

Employer Case Study

Leadership, Management, Innovation and Enterprise

Ardagh Glass

Ardagh Glass is known globally for excellence in glass manufacture and is the preferred packaging supplier for many of the world's largest food and beverage brands. The Headlands plant in Knottingley recycles and produces glass bottles for the beer and other allied industries.

Ardagh is fully committed to the development of higher level skills amongst its workforce and has an extensive management development programme.

It has recently been working with Wakefield College in developing the FdSc in Glass Manufacturing Management a new foundation degree developed specifically at the request of the glass industry to fill an identified management development skills gap.

The programme combines management development modules with glass specific modules giving participants both the higher level skills required as well as the industry specific knowledge.

This has provided a route into first line management and supervisory roles for employees currently working on the shop floor.

The foundation degree has just seen its first group of students to graduate and there are plans to develop the course to a wider industry market.

“The course has given our staff on the programme a broader understanding of the science of glass making which helps with job roles. It has also helped to further develop people skills which is an important aspect for our managers.

“The course has helped develop a wider skills base and the ability for self analysis. The company is keen to use the programme to enable our younger employees to progress to supervisory and management positions.”

Dave Pyne, Assistant Production Engineer

“We see the FdSc in Glass Manufacturing management as a key part of our company’s overall training and development strategy, enabling people on the shop floor to gain a wider understanding of the sector and enable them to progress within the company.”

Jim Grant, Operations Manager, Headlands Plant