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# We're best bar none



**Taste of success** The students can look forward to a career in hospitality after completing the six-week Diageo course

Pictures: George Munro

**YOUNG** movers and shakers from Inverclyde proved themselves the best bar none after completing a special hospitality course.

Ten students, who were unemployed, are now bubbling with enthusiasm for the future after graduating from Diageo's Learning for Life programme.

The six-week course, which features the art of cocktail making, means the students are ready to embark on new careers in the hospitality industry.

Student Danielle Kennedy, 21, below, said: "The course has been a great opportunity to get real insight into the hospitality industry while gaining qualifications.

"It has given me a real confidence boost.

"Some of the highlights for me have been the cocktail masterclass, wine qualification and the visits to Cameron House and The

**By Rosemary Lowne**  
[www.greenocktelegraph.co.uk](http://www.greenocktelegraph.co.uk)

Beacon Arts Centre. I am looking forward to a career in events, especially weddings."

As part of the course, which is delivered by The Springboard Charity, Diageo's specialist training partner, the students undertook two weeks of work experience with local restaurants, hotels and bars including The Bay Hotel, The Beacon, Twist and The Darroch Bar.

Mark Baird, who is the head of alcohol in society for Diageo GB, congratulated the students on their achievements.

He said: "I'd like to congratulate all the Inverclyde graduates for the hard work and dedication they have shown during their participation in the Diageo Learning for Life programme.

"This is the first programme we have delivered in Greenock and it's great to see the graduates so motivated for their future careers."

The hospitality industry offers excellent opportunities for young people with passion and drive which these graduates have in abundance and we are all looking forward to seeing where this takes them in their careers."

The programme aims to give young unemployed people the chance to learn new skills to help improve their career prospects.

David Cunningham, the programme manager, said: "We had a fantastic response from local businesses for work placements which has been very encouraging for our students.

"The students have had the opportunity to better themselves and develop the skills needed to build a rewarding career in hospitality."

"The skills and knowledge they have gained will be invaluable and it's been great to see the students challenging themselves, building up confidence and become motivated to find a job."

