



Learning in England ∞ Apprenticeships

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Apprentices are taken on by a business, or profession to train, ‘on the job.’ You are paid for learning and training while at work. If you are over 18, this means you should be paid the Minimum Wage by your employer. Apprentices will normally spend a day a week, at College, to learn and practise technical aspects of the job. You can become an Apprenticeship at different levels, depending on the business or profession which you have chosen to be trained.

An Intermediate Apprentice will be at Level 2 having achieved five GCSE passes between 5 to 9, including Maths and English. You can start being an Apprentice, aged 16, at the Intermediate Level. These will be in any of the fields listed below but will be of particular use for those who learn best with a practical approach to Health and Beauty, the Caring Professions, Construction, Engineering and Transport.

An Advanced Apprentice will be at Level 3 having achieved at least two A Level passes or an Intermediate Apprenticeship.

A Higher Apprentice will be aged at least 18, working towards Level 4/5 having achieved at least two A Level passes, or an IB Diploma, or an Advanced Apprenticeship.

A Degree Apprentice will be working towards Level 5/6 and will achieve a Bachelor’s Degree and if continuing for a further year will achieve a Level 7, with a Master’s degree. In order to become a Degree Apprentice, the applicant must have completed an Advanced Apprenticeship or have a Level 3/4 qualification. See the categories below marked with an asterisk.

Apprenticeships have become popular since the cost of going to University has increased. About 375,000 people began as an Apprentice in 2017-2018.

“This Apprenticeship in Digital Marketing is a good stepping-stone for me. I’m gaining valuable experience that has helped boost my confidence and has prepared me for the next step in my career. Not only do I have experience in a digital marketing agency, but I will also achieve a recognised qualification.”¹

1 Marie - <https://babington.co.uk/blog/apprenticeship/meet-a-digital-marketing-apprentice-marie/>



The range of apprenticeships is very wide. These are the categories noted from the Government website https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/787716/Apps_Framesworks-150319.pdf

- > Agriculture, Environmental and Animal Care
- > Business Administration [Chartered Manager*, Project Manager*, Senior Leader*]
- > Care Services
- > Catering and Hospitality
- > Construction [Architect*]
- > Creative and Design [Outside Broadcasting Engineer*]
- > Digital [Digital and Technology Solution Specialist*]
- > Education and Child Care [Academic professional* Teacher*]
- > Engineering and Manufacturing [Engineer*]
- > Hair and Beauty
- > Health and Science [Advanced Clinical Practitioner* Midwife* Occupational Therapist* Physiotherapist*]
- > Legal, Finance and Accounting [Accountant* Actuary* Auditor* Banking* Solicitor*]
- > Protective Services [Police Constable*]
- > Sales, Marketing and Procurement [Retail Leadership*]
- > Transport and Logistics

Those with an asterisk are examples of Professions or business roles where training can be obtained to Degree Level.

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I am concerned that learning as an Apprentice does not have the gravitas of learning at University. Am I right?

A

It depends on the field you are going into. The hands-on experience will be invaluable and may put you a step ahead of those who have only been learning in an academic environment. You will have confidence from the practice. Quite a number of Apprenticeships lead to Graduate and Masters' Qualifications and are highly respected.

It will be good for you to have been earning, not to have any debt and working alongside people who will be training you. You still have a day off a week to go to College and study the academic aspects of the business. Many Apprentices are taken on at the end of their training by the business or profession that employed them.

You may even find you earn £150,000 more than a graduate, over your working life!²

Contact us at Paths to Learning by emailing felicitygunn@hotmail.com

² https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/787717/Guide-to-Apprenticeships-260219-LR.pdf

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