

The DofE – the HR professionals' most recognised volunteering programme

Recent research carried out by the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development has found that over a quarter of UK companies look for a DofE Award in applications when they recruit, above any other recognition programme (*CIPD Learning to Work survey 2015*).

Volunteering is key

Through the survey, HR professionals from across the UK identified a Duke of Edinburgh's Award as the most recognised programme a candidate can refer to during the recruitment process to demonstrate their volunteering experience and the employability skills it helps to build.

The results show that including a DofE Award on CVs and talking about the work-ready skills and attributes developed will really help a young person stand out from the crowd when applying for jobs.

The survey found that:

- 67% of UK companies believed that entry-level candidates with voluntary experience have more employability skills to offer than those who don't.
- 82% believe volunteering develops **teamworking** skills.
- 80% said **communication skills** were also developed through volunteering.
- **Time management** and **prioritisation, problem-solving, adaptability** and **leadership talent** were also identified as key competencies that young people with volunteering experience bring to the work place.

The DofE is calling for more employers to recognise and value the skills and attributes DofE Award holders bring to the workplace. You can view the list of leading companies who have already signed up to say that DofE Award holders have the skills for their business at www.DofEskills.org.

The complete package

DofE programmes help young people to develop into well-rounded individuals with a broad range of skills, not just through their volunteering experience but also through learning a new skill, improving their physical fitness and undertaking an expedition and residential activity.

The skills that a young person cultivates through their DofE will support them wherever they go – employers, universities and colleges all look for individuals who can demonstrate, through examples, these abilities when they recruit.

A DofE Award is a great stepping stone to employment and really helps participants. The DofE's **LifeZone** site (accessible through eDofE) has a wealth of employment advice pages created by top businesses to support Award holders, who they value and look for when they recruit.



"British Gas has been supporting the DofE for nearly ten years because we believe it can change young people's lives. In doing the DofE they develop the skills we look for in our future employees – like initiative, and a determination to learn and progress in their careers."

Ian Peters

Managing Director
British Gas

"Through my DofE I was really motivated to volunteer at BHF. Not only is it the feel good factor of giving something back to a great cause, but it is teaching me job and life skills that otherwise I wouldn't have. It will look great on my CV and hopefully getting this kind of experience so young will benefit me in the future when I'm out in the real world interviewing."

Zach

DofE participant