

Degree Apprenticeships

Degree Apprenticeships at a Glance:

- Combine full-time paid work and part-time university study.
- Work towards a full Bachelors or Masters degree.
- Typically take three to six years to complete.
- You won't be eligible for a student loan, but your employer pays your tuition fees

What is a Degree Apprenticeship?

Degree apprenticeships are suited to those people who are looking for a suitable, paid alternative to a traditional degree programme. They combine full time work with part time study at university ensuring that you develop the knowledge, skills and behaviours required for a specific occupation. Apprenticeship standards are developed by employers to identify their particular company/industry needs and then the associated university academic programmes are aligned to these.

Apprentices are employed throughout the scheme and are entitled to the same employment rights as the other company employees. How the apprenticeship is structured however can vary from employer to employer; university study could be on a day-to-day basis or in a set block of time.

Degree apprenticeships are available across a wide range of industries including engineering, accountancy, health care, IT, business, law, media, publishing and journalism. To increase your chances of success it is important to keep an open mind and to keep your search criteria wide. Retention rates for apprentices can exceed 80%.

How much could I earn?

Degree apprenticeships give an opportunity to gain practical on-the-job work experience whilst being paid a salary.

As all apprenticeships are different it is very difficult to give an idea of earnings. Pay varies dramatically based on the industry and the employer. 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 2021 was £18,014 per year.

How are Degree Apprentices recruited?

As apprenticeships are jobs, the employer is responsible for the recruitment and selection process. The selection process can be rigorous as the employer and the university need to be confident the applicant meets their requirements. Applicants will often be required to attend multiple interviews, attend assessment centres and complete selection tests as part of the process. Employers and universities will often recruit jointly.

Degree apprenticeships are extremely competitive and highly sought after. It requires a lot of time and dedication to find and successfully secure one. The onus is on finding the employer who will then arrange the formal part of the training for you. It is important to register your interest on the sites below which will alert you when relevant vacancies come up. You should also consider directly contacting companies you would be interested in working for and checking their websites and social media pages. It is up to you to be proactive in your search.

[UCAS Career Finder](#)

[Gov.uk – Find an Apprenticeship/Create an Account](#)

[Not Going to Uni – Sign Up](#)

What are employers and universities looking for?

A willingness to work hard is essential. An applicant will be working full time whilst also studying for a degree and so having a strong work ethic is crucial. They also need to be confident and mature to handle responsibilities in the workplace. Applicants must be able to show that they can work independently and balance work and study commitments. Employers are ultimately looking for people with passion and the potential to succeed in the role. They want people who can communicate effectively, can analyse, provide creative solutions, have attention to detail, think logically and can use their initiative.

Vital skills are: teamwork, collaboration, interpersonal skills, enthusiasm and motivation.

Consider where and how you can illustrate that you possess these key skills.

Other factors to consider

Begin your research and planning early and consider trying to arrange some work experience in the industry you are interested in. Attend university open days and talk to the people who are delivering the programmes to further understand if it will suit your learning style. If you don't feel ready for the workplace, then traditional degrees are very valuable and will give you time to consider different options. You could research courses that offer sandwich years or block placements with employers. To keep your options open you may want to consider applying for traditional degrees whilst also applying for degree apprenticeships.; you can withdraw UCAS offers if, and when, you secure an apprenticeship.

Examples of employers offering Degree Apprenticeships



Essential Reading

[UCAS – What are Degree Apprenticeships?](#)

[Prospects – Degree Apprenticeships](#)

[Careers Department – Employment and Apprenticeships](#)

[The Scholarship Hub Guide to Degree Apprenticeships](#)

[Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education](#)

Please contact the Careers Department at careersstaff@staidans.co.uk if you would like individual information, advice and guidance on degree apprenticeships

Careers Department

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