



Press Office

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15 November 2012

Unilever named in Top 100 Apprenticeship Employer list

Following a successful year for its apprenticeship programme, Unilever UK & Ireland has been recognised for the first time in the Top 100 Apprenticeship Employers list, announced at the National Apprenticeship Awards at The Skills Show in Birmingham yesterday.

Already in 2012, the year when Unilever launched the country's first Higher Apprenticeships in Research & Development (R&D), Unilever has been recognised for its work in apprenticeships in a number of ways:

- winning the **FDI (Food and Drink Federation) Apprentice of the Year 2012** with Engineering/Manufacturing apprentice Sam Roberts
- being named regional finalist (highly commended) in three of the **National Apprenticeship Service Awards**
 - Matt Drew (North West) – Engineering/Manufacturing
 - Emma Chilton (Leeds) – Logistics
 - Unilever UK Apprenticeship Programme
- awarded **Employer of the Year 2011** from West Cheshire College
- winning the **Star Apprenticeship Award 2011** with Matt Drew won (presented in February 2012)

The prestigious Top 100 list, compiled by the National Apprenticeship Service in partnership with City & Guilds, recognises excellence in businesses that employ apprentices. After a rigorous selection process the most outstanding Apprenticeship employers from all four National Apprenticeship Awards employer categories (ranging from small to macro sized business) went forward to feature in the list, which showcases the breadth of employers who now offer Apprenticeships.

Unilever has entered the list for the first time and currently employs approximately 60 apprentices, principally in three areas Engineering / Manufacturing, R&D and Logistics in 16 locations around the UK.

Hazel Elderkin, Apprenticeship Manager at Unilever UK & Ireland said, "Apprentices are a valuable and unique part of securing our talent pipeline, particularly in areas where there are skills shortages, such as in R&D. By employing those at the start of their careers, we can give apprentices the skills, knowledge and experience they need to grow professionally and with the company.

"We've done a lot of work in apprenticeships recently, including launching new R&D Higher Apprenticeships this year, to ensure that they represent a viable and fruitful career path for young

people today, as well as providing an asset to our company. To have our work recognised and be named a Top 100 Apprenticeship Employer makes us very proud.”

David Way, Chief Executive of the National Apprenticeship Service, congratulated Unilever on its success, saying, “The breadth and depth of employers on our Top 100 list just goes to show the huge impact apprenticeships have on companies of all sizes and the UK economy.

“Apprenticeships are the country’s gold standard for vocational training. As part of the new era for apprenticeships we are introducing measures to ensure there has never been a better time for employers to hire apprentices.

To view the full Top 100 Apprenticeship Employers List, please visit www.apprenticeships.org.uk.

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About Unilever:

Unilever is one of the world’s leading suppliers of fast moving consumer goods with operations in over 100 countries and sales in 190. Consumers buy 170 billion Unilever packs around the world every year, and our products are used over two billion times a day. We have more than 171,000 employees, and generated annual sales of €46.5 billion in 2011.

Working to create a better future every day, we help people to feel good, look good and get more out of life with brands and services that are good for them and good for others. Our portfolio includes some of the world’s best known and most loved brands including thirteen €1 billion brands, and global leadership in most categories in which we operate. The portfolio features iconic brands such as: Knorr, Hellmann’s, Lipton, Dove, Vaseline, Persil, Cif, Marmite, Flora, Wall’s, Lynx, Sure, Cif, Domestos and Pot Noodle.

Unilever’s ambition is to double the size of our business, whilst reducing our overall environmental impact (including sourcing, consumer use and disposal). We are also committed to doing what we can to improve health, nutrition and hygiene, with a target to help more than a billion people take action to improve their health and well-being, as well as sourcing all our agricultural raw materials sustainably by 2020. All of these goals are itemised in around 60 time-based commitments in our Unilever Sustainable Living Plan.

Unilever has led the Food Producers sector in the Dow Jones Sustainability World Indexes for 13 consecutive years. We are included in the FTSE4Good Index Series and attained a top environmental score of 5, leading to inclusion in the FTSE4Good Environmental Leaders Europe 40 Index. In 2011 Unilever led the Climate Counts Company Scorecard and was named #1 in the list of Global Corporate Sustainability Leaders according to the latest survey findings from GlobeScan Inc. and SustainAbility Ltd.

For more information about Unilever and its brands, please visit www.unilever.co.uk