## **Erste Bank seeking 30 apprentices**

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The Erste Bank is currently seeking 30 apprentices to participate in the banker and office clerk course. "A lot of interest has been shown in this dual-component course. Last year, we received around 1,500 applications just for it alone," says Birgit Payer, HR manager at Erste Bank Oesterreich. The course lasts three years, targets a very high technical level, and is also heavily geared around practice. Every six months, the apprentices alternate between internal departments and different branches in order to get the best possible understanding of banking operations. But personality development is also one of the focus areas. "The idea is for the apprentices to be able to attend to customers down the track, and assist them further in all financial matters. This requires excellent social and communication skills – which we want to promote," Payer adds. Special seminars provide training in manners, language and expression, while other course components include individual coaching sessions, a personal laptop, acquisition of the internationally recognised ECDL computer driving licence, and educationals to London or Frankfurt. The company actively encourages apprentices to complete secondary school along with the course, and around 40 percent of them do just that. As the Erste Bank Oesterreich is part of the international Erste Group, apprentices also have many different career and promotion prospects.

In order to be accepted into the course, apprentices need to have complied with compulsory schooling requirements, have excellent knowledge of German, and like working with people. Anyone interested can apply online now, with their CV, school certificate and cover letter: www.erstebank.at/lehre



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