Hello! We are delighted that you’ve taken the first step to entering the Inspiring the Future Employer Award. There are a few questions to complete, which shouldn’t take too long and it’s well worth the effort!

This category is open to employers in Oxfordshire, regardless of size and sector, that have gone above and beyond to inform and inspire the next generation. This could be through engaging with local schools and colleges to deliver industry insights or career-related projects, or providing virtual or face to face work experience opportunities.

For the purposes of this award, an Oxfordshire inspiring the future employer is defined as follows:

* Has management autonomy in Oxfordshire
* Provides career enrichment activities for young people living in Oxfordshire
* Has been engaging with Oxfordshire schools and colleges for at least 12 months before the closing date (i.e. from at least 25th February 2024)

**The judges will be looking for evidence of:**

1. Quality: the winning employer will be able to demonstrate that their careers activity is meaningful, inclusive, high quality and adds value for both learners and the employer
2. Innovation: the winning employer will be able to provide examples of how they have been innovative in delivering meaningful career enrichment activities or develop new ones
3. Future value: the winning employer will showcase how engaging with local schools and colleges forms part of their plans for recruitment and future workforce development
4. Success: the winning employer will be able to evidence the success of their activity e.g. successful recruitment, benefits to business and current staff

We require a statement from someone who has benefitted from a careers enrichment activity provided by the organisation to support your entry e.g. a school Careers Lead, or a current employee who previously completed a work experience placement with the company.

If you’re not sure whether your organisation is eligible to enter, please contact us at [skills@oxfordshirelep.com](mailto:skills@oxfordshirelep.com) for advice.

1. **General business information**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Business name |  |
| Company no *(if applicable)* |  |
| Business address |  |
| Telephone |  |
| Email |  |
| Date trading started |  |
| Number of employees |  |

1. **Contact information**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Contact name |  |
| Position |  |
| Telephone |  |
| Email |  |

1. **Head office**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Do you trade from Oxfordshire?  Is the address above your main or trading office? | Yes / No |
| Do you report to an external / other Head Office? | Yes / No |
| If you do report to an external head office please give details below | |
|  | |

1. **Please provide a brief description of your organisation, including an outline of its products or services** *max. 150 words*

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1. **Please describe how your organisation engages with Oxfordshire schools and colleges to inspire the next generation. Include examples of good practice (e.g. how you make activities accessible to all learners)**

*max. 250 words*

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1. **How do you ensure that your school engagement activities are meaningful for learners? (e.g. feedback from learners, review of work experience placements)**  *max. 200 words*

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1. **How has your organisation been innovative in delivering meaningful career enrichment activities or developing new ones?** *max. 150 words*

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1. **What benefits has engaging with schools brought to your organisation? Please give examples of successes (e.g. a piece of work delivered during work experience, raised awareness of company / sector, an apprentice employed as a result)** *max. 200 words*

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1. **What ideas do you have about how you could work with OxLEP to encourage other employers to engage with local schools/colleges if you win?** *max. 150 words*

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**Supporting statement**

**Please provide a supporting statement from someone who has benefitted from a careers enrichment activity provided by your organisation e.g. a school / college Careers Lead, or a current employee who previously completed a work experience placement with the organisation** *max. 200 words*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name |  |
| Job title |  |
| Relationship to employer |  |
| **Tell us why this employer deserves to win:** | |

**You can enclose any additional information such as photos, press cuttings, graphs, figures, promotional material and awards that help to support your entry and showcase your organisation as an exemplary school engagement employer** *(please limit this additional material to no more than 4 pages of A4).*

**Entries must be completed in full and submitted by email to** [**skills@oxfordshirelep.com**](mailto:skills@oxfordshirelep.com) **by MIDNIGHT on the evening of Monday 24th February 2025.**

**Please note:** the information you provide will be used for the process of judging the Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards and to contact you in connection with the awards.

If you are chosen as a finalist, details of your story may be shared at the awards ceremony. All data sent to us is subject to the Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards Privacy Policy, which is available at <https://oxlepskills.co.uk/oaawards>