Finishes and interiors sector employers offer Apprenticeship places because they recognise their effectiveness at increasing productivity, improving business performance and ensuring a committed and competent workforce.

Recruiting apprentices enables these employers to fill the skills gaps that exist within their current workforce, as apprentices begin to learn sector specific skills directly from day one; developing specialist knowledge that will positively affect the bottom line. In addition to eager, motivated staff who are committed to on the job training and development, industry research has highlighted numerous direct and indirect benefits of Apprenticeships for both recruiting new apprentices and for training the workforce:
them complete their qualifications and become successful tradespeople.

- at the end of the scheme, or at any point during the process, an employer has an option to take over the apprentice and employ them directly.

**Claim Funding**

Employers can claim a CITB Apprenticeship Grant for employed apprentices, following approved construction-related apprenticeship programmes of two years or more. To do this, employers must be registered with CITB and up to date with any levy payments.

A Grant is paid for attendance at college, the achievement of a VQ and an apprenticeship framework, up to a maximum of £6,000 for a two-year course or £10,250 for three years.

Grant is available for:

- construction-related occupations only
- apprenticeships run by a CITB Managing Agency
- apprenticeships run by other managing agencies. You will need to contact your local CITB office for an application form as soon as possible to ensure that you get your grant
- approved specialist occupations where training leads to the achievement of a Vocational Qualification (VQ)

To claim this grant:

- employers must use an approved work-based learning provider
- the apprentice must be registered onto an approved apprenticeship scheme within 26 weeks of the start date of training
- employers will need to complete and submit further grant claim forms at various stages throughout the apprenticeship

Full details here: [http://www.citb.co.uk/documents/levy-grant/20152016%20grants%20scheme%20pdf's/apprentices_england_wales.pdf](http://www.citb.co.uk/documents/levy-grant/20152016%20grants%20scheme%20pdf's/apprentices_england_wales.pdf)