



Graduate Schemes?

what's the difference?



Choosing a business to join as a graduate can be mind boggling. You find yourself asking, “What’s the difference?” I hope this leaflet will go some way to showing you exactly what The Co-operative difference is. We’ve put together a little bit of information about what we do, the different trading areas we trade in and how you can become an integral part of a constantly evolving Society that has been going strong for over 150 years.

Read on and visit our website - www.midcounties.coop to discover the Co-operative difference.

Ben Reid
Chief Executive Officer



The difference is scale

The Midcounties Co-operative is the second largest consumer co-op in the UK, with a turnover of £748 million - so we’re not talking small beans here. With over 8,200 colleagues spread across, approximately, 500 sites in 9 counties, including Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire and the West Midlands, not to mention the 6 different business areas we cover: Food, Travel, Pharmacy, Funeral & Childcare. We also own a number of Post Offices, manage commercial and residential properties and run the .coop domain name, so you’ll have plenty of choice as to where you’ll best fit in. Colleagues are also offered the chance to become a member of the Society - joining the 344,000 members currently enjoying a share of the Co-operative’s profits.

The difference is ethics

Our mission statement is “to be a successful consumer co-operative, working towards creating a better, fairer world and to enhance the lives of our colleagues, members, customers and the communities we serve.” In real terms this means that we are an ambitious business which sticks closely to our values and principles, to ensure that everything we do profits our members and the wider community. You’ll enjoy a share in the profits you create, as well as knowing it is also funding ethical activities and initiatives locally and around the world.

The difference is choice

We trade in six different areas of industry, meaning there is bound to be something that suits your personal interest and best utilises your talents. Here's a quick breakdown of the different trading areas.

The Co-operative Food comprises of around 250 sites across the trading area, ranging from supermarkets to local convenience stores - many which house Post Offices.



Spread across 39 sites our travel service includes travel agents, three Travel Ultra Stores and online booking facilities, as well as a Customer Contact Centre.



On the high street and even in doctors' surgeries, you'll find 45 branches of the pharmacy division.



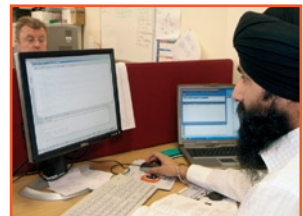
The Co-operative Funeralcare provides funeral homes, monumental masonry and pre paid funeral plans, based at 68 sites across the trading area.



Our childcare division includes six nurseries as well as providing tax-exempt childcare vouchers



Co-operatives around the world can purchase the domain .coop from us.



Successful candidates will be able to offer the following:

The ability to confidently undertake a development programme working across our support and our trading groups.

Will be able to provide ideas and enthusiasm to move our business forward and help with its constant development.

A desire to take up a management post after successful completion of the 24 month programme

Will have a full driving licence.

In return we offer you:

Competitive pay and benefits including generous discount arrangements

The promise of ongoing training and support.

The chance to make a difference.

If you are interested then we would love to hear from you.

**Please give Personnel Services Group a call on 01922 721255
email jayne.palmer@midcounties.coop**

