

Introduction to Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships offer a combination of work and study by mixing on-the-job training with classroom learning. You'll be employed to do a real job while studying for a formal qualification, usually for one day a week either at a college or a training centre. Support will be provided by an experienced member of staff who will teach you the hands-on skills you need to succeed in your chosen field.

To earn a place on an apprenticeship, you need to be chosen by an employer as the best applicant for the job. The selection process could involve a test of abilities and an interview, with some employers requiring specific GCSEs from school leavers (often English and Maths at grade C or above).

There are plenty of apprenticeships available in a variety of different sectors (ranging from engineering and construction to banking and IT). The websites you need to visit in order to search and apply are listed further on.

Key points:

- Apprenticeship places are limited and there's competition for positions, so some young people find that their chances of getting a place are improved by spending some extra time in full-time education or in a traineeship;
- Some employers take direct applications, but other opportunities are available through approved training providers who organise recruitment and training on behalf of employers.
- There is a minimum pay rate of £3.50 per hour (some employers do offer more than this). According to a recent survey, the average pay is around £257 per week.
- An apprenticeship can generally last anywhere between 1 and 4 years (depending on a range of factors). You'll typically work for a minimum of 30 hours per week.
- Anyone aged 16 or over; living in England and not currently in full-time education is eligible to apply for an apprenticeship.

There are four different types or levels:

- Intermediate (level 2) - roughly equivalent to five good GCSE passes;
- Advanced (level 3) - equivalent to two A-level passes;
- Higher (level 4,5,6 and 7) - equivalent to the first stages of higher education such as a foundation degree;
- Degree (level 6 and 7) - comparable to a Bachelors or Masters degree.

Where can I find an apprenticeship?

Although you must not be at school to enrol on an apprenticeship, you should start looking at what's available and what you might be interested in as soon as possible.

Look through the apprenticeships on offer here:

<https://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/apprenticeships>

and

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

and also

<http://www.e4s.co.uk/jobs/5-apprenticeships-london.htm>

(DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER TO RECEIVE ALERTS/APPLY IN FUTURE).

Additionally, if you are a Newham resident, Newham Workplace can keep you informed about any future apprenticeship opportunities. Just fill in your details on their website:

<https://www.newham.gov.uk/Pages/Services/Apprenticeships>

If you want to know more about a particular field of work (i.e. what it involves/qualifications & skills needed) **or** if you want to browse the different career options, this is a good place to start:

<https://targetjobs.co.uk/careers-advice/job-descriptions>

and

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/browse-sector>

What are the benefits of an apprenticeship?

Aside from the vast amount of skills, training and first-hand experience that you will acquire; you will also achieve a nationally recognised qualification at the end of the apprenticeship.

This can include:

- Functional skills - GCSE level qualifications in English, Maths and IT;
- National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) - from level 2 up to level 5
- Technical certificates - such as BTEC, City and Guild Progression Award etc.;
- Academic qualifications - including a Higher National Certificate (HNC), Higher National Diploma (HND) or a foundation degree.

Furthermore, employers greatly value prior on the job experience as it demonstrates both work readiness and commercial awareness.

With regard to career progression, research shows that 33% of employers have seen apprentices reach management position within their company and over 50% of employers said it took five years or less for an apprentice to reach such a position.

Traineeship (Pre-apprenticeship)

Lasting up to 6 months, traineeships give you the chance to gain further qualifications and/or experience to help you progress on to an apprenticeship with an employer. The training includes work experience placement(s) of at least 6 weeks and involves:

- Work preparation, including help with job applications/CVs, preparing for interviews, communication skills and team work;
- Qualifications in English and/or Maths for those not achieving grade C at school; the possibility of a job-specific qualification (for example, NVQ Level 1).

Key points:

- Traineeships are aimed at 16 to 19 year olds
- Designed to build confidence, motivation and improve key skills needed in jobs: Numeracy, Literacy & IT
- Although unpaid, employers may cover expenses and you would also be eligible for financial support programmes such as the 16-19 bursary fund: (<https://www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund/overview>)

You can find and apply to traineeships here:

<https://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/traineeships>

and

<https://www.gov.uk/find-traineeship>

and also

<http://www.e4s.co.uk/jobs/traineeships.htm>