.

UKHO partners with the college to deliver their apprenticeships and was the main sponsor of the event, which saw 21 of the college's 2500 apprentices making it to the final.

Sophie (Finance Assistant and Apprentice) won the 'Apprentice Champion' award, and was also a finalist in the 'Apprentice of the Year' category.

Catherine Porter, Agency & Cost Financial Controller at the UKHO and Sophie's line manager, said:

"Sophie has impressed us all since the day that she joined us. She had never used our financial system before but picked this up very quickly which is key in our roles. Working with her is a delight as she has got a lovely personality and is always proactive. She is forming good relationships around the business and the internal stakeholders that she interacts with are always extremely positive about her. This area is new to her but her commitment to the job and team is commendable."

Amy Carrillo, Head of Human Resources at the UKHO, was a guest speaker at the awards. Speaking about the importance of apprenticeships to the UKHO, Amy said:

"We have found that apprenticeships have helped us address skill shortages, particularly in the digital field where there is a nationwide skill shortage. We have 20 digital apprenticeships covering cyber security, IT professions, software testing and data analysis. These apprentices are helping us to build a more sustainable future for our digital transition.

We are harnessing new talent and bringing in fresh ideas. Not only that, we are also using apprenticeships to re-train or upskill existing team members.

We have three Data Analyst apprentices that were already part of our production team and have 11 Management apprentices from our teams.

In addition, the UKHO are offering 12 professional apprenticeships across the organisation in finance, HR, procurement, marketing, customer services and business administration up to level 5."