

Apprenticeships - earn while you learn

To give yourself the best chance of success in your career, you'll need to carry on developing your skills throughout your working life. Apprenticeships give you the chance to learn - and gain nationally recognised qualifications - while getting a weekly wage. Apprenticeships are available in more than 190 jobs across a wide variety of industry sectors. These range from business administration to construction; engineering to childcare - and many more.

Is an Apprenticeship right for you?

First you'll need to decide which career suits you best. Next, you'll have to decide whether you can commit to the demands of an Apprenticeship. Being an apprentice means juggling work and study over a long period of time. Apprenticeships are normally 2 years in length but could be as much as 3 or 4 years long.

Who can apply

You need to be 16 or over, living in England and not in full-time education to start an Apprenticeship. Entry requirements will depend on the Apprenticeship you want to do.

There are three levels available:

- Apprenticeships (equivalent to 4 GCSE passes at grade 4 or above)
- Advanced Apprenticeships (equivalent to two A level passes at grade C or above)
- Higher Apprenticeships (lead to qualifications at NVQ Level 4 or, in some cases, a Foundation Degree)
Depending on your grades in GCSE Maths and English, you may need to take a literacy and/or numeracy test.

Employers may also ask for additional qualifications as well.

Money and holidays

A new National Minimum Wage of £3.70 per hour as of April 2018.

The wage applies to:

all apprentices aged under 19

apprentices aged 19 or over in the first year of their Apprenticeship

If you work in agriculture, the minimum wage may be different.

Many employers tend to pay more as you develop your skills. Like most other full time employees, full time employed apprentices get at least 20 days' paid holiday per year. This is on top of bank holidays.

Qualifications

Apprenticeships (and Advanced Apprenticeships) can lead to:

A National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) at Level 2 or Level 3

A Key Skills qualification, like problem solving and using technology

(In most cases) A technical certificate, such as a BTEC or City & Guilds Progression Award

Other qualifications needed for particular occupations

If you want to know more you can use our Live Chat facility through the website to have an online conversation with an Adviser.

You can also check out the National Apprenticeship website at www.apprenticeship.org.uk

