

Apprenticeships

What is an apprenticeship?

Apprenticeships combine practical training in a job with study. Apprenticeships are a way to gain on the job experience while studying towards an industry-recognised qualification and earning a wage. They are available across a wide range of sectors, from accounting, business and law, to construction, engineering and transport.

As an apprentice you will be employed by a company and will work with experienced staff to gain job-specific skills. You will earn a wage for the work you do and have the same rights as other employees.

Levels of apprenticeships

| Name | Level | Equivalent educational level |
|--------------|-------------|-------------------------------|
| Intermediate | 2 | GCSE |
| Advanced | 3 | A level |
| Higher | 4,5,6 and 7 | Foundation degree and above |
| Degree | 6 and 7 | Bachelor's or master's degree |

It is important to note that it is sometimes necessary to start at a lower or equivalent level to where you are now to allow you to gain industry specific skills.

Apprenticeships take 1 to 5 years to complete depending on their level.

How do apprenticeships work?

All apprenticeships are different and are tailored to the individual role. You will spend most of the week at work learning from colleagues across all levels of the business. You are likely to be assigned a mentor who will work closely with you and will review your progress and coach you. You will also spend time at a college, university or training provider to work towards the formal part of your qualification.

How much could I earn?

As all apprenticeships are different it is very difficult to give an idea of earnings. Pay varies dramatically based on the industry, the employer, and the level of qualification.

You will earn at least the minimum wage for apprentices (£3.90 per hour from April 2019). Many companies pay significantly more than this, particularly for higher level apprenticeships. As an example an aerospace engineering apprentice at BAE Systems UK can earn £23,550 per year. According to the Incomes Data Research (IDR) the average starting salary for a degree apprentice in 2019 was £17,800 per year.

Finding an apprenticeship

Apprenticeships are extremely competitive and highly sought after. It requires a lot of time and dedication to find and successfully secure one. There is no one way to find an apprenticeship. The onus is on finding the employer, they will then arrange the formal part of the training for you. It is important to register your interest on the sites below. These will alert you when relevant vacancies come up. You should also consider contacting companies directly, check the websites and social media pages of any companies you would be interested in working for. It is up to you to be proactive in your search.

[UCAS Apprenticeships](#)

[Government Apprenticeships](#)

Local Colleges offering apprenticeships:

There are a number of training providers, colleges and universities offering apprenticeships and they may be able to help you find an employer. Contact them directly to see what they have on offer.

[Harrogate College Apprenticeships](#)

[York College Apprenticeships](#)

[Leeds City College Apprenticeships](#)

[Askham Bryan College Apprenticeships](#)

What are employers looking for?

Employers are looking for people with passion and the potential to succeed in the role. Key skills that are vital are: teamwork, collaboration, interpersonal skills, enthusiasm and motivation. Employers are looking for people who can communicate effectively, can analyse, provide creative solutions, have attention to detail, think logically and can use their initiative. Consider where and how you can illustrate you have these key skills.

Sources of further information:

[UCAS- Understanding Apprenticeships](#)

[Government Apprenticeship Guide](#)

[Prospects Apprenticeships](#)

[St. Aidans- Employment and Apprenticeships](#)

Please contact the Careers Department at careersstaff@staidans.co.uk if you would like individual information, advice and guidance on apprenticeships- we are happy to help.

**Careers Department
St. Aidan's and St John Fisher Associated Sixth Form
May 2021**

