

Apprenticeships

Earn while you learn

Whether you are a teacher, a parent or thinking of becoming an apprentice yourself, you will find information about apprenticeships here.



What is an apprenticeship?

An apprenticeship can give the best of both worlds. A paid job with practical, on-the-job training with the added benefit of learning in the classroom.

If you, or someone you know, are looking for a job where you get paid to learn, then an apprenticeship might be a good career choice..

An apprentice will:

- earn a wage just like other employees
- work alongside experienced people
- gain skills on the job
- be given time to train and study – a minimum of 6 hours per week of part of your working week.

Key facts:

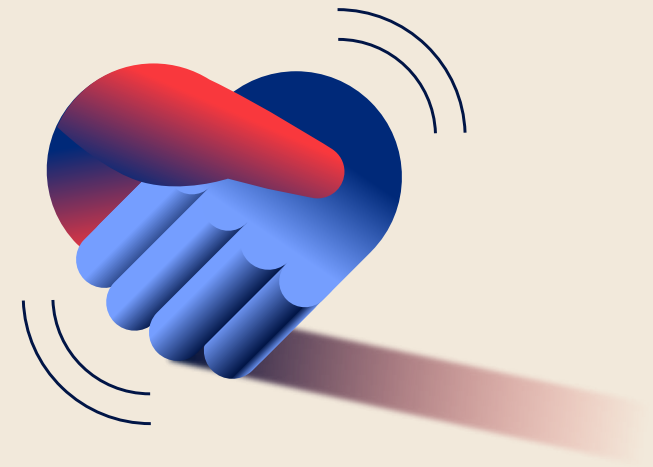
1. A paid job with formal training
2. The chance to earn a professional qualification
3. No need for a student loan or tuition fees
4. Open to everyone 16 or over
5. Could help increase earning potential.

How do apprenticeships work?

Apprentices spend:

- most of their time working beside colleagues, learning new skills and gaining experience.
- **at least six hours per week of their paid time** gaining skills and qualifications. That could be at college, university, or with a training provider.

The employer will fit the training around their job. And the apprentice will only do the training in their paid time.



What are the different types of apprenticeships?

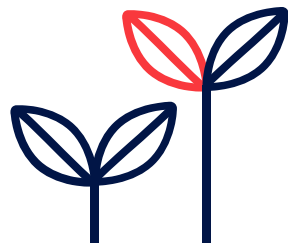
There are apprenticeships at levels equivalent to GCSEs. And ones that go right up to Master's level.

The type of apprenticeship chosen will depend on:

- the skills they're wanting to develop
- the role they want to do
- the employers' needs.

There are four types of apprenticeship:

- Intermediate (level 2)
- Advanced (level 3)
- Higher (levels 4 and 5)
- Degree (levels 6 and 7)



Levels	What that means
Intermediate (Level 2)	Considered to be the same as five GCSE passes, these are entry level apprenticeships. They cover a wide range of jobs across different types of industries. They take at least 12 months to finish.
Advanced (Level 3)	These are considered to be the same as two or three A level passes. These apprenticeships give more in-depth experience and knowledge in the workplace. They usually take anything from 18 months up to two years to finish.
Higher (Level 4 and 5)	Higher apprenticeships provide a higher level of training and education. They are suitable for more specialised roles. These apprenticeships can take from 18 months to five years to finish.
Degree (Levels 6 and 7)	With these apprenticeships, you can gain a full degree or a Masters while earning a wage. They can take up to six years to finish.

Thinking about becoming an apprentice?

Here are some reasons why an apprenticeship could be a good career choice.

- **Choose from lots of careers** – Fancy being a chef? Or how about a vet? With over 600 apprenticeship standards available, there is something for everyone. Think about your strengths and weaknesses, as well as your interests, before you decide what's best for you.
- **Earn while you learn without student debt** – As well as learning, developing skills and building a career, you are also earning a wage.
- **Get high-quality training** – With training providers to help you succeed with your studies, as well as personally and professionally.
- **Get a professional qualification** – study while earning for technical certifications, such as BTEC or Guild Progression award. You can also study for a degree or even a Masters.



Myth busting...



Apprenticeships are for underachievers – There are apprenticeships for just about everyone, regardless of exam results. The level you start at will depend on the job, your experience and qualifications.



Apprenticeships are only available in trades like construction, plumbing, and hairdressing – Apprenticeships are available in a range of industries, including ones you might not expect, like finance, chemistry, and journalism. They can be a great route to get into your chosen career. It's about finding the right route for you.



