

Apprenticeships – your questions answered



What is an Apprenticeship?

An Apprenticeship is a passport to a future career. You'll be earning and learning at the same time and you'll go to a college or training provider on day release to study for qualifications – the perfect mix of theory and practical learning. There are a variety of Apprenticeships available from cooking to accountancy and veterinary nursing to sport and fitness. There are more than 130 Apprenticeships available in over 80 different sectors – something to suit everyone. Apprenticeships can be taken by anyone at any age, usually between 16 and 24.

An alternative to university?

Definitely! Not everyone wants to continue to study full time for 3 years. Many employers are now offering Apprenticeships as an alternative route to a career including periods of time spent at university in parallel with full-time students.

Remember, with an Apprenticeship you are learning while you are earning, there is an alternative to years of student loan debt.

Can I be an Apprentice and still go to university?

Of course! In fact some Apprenticeships earn UCAS points and there are plans to make qualifications gained during Apprenticeships count towards university applications. There are Higher Apprenticeship programmes available in IT, Engineering and Logistics which include foundation degrees.



Am I eligible?

If you're not in full-time education then you're eligible to become an Apprentice. If you are employed you can become an Apprentice where you work now. Ask your employer to visit www.apprenticeships.org.uk for more information.




Why do it?

Money – You'll be working for an employer and earning a salary while you learn. Salaries vary, but Apprentices earn an average of £170 per week.

Qualifications – You'll earn nationally recognised qualifications that will be valid for any employer.

Training – With an Apprenticeship under your belt employers know you have the skills to do the job and you will be ahead of the crowd to take advantage of the best jobs.

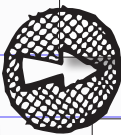


Practical lessons – An Apprenticeship does involve spending some time in the classroom, but the lessons you take will be directly related to the job you are doing. It's nothing like school! These are lessons, often practical and hands-on, which help to fast-track your earning potential in the competitive world of work.



How long does it take?

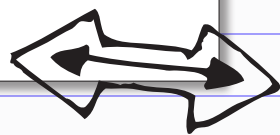
Different types of Apprenticeships take different amounts of time to complete, depending on the sector and employer. Typically an Apprenticeship takes between one and three years to complete.

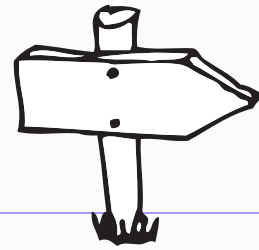
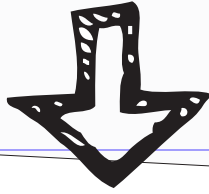


How much will it cost me?

While you're on an Apprenticeship, your employer pays you a salary and supports you in your training – most of your learning will happen at work but some might take place with a training provider.

You won't have to pay any fees. If you are between 16–18 the National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) will pay the full cost of your training. If you are over 19, your employer may be expected to contribute to your training costs.





Who do I talk to to help me choose which Apprenticeship is right for me?

Speak to your careers teacher – they are there to help you. You can also get in touch with a Connexions Direct Adviser – visit their website <https://www2.cxdirect.com/home.htm> for contact details.


You can also call the NAS helpline to speak to an adviser for general advice and help with applications. Call free on 08000 150 600.

Apprenticeships are for people like you

Where can I get further help?

Ask for a copy of The Apprenticeship Guide from your careers teacher or visit the website www.apprenticeshipguide.co.uk for advice on how to write a CV, an A-Z of all types of Apprenticeships, real-life case studies and a list of colleges and learning providers who offer Apprenticeships. If your teacher does not have a copy of The Apprenticeship Guide they can order a copy on the website.

You can also search for vacancies across the country on The National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) Apprenticeship Vacancy Matching Service website: <https://apprenticeshipvacancymatchingservice.lsc.gov.uk/navms/Forms/Candidate/VisitorLanding.aspx>

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