

Apprenticeships

An apprenticeship is a genuine job and under all circumstances an apprentice will be employed from day one. Apprenticeships combine practical training in a job with study.

An apprentice will:

- work alongside experienced staff
- gain job-specific skills
- earn a wage and get holiday pay
- be given time for study related to their role (the equivalent of one day a week)

You may, for example, work in an entry-level job for four days a week, and study at local FE college or designated training centre for one day. Apprenticeships can take from one to four years to complete. Although you're not guaranteed a job at the end with your apprenticeship provider, you will have gained valuable work experience and have a nationally recognised qualification at the end of it, so be in a strong position to apply for employment elsewhere.

What do apprentices earn?

Apprentices aged 16-18 and 19 and over earn the national minimum wage (NMW) . in the first year of their apprenticeship. You can find out the current NMW here - <https://www.gov.uk/national-minimum-wage-rates>

Levels of apprenticeships

	Intermediate level apprenticeships (Level 2)	Advanced level apprenticeships (Level 3)	Higher Level apprenticeships (Level 4 +)	Degree Level Apprenticeships (Level 5-7)
Equivalent to	5 GCSE passes (Level 9-4) eg. NVQ or BTec First Diploma	2 A Level passes/ BTec National Diploma	Foundation degree, Higher National Diploma, NVQ Level 4	Batchelor or Masters Degree
Qualifications needed	2 GCSE passes – including English and Maths, but can be possible to study these during apprenticeship	Typically 5 GCSEs (grade 9 – 4 or BTEC first diploma)	Typically level 3 qualifications (A Levels, NVQ level 3 or BTEC National Diploma)	A Levels or similar work experience if applying as a mature student
Length of study	12 – 18 months	2 years	Up to 5 years	3 – 6 years
Who is it good for?	16 year old who doesn't want to study A Levels A practical learner who is keen to get started in world of work someone who has a specific career path in mind	A practical learner who is keen to get started in world of work.	School or college leaver who is keen to get into work and gain a higher level qualification but doesn't want to do a full degree	School or college leaver looking to gain a full degree but without having to pay degree fees and also gain valuable work experience Mature students with some work experience

How do I find out about apprenticeship vacancies?

- National Career Service has a [search tool](#) to find different apprenticeships. You can register with the service and sign up for alerts to be sent when new vacancies in job sectors you are interested in are advertised.
- Other websites offer similar search tools and may give information about different jobs. See list of useful websites below.
- Some colleges now have apprenticeship departments and may have employers waiting for an apprentice.
- If you find a company that you are interested in working with, approach them directly to see whether they have an apprenticeship scheme.
- [UCAS](#) has information about degree apprenticeships.

Useful Websites

[Apprenticeships.gov.uk](https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk)

Everything you need to **know** about apprenticeships. You can register for alerts and use the [search tool](#) to find apprenticeships in your area or in jobs you are interested in.

[Amazing Apprenticeships](#)

Amazing Apprenticeships work with schools to ensure students have access to information about the benefits of Apprenticeships. Website includes free resources for students and parents, a search engine and 'Vacancy Snapshot' where you can take a look behind the scenes of some of the UK's biggest companies offering apprenticeships and their recruitment process

[Rate My Apprenticeship](#)

Read reviews of apprenticeships, check out top rated employers and view live vacancies

[Find Apprenticeships](#)

Offers concise up to date information about apprenticeships, a search engine to find local opportunities and apprenticeship blog, where you can read real life stories from apprentices.

[UCAS](#)

UCAS website has a dedicated apprenticeships zone, which includes details about the applications process and what is involved in the interview stage. There's also useful information about degree apprenticeships.

[Get My First Job](#)

A valuable site for anyone looking for an apprenticeship role as it connects young people with apprenticeship providers, as well as having a search tool to help find the latest vacancies.

[Prospects](#)

Has useful information about what degree apprenticeships are available to study and training providers, universities and employers