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GTL Data Sheet 7

MSc in glass and mangement June 2006

What is an MSc in glass and management?

The original MSc in glass and management was started through the IGDS; the *Integrated Graduate Development Scheme*. It is industrially based postgraduate training, supported by the Engineering and Physical Science Research Council. IGDS are based at The School of Engineering at Sheffield Hallam University in conjunction with Sheffield University.

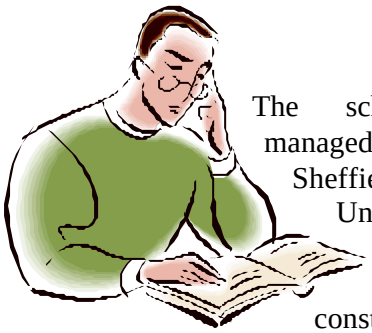
The Aims

The aims of MSc are:

- To attract high calibre graduates into industry.
- Deepen and widen their understanding of relevant technologies and so sharpen the competitive edge of British industry.
- Accelerate the managerial effectiveness of the delegates.
- Further collaborate between industry and higher education.

The Scheme

The scheme is designed for science and engineering graduates working in the industry. It is also open to those working in the industry with some year's experience, who will benefit from the programme. Delegates are sponsored by their employers, who are responsible for giving commitment and support to the delegate and for paying the tuition fees and subsistence costs.



The scheme is jointly managed by industry and Sheffield Hallam University through a steering committee principally constituting industrialists who are responsible for setting the goals and strategy of the programme.

The available study modules and content are continuously reviewed by the sponsoring companies and they are encouraged to introduce relevant new topics.

The scheme is administered by an academic Programme Director based in the IGDS office at Sheffield Hallam University, who, jointly with employers, guides the candidates' programme and supports and promotes the principles of the programme.

Benefits

The benefits for delegates are:

- Accelerated career development.
- Postgraduate studies and industrial career progress together.
- Maintained intellectual challenge.
- Valuable contact with peers from other leading companies in industry.
- Credit towards further qualification.
- Successful completion of the mandatory management modules provides the underpinning knowledge necessary to achieve the Management Level 5 NVQ.

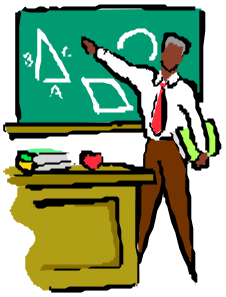
The benefits for companies are:

- Enhanced prospects of recruiting high-quality science and engineering graduates.
- Improved and accelerated development of sponsored employees through integration of in-company training and experience with postgraduate studies.
- Improved retention of trained and developed employees.
- Enhanced knowledge and awareness of established engineers who attend selected modules.

- Development for managers and specialists who participate in delivering modules and acting as mentors for candidates.
- Considerable benefits to the company through the free advice provided during the tutoring and completion of a successful project, which otherwise would not have been undertaken.

The Programme

The main element of the programme comprises 12 taught modules over approximately two to three years. These, with a dissertation on a company-based project linked to the candidate's career development, lead to the award of a Master's degree.



The programme content is evenly divided between the six compulsory Management modules and six chosen Technology modules.

Each delegate selects an appropriate programme of Technology modules in consultation with management and this leads to the award in:

Materials and Manufacturing Technology

The teaching modules are usually delivered on a non-residential basis as intensive, three-day courses in Sheffield; a Sunday is included to reduce delegate's time away from the workplace. Teaching staff are drawn from both several Universities and supported by appropriate experts from industry, thereby strengthening the links between industry and academia.

Some complementary modules may be credited from postgraduate programmes offered by other institutions, and this is encouraged. The candidate is thus able to select a package of technical modules to meet their particular needs. The programme arranges industrial mentors and academic tutors to guide and advise the delegate on the project work and resulting dissertation. Timing of the entry scheme is flexible.

Case Study

Graham Gibbs MSc CEng MIMechE, of United Glass Ltd, was the first candidate to be awarded the IGDS Master's degree in (then) Glass Technology and Management.

Graham enrolled on the programme with a first degree in Mechanical Engineering from Manchester Polytechnic (gained in 1972) having worked for United Glass Ltd for 20 years.

United Glass sponsored Graham through the two and a half years he took to complete his taught modules, project and dissertation.

Graham said 'From a personal point of view, despite some late nights and weekend working, I found the study and subsequent learning process to be a rewarding experience. I'm sure that the knowledge and skills acquired have given me greater insight into my job; both from a technical and business point of view, and the experience will enable me to perform better at work. Studying with my peers in the glass industry allowed cross-fertilisation of ideas, comparing processes and techniques with different branches of the industry.'

Supervision during Graham's project by an academic from the University of Sheffield supported the investigation of all aspects of using recycled material in the manufacture of glass containers within United Glass, in response to increasing environmental awareness and legislation. The results proved to be of major benefit to the company, as well as providing them with a highly educated and trained manager.

Benefits

The main benefit of the MSc is that it provides a candidate, whilst in employment, with the information needed to manage a technical or operations project in company, acting as an internal consultant with the support of an academic tutor. This provides a resource to improve a business.

More Information

For more information please contact GTL

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