

A guide to apprenticeships



What is an apprenticeship

An apprenticeship is a real job with training which would allow you to earn while they learn, whilst gaining a nationally recognised qualification. Apprenticeships take between one and five years to complete and are available in 1,500 occupations across 170 industries varying from construction to manufacturing through to IT and the creative and digital sectors.

Benefits of doing an apprenticeship

- Earning a salary;
- Training in the skills employers want;
- Excellent progression opportunities, whether looking to study further or climb the ranks within the workplace;
- Increased future earning potential – apprentices enjoy marked salary increases when they complete their training, and those completing a higher apprenticeship could see increased earnings of an estimated £150,000 over their lifetime;*
- Learning at a pace suited to the individual with the support of a mentor;
- Paid holiday.

Apprenticeship levels

There are various levels of apprenticeship you could apply for depending on their current skills and qualifications. Apprenticeships have equivalent educational levels:

Name	Level	Equivalent educational level
Intermediate	2	5 GCSE passes at grades A* to C
Advanced	3	2 A level passes
Higher	4,5,6 and 7	Foundation degree and above
Degree	6 and 7	Bachelor's or master's degree

All apprenticeships will include elements of on the job and off the job training leading to industry recognised standards or qualifications. Some apprenticeships will require an assessment at the end of the programme to assess the apprentice's ability and competence in their job role.

Entry requirements

Apprenticeships are available to anyone over the age of 16, living in England. There are different entry requirements depending on the sector and job.

Salaries

The minimum wage for apprentices is £3.40** per hour, but many employers pay more than this. This is dependant on the sector, region and apprenticeship level e.g. some higher apprenticeships can pay as much as £300 – £500 per week.

More details on salaries and entry criteria in specific apprenticeship occupations can be accessed by looking at the vacancies on 'Find an apprenticeship'.

Applying for an apprenticeship

At any one time there are up to 28,000 apprenticeship vacancies available on the 'Find an apprenticeship' site in a variety of careers and industries across England. Visit gov.uk and search 'Find an apprenticeship'. You can search by keyword (job role, occupation type or apprenticeship level) and by location.

Once the right job comes up, you can simply register on the website and follow the step by step instructions to apply for the role.

Our "How to apply" film has useful hints and tips on applying. To see this and other films on apprenticeships visit YouTube and search apprenticeships/NAS.

Not quite ready for an apprenticeship or job? You could try a traineeship with a local employer to gain valuable work experience and the opportunity to improve their English and maths, if needed. Visit gov.uk and search 'traineeships' for more information or to apply for traineeship opportunities.