

The Apprenticeship Consultants





arqiva

●●The success of our apprentice programme owes a great deal to the expertise, support and professionalism of the PDS team.●●

The Apprenticeship Consultancy

The PDS Group is passionate about the value of apprenticeships in developing the skills needed by today's businesses.

Choosing apprenticeships to deliver the skills your business needs is a big business decision. Done well it can lead to big business benefits. Just ask some of our clients, such as Visa Europe, Cable&Wireless Worldwide or Telefónica.

Finding the right framework and the right people takes experience.

Our clients are at the centre of everything we do. We believe in working in partnership with you to build lasting apprenticeship programmes.

Our highly skilled consultants are committed to helping you attract, develop and retain talented employees committed to the success of your business.

Delivering award winning apprenticeships

The PDS Group...

Provides strategic advice on skills development

Supports businesses through the apprenticeship development process

Simplifies the complexities of apprenticeship funding ensuring it is driven back in to the business

Offers ongoing consultancy for forward planning and programme development



Telefonica

●●Our engagement with the PDS Group has increased year on year because they have proven to have the flexibility, reliability and adaptability we require to implement our programme as a cutting edge employer and meet the demands of our rapidly changing industry.●●

The PDS approach

First of all, we do a lot of listening. We want to know what you are looking for in an apprenticeship programme because no-one knows your business better than you do.

Our aim is to use our expertise to build an apprenticeship programme with you, from your initial thoughts and through every step until

you have a programme which matches your skills requirements.

We develop long term partnerships with our clients so that we can deliver and adapt their programmes as their businesses change.

Independent

“NOT DEPENDENT ON SOMEBODY OR SOMETHING ELSE”

We have no formal affiliations with any other business, although we have developed strong working relationships with several key organisations. We are unique in that we have no reliance on government funding. We are truly independent and dedicated to working with you to identify the best solutions to meet your skills needs.

Impartial

“NOT FAVOURING ONE PERSON OR SIDE MORE THAN ANOTHER”

We listen to you and offer impartial advice based on years of experience. We will always be honest and open so that you get the very best solution.

Impassioned

“EXPRESSING OR REVEALING STRONG FEELINGS”

The PDS Group is evangelical about the essential role apprenticeships play in the educational mix – and we don't mind saying so. We engage with key players in the apprenticeship sector including policy makers and politicians, to make apprenticeships the very best they can be for employers and their apprentices.

We aim to share our enthusiasm with you along the way...

Cable&Wireless
Worldwide

●●PDS have a great understanding of their industry and their partners. ●●

Apprenticeships - good for business

EMPLOYERS SAY THEY BELIEVE APPRENTICESHIPS...

- Make businesses more competitive
- Provide higher overall productivity
- Reduce staff turnover
- Provide the skilled workers that they need for the future
- Help them fill vacancies more quickly
- Lead to a more motivated and satisfied workforce
- Can be more cost-effective than hiring skilled staff, lead to lower overall training costs and reduce recruitment costs
- Deliver individuals who make a valuable contribution to the business during their training period
- Create a high proportion of employees that go on to management positions within the company
- Are expected to play a bigger part in their recruitment policy in the future

Harnessing fresh new talent

More than a quarter of businesses rate apprenticeships more highly than any other qualification. The mixture of on and off job learning means that apprenticeships deliver skills that work best for your business.

Apprenticeships provide a great, motivational way for an individual to gain qualifications whilst earning a salary. An apprenticeship is essentially a set of qualifications called a 'framework'. PDS are able to award framework qualifications through a range of awarding organisations.

Apprenticeship frameworks cover three levels from Entry level through to Higher level, which includes a degree qualification.





●●The PDS Group completed the mapping of our training programme with the NVQ level 2 and carried out all assessment and verification work. In year two we took the big step of self assessment and yet again PDS completely supported us through the process. ●●

