



27 November 2025

Winter Apprenticeship Programme Relaunches with 123 Student Placements

The Office of the Deputy Governor, through the Department of Human Resources, has officially relaunched the Winter Apprenticeship Programme, placing 123 students across the public service and private-sector partners for the December 2025 session. The cohort includes 50 college and university students and 73 high school students, representing one of the programme's strongest intakes to date.

The programme continues to broaden access to real-world learning, strengthen the education-to-employment pathway, and support emerging talent, including students pursuing science and medical disciplines who have been matched with targeted opportunities in their fields of study. This session also includes expanded collaboration with private entities, further extending the range of professional environments available to participants.

This year's session features increased engagement across the Sister Islands, with placements in Virgin Gorda and Anegada, enabling students to gain hands-on exposure within essential Government services, statutory bodies and partner organisations in their communities.

Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Deputy Governor, Mrs. Sharleen DaBreo-Lettsome, highlighted the strategic value of the initiative. "The relaunch of the Winter Apprenticeship Programme represents an important investment in the future of our young people and, by extension, the future of our public service. We are encouraged by the overwhelming response from more than 100 applicants seeking hands-on experience. High school and college students benefit greatly from initiatives like this, which help bridge the gap between education and the workplace while building confidence, skills, and career direction. We commend the Human Resources team for securing the funds to support all placements and for their continued commitment to developing the next generation of talent."

Acting Deputy Director of Human Resources, Ms. Cara Christopher, noted the strong uptake and the Department's commitment to supporting every successful applicant. "This December 2025 marks the relaunch of our Winter Apprenticeship Programme, and the response has been remarkable. We received more than 100 applications, an unprecedented milestone for our department. We are pleased to confirm that we secured the funding needed to support all placements, enabling every successful applicant to participate. We are excited to welcome our new cohort and remain committed to creating pathways that help young people build skills, confidence, and clear foundations for their future careers."

The Winter Apprenticeship Programme is the third apprenticeship session delivered in 2025. Earlier this year:

Easter Programme: 38 high school students

Summer Programme: 22 college students and 3 high school students

Winter Programme: 44 college students and 79 high school students

In total, 186 students have benefited from apprenticeship opportunities across all three sessions in 2025. The programme continues to provide meaningful placements across ministries, departments, and partner organisations, offering students practical skills-building opportunities, exposure to career pathways, and direct experience in professional settings.

The Government of the Virgin Islands remains committed to the continuous growth and development of its current and future public officers.

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