

Apprenticeships:

A Guide for Students and Parents, Carers and Guardians

What is an Apprenticeship?

An apprenticeship is a real job with training. It allows young people to earn a wage while learning, gaining valuable work experience and industry-recognised qualifications at the same time. Apprenticeships are open to students aged 16 and over and are available in a wide range of industries, from engineering and IT to finance, healthcare, and creative arts.

Key Features of an Apprenticeship

- **Earn while you learn:** Apprentices are paid a salary, with at least the National Minimum Wage.
- **Gain qualifications:** Apprentices work towards nationally recognised qualifications, often with one day a week at college or with a training provider.
- **Hands-on experience:** Apprentices spend most of their time in the workplace, gaining practical skills and experience.
- **No student debt:** Training costs are covered by the government and employer, meaning no tuition fees.

Types and Levels of Apprenticeships

Different Levels of Apprenticeships

Level	Name	Equivalent Education Level	Typical Duration
2	Intermediate	GCSEs (5 passes)	12–18 months
3	Advanced	A Levels	18–24 months

4 & 5 Higher Foundation degree / HNC / HND 1–2 years

6 & 7 Degree Bachelor's / Master's Degree 3–6 years

Degree Apprenticeships

Degree apprenticeships combine working with studying part-time at a university. Apprentices **earn a degree** without paying tuition fees, and many go on to secure permanent jobs with their employers.

Popular Degree Apprenticeship Fields:

- Software Engineering
- Civil Engineering
- Accountancy
- Digital Marketing
- Nursing
- Architecture

Did You Know?

Degree apprenticeships are highly competitive. They offer students a university-level qualification, work experience, and a salary—all without student debt.

Advantages and Resources

Advantages of an Apprenticeship

Financial Independence – Earn money while training

No Student Debt – Tuition is covered by your employer and the government

Real-World Skills – Learn from professionals in the field

Career Progression – Many apprentices stay with their employer after completing their training

Nationally Recognised Qualifications – Boost your CV and future job prospects

Flexible Entry Routes – Options are available for students at 16+, post-GCSE or post-A-Level

Where to Find Apprenticeships

Online Portals

- Find an Apprenticeship – Gov.uk
The official government website for apprenticeship vacancies in England.
- Amazing Apprenticeships
Provides resources, case studies, and information for students, parents, and teachers.
- UCAS Apprenticeships
Information about degree apprenticeships and higher education routes.
- RateMyApprenticeship
Student reviews, employer rankings, and job listings.

Employers Direct

Many large employers offer apprenticeship schemes directly. Look at the careers sections of websites for:

- NHS
- BBC
- Rolls-Royce
- BT
- PwC
- Jaguar Land Rover
- Google
- BAE Systems

Local Colleges and Training Providers

Speak to your school's careers adviser or local colleges to explore apprenticeships offered through partnerships with employers.

Tips for Students and Parents

- **Start early** – Research in Year 10 or 11 if possible.
- **Attend careers fairs** – Many local events feature apprenticeship employers.
- **Get help writing CVs and applications** – Ask your school or use online guides.
- **Talk to current apprentices** – Their experiences can be incredibly helpful.