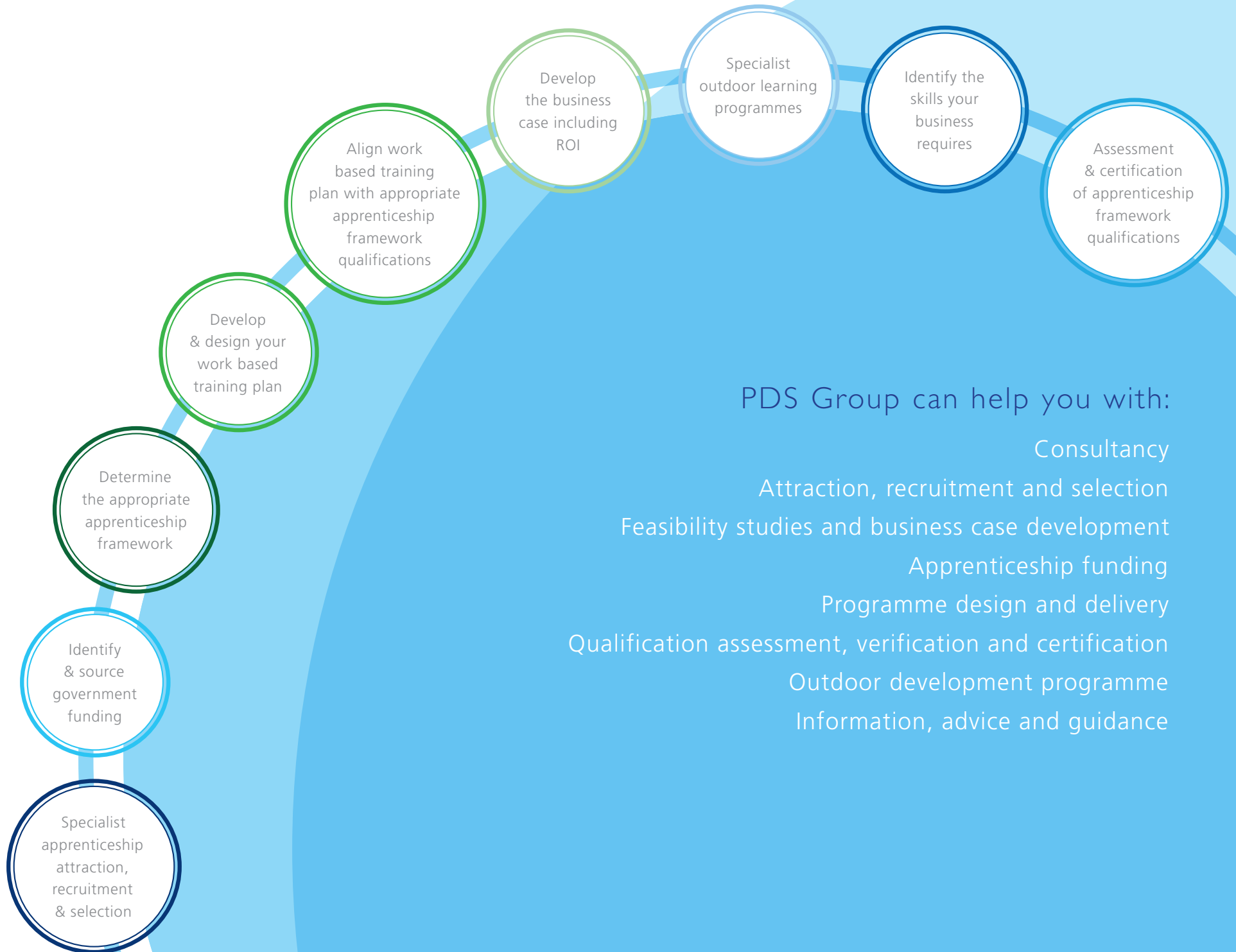
A unique package of services tailored to your needs

We have built an unrivalled reputation amongst blue chip organisations for the delivery of high quality and award winning apprenticeship programmes.

You don't have to use all the consultancy services in our portfolio, although many of our clients do. Whether you are looking for strategic advice or our full package of services from design to

certification, you only need to use what is most relevant for your business.

We are totally transparent with our clients about government contributions and our costs. Our independent status means that we can optimise government funding so that it is targeted at developing relevant skills.



PDS Group can help you with:

- Consultancy
- Attraction, recruitment and selection
- Feasibility studies and business case development
- Apprenticeship funding
- Programme design and delivery
- Qualification assessment, verification and certification
- Outdoor development programme
- Information, advice and guidance

Telefonica

●●PDS have made themselves invaluable to us and I'm sure we'd be hard pressed to deliver such a quality offering without their assistance.●●

Cable&Wireless Worldwide

●●PDS's knowledge and experience was of immense value and we are very proud to have developed this programme for our apprentices. Thank you for your continued efforts in working with us to provide apprenticeships to such a high level.●●

PDS Apprenticeships

ADAPTABLE, TARGETED, MEASURABLE

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS, BUILDING CAREERS

We were first approached by O2 to help them deliver the Key Skills element of their 3-year Technology Advanced Apprenticeship via our unique Outdoor Programme. We must have done something right because since then we have delivered the entire Advanced Apprenticeship programme year on year, from recruitment to qualification. We went on to develop their Higher Apprenticeship programme which provides Advanced Apprentices with an opportunity for progression.

GROUNDBREAKING IDEAS

Apprenticeship programmes can be developed to deliver skills to meet very specific training requirements. Cable&Wireless Worldwide needed a one-off programme designed for apprentices on six-month Fixed Term contracts that would meet the delivery element of a £100 million contract. Our partnership was the first to complete the new Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) for Edexcel. We recommended the QCF qualification as it included the training elements which the company needed to deliver the contract in the time required and provided the apprentices with a valuable qualification. PDS also manages Cable&Wireless Worldwide's ongoing two-year Advanced Technology Apprenticeship programme.



vodafone

●●The PDS Group and Vodafone have worked together to create something of real value that produces successful individuals that have astute business acumen and the certificates to prove it!●●

VISA

●●We recognise that IT professionals need to possess a mix of business, interpersonal and technical skills and through our Apprenticeship Programme we hope to nurture talent, which will in turn enhance our business.●●

CUTTING COSTS AND DELIVERING RESULTS

A well thought out apprenticeship programme can deliver measurable cost savings very quickly. The aim of Vodafone's Higher Apprenticeship in Technology programme was to reduce its reliance on contractors and cut operating costs. After less than six months of the PDS Group pilot programme, with the inclusion of other cuts and cost-reduction strategies, budgets had been reduced by over 80%. PDS Group identified a University partner, managed the attraction, recruitment and selection process for the programme and monitored the apprentices' progress. The PDS Group/Vodafone partnership approach was recognised by the industry with a National Training Award.

EXPERT GUIDANCE TO MEET FUTURE CHALLENGES

We are very proud to have helped Visa Europe create its first ever Higher Apprenticeship programme in its Technology and Finance divisions, along with an Intermediate programme in Business Administration. Visa Europe is using the PDS Group Full Service package to help it deliver its apprenticeship programmes.

OUR PASSIONS



To find out more...

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