Apprenticeships offer low wages – All apprentices are entitled to at least £6.40 an hour (from April 2024). However, many employees pay more. The average salary of a degree apprentice in the UK is £23,329. (Glassdoor, correct as of January 2024).



An apprenticeship won't lead to a career – An apprenticeship is a work-based route to get you into your chosen career. Because you will have lots of skills when you qualify, you will be a great asset to your employer.

Did you know...

Degree level apprenticeships mean you can gain a fully funded degree qualification, while earning a wage with an employer.

Did you know...

The average graduate's student debt is over £45000 in England. According to student loan statistics, UK parliament, Dec 2023.

How will you be assessed?

All apprentices go through what is called an 'End Point Assessment' at the end of the apprenticeship. During this, the apprentice shows they have met the standards of both the apprenticeship and the job role.

They can do this in a variety of ways, such as by online assessment, during an interview or by giving a presentation.

[Find an apprenticeship - GOV.UK .gov.uk](#)

[Home / Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education](#)

[Applying for an apprenticeship \(apprenticeships.gov.uk\)](#)

[getmyfirstjob.co.uk](#)

[notgoingtouni.co.uk](#)

Looking for a career change?

Apprenticeships offer a way to explore new opportunities.

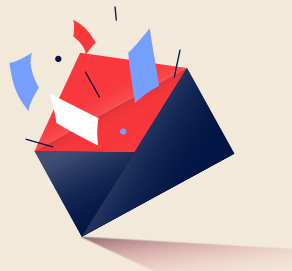
- Learn from industry experts
- Earn a salary
- Gain recognised qualifications
- Get the skills employers are looking for.

You can find more information at:

[Find Apprenticeships | RateMyApprenticeship](#)

[Find an apprenticeship - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Home / Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education](#)



Are you a parent, guardian or carer?

Here are 7 benefits of apprenticeships

1. Your child can expect a high standard of training

Apprenticeships are designed by employers. And, only registered trainers can deliver the training.

Training reflects the skills, and knowledge needed for a specific role. That includes the 'softer', personal skills.

2. Your child earns as they learn

They are employed in a real job. They will earn a wage, get holidays and benefits, just like every other employee.

3. A degree without the student debt

Some apprenticeships include a qualification, like a degree. Training is free, so there is no student debt to worry about.

If your child is leaving school, they can apply for university and an apprenticeship at the same time. This gives a bit of time to decide what to do.

4. Career progression and employability

A winning combination of practical experience and formal training makes it easier to progress their career.

5. Job security

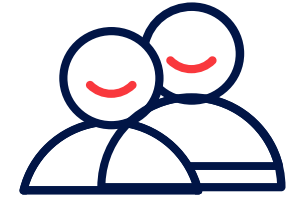
Apprenticeships often lead to permanent employment, providing your child with a more secure career path.

6. Personal growth

Apprenticeships foster a sense of responsibility, independence, and confidence in the workplace.

7. Hands-on experience: Apprenticeships provide practical, on-the-job training.

Myth busting



Apprenticeships are for underachievers

With hundreds of top employers now offering apprenticeships, many students are skipping university to go straight into work.

An apprenticeship is an excellent opportunity for students who want to start earning and prefer a hands-on approach to learning.

Apprenticeships aren't as 'good' as degrees

Apprenticeships are a different style of learning to a traditional degree. They combine theory and practical skills. It's a way of starting a career three years early, learning hands-on skills straight away.

Apprentices don't do 'real' jobs

An apprentice will hit the ground running from day one, working on real projects. It's not like volunteering or doing an internship. Apprentices might work with paying clients, treat patients on a nursing ward, or help design new buildings. Wherever they work, employers will find opportunities to learn throughout the apprenticeship.

Did you know...

Degree level apprenticeships mean young people can gain a fully funded degree qualification from a top university. And earn a wage at the same time.

Did you know...

The average graduate's student debt is over £45000 in England. According to student loan statistics, UK parliament, Dec 2023.



Are you a teacher?

Apprenticeships can offer a good alternative to university. They are ideal for school leavers who want to earn while they learn. Or for those who feel university may not be for them.

They are becoming more popular too. Many employers now offer apprenticeships to attract and recruit talent. Some are even replacing graduate schemes with apprenticeships.

There is a huge range to choose from. And with different levels available, there is something for almost everyone.

Let's get this message out. And share the benefits apprenticeships can offer your school leavers.

Did you know...

UCAS offers a variety of resources to help support you and your students, including career quizzes, tailored advice, and application support!

Find more information here to help you support your students:

[Applying for an apprenticeship: What your students need to know | Undergraduate | UCAS Apprenticeships | Learn About Apprenticeships And Find The Right One For You \(ucas.com\)](#)

