CLAAS Agricultural Technician Apprenticeship

Start your career here.
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What is an Agricultural Technician?

Think of a piece of high tech equipment with a 600hp Mercedes engine, satellite navigation, laser guidance systems, integrated hydraulics and electrics and some of the most sophisticated computer hardware available.

That’s a CLAAS LEXION combine. One of the largest output combine harvesters in the world.

You could be the technician working on it and a whole range of similar equipment. You will be servicing it, maintaining it and repairing it if anything should go wrong. You’ll be using a range of tools from computer diagnostic equipment to good old spanners, but the most important tool is your competence and expertise.

When trained, you could well be expected to know every element of the complex technology that makes CLAAS equipment so advanced.

Who are CLAAS?

Established in 1913, CLAAS has been making industry leading high tech farm equipment for nearly 100 years. Headquartered in Northern Germany, we are now one of the largest agricultural machinery manufacturers in the world. CLAAS have 14 manufacturing operations which are based in Germany and throughout the World.

As well as agricultural vehicle production we also have our own companies producing industrial components, assembly lines, production tools and electronic data processing software for ourselves and leading third party companies such as BMW, Mercedes and Ford, to name but a few.

We employ 9,700 employees worldwide including 500 trainees. In fact training is one of our prime activities and each year we also offer training to 6000 outside personnel who service and sell our machines through our own Academies in Germany and each of our 8 sales subsidiary companies.

Our equipment is used in 140 countries worldwide and harvests sugar cane, rice, soya bean and renewable crops as well as the cereal crops which we are more familiar with in Europe.

Our sales are close to 4 billion Euros and have doubled over the last 5 years. We are still growing and you can rest assured you will be working for a world leader in its field.
What other qualities do I need?
We expect you will have an interest in engineering or mechanics; you may even ‘tinker’ with bikes or cars already. You will need to be enthusiastic and committed to working consistently through the course. Our best apprentices seem to be those who listen and then ask questions…is that you?
Show us what you are made of and a career with CLAAS could easily be yours.

Is it a Long Term Career?
Today there are 7 billion people on earth and every two days the population increases by approximately half a million. These people need feeding and in many parts of the world they need better diets than today. The land that is available for agriculture reduces each year due to the demand for housing, factories and roads to cope with this growing world population. The land that is available for agriculture has to be cared for better, yet still produce more. This creates a need for bigger and more productive machines, which are also mindful of the need to protect the soil and the environment. CLAAS is the clear leader in such equipment.

What could I be earning?
Skilled Agricultural Technicians today have very attractive earning potential. It’s up to you how far you take yours.

How long is the course?
It usually takes 4 years to qualify, which sounds a long time, but you won’t be involved in college-based training all the time. You will gain invaluable practical experience working alongside Technicians with your sponsoring dealership when not at College and also get the chance to spend time at the CLAAS headquarters in Germany in Year 3.

How is the apprenticeship structured?
Full details are available but here’s an overview:
The National Diploma is a unit based qualification in which you will be expected to achieve either a pass, merit or distinction.
In Years 1, 2 and 3 you will spend 12-15 weeks at college, with the weeks made up of block attendance of various lengths; usually between 3-6 weeks each. All 3 years will include direct input from CLAAS to underpin the program.
In Year 4 the content will be controlled exclusively by CLAAS UK with additional elements added to the program, specifically to accelerate your contribution to the dealer network and to enhance your qualifications and career potential.
In addition:
In Year 3 you will spend time in the Training Academy at CLAAS Headquarters, Saxham, Suffolk. You could also be selected to spend time at CLAAS Headquarters in Harsewinkel, Germany.
LTA (Landbased Technician Accreditation) Tier 1 will automatically be awarded to apprentices and upon successful completion of the CLAAS programme this award will be upgraded to LTA Tier 2 and offer the potential to progress on through to Tier 3 or Tier 4 as experience and competence increases.

What qualifications will I receive?
IMI Diploma in Landbased Engineering, which is the equivalent of 3 ‘A’ levels. Enrolment and ongoing career progression with the Landbased Technician Accreditation (LTA) Scheme.

Efficiency is everything.
The on-board diagnostic systems inside CLAAS combines, foragers and tractors ensure precision where it counts.

The CLAAS JAGUAR self-propelled forager makes light work of many acres.
So what’s my next move?
Talk to your Careers Adviser at School or write to:
Apprenticeship and Placement Coordinator,
CLAAS U.K. Limited,
Saxham, Bury St Edmunds,
Suffolk IP28 6QZ.
E-mail: Kelly.flack@claas.com
We’ll be delighted to send you full details of the Course and to answer any questions you or your parents may have.

Or give us a ring on 01284 763100