

Why do an apprenticeship?

You get paid - Your employer will pay you a weekly or monthly wage

You get hands-on experience - In your job you will work and train to get the experience and skills you need

You get a real career - At the end of your Apprenticeship you will be skilled and qualified - just what paying employers want. Apprenticeships last up to 3 years so you have time to build up the knowledge and skills you will need.

You get qualified - You will study at college or with a trainer, usually one day a week to get your NVQ (National Vocational Qualification), Key Skills (which include communication, application of number and information technology) and a technical certificate such as a BTEC.

Apprenticeships are recognised qualifications . An Apprenticeship is equal to 5 GCSEs and an Advanced Apprenticeship is equal to 2 A levels

Completing an Apprenticeship

By the end of your Apprenticeship, you will have been assessed in several ways by your employer and learning provider.

Some of the award is for completing the NVQ that you take as part of your Apprenticeship. Some of it is for gaining the required Key Skills. If your Apprenticeship includes a technical certificate, then there may also be exams that you are required to take.

What can you do afterwards?

When you complete an Apprenticeship, you'll be able to show an employer that you have skills, qualifications and dedication. There's also the opportunity to progress on to higher education, either part time or full time with your employer's help and support. All things which give you an edge in the job market.

It should increase your chances of getting a good rate of pay, and of getting promoted. In the long term, you may decide to take things further and go for further studies, such as a Diploma or a Degree.

Advanced Apprenticeships

This programme is an alternative to sixth form or college and offers you employment from day one. Advanced Apprentices work towards NVQ Level 3 (Level 4 available in some occupational areas). Ideally you will need five GCSEs (Grade C and above) or have progressed from the Apprenticeship Level to start on the programme.

An Advanced Apprenticeship is equivalent to: 2 A Levels **or** 2 AS & 2 A2 Levels **or** Edexcel/BTEC First Diploma **or** Vocational A Level (AVCE) **or** GNVQ Advanced level **or** International Baccalaureate

Summary

- Open to 16 - 24 year olds*
- An alternative to A Levels/HNC/BTEC
- Employed from start
- A salary of at least £80 per week
- Study NVQ Level 3/4
- Key Skills training
- Technical Certificate
- Typically lasts 1-2 years (can be up to 4 years for engineering).
- Apprenticeships are now open to adult learners (www.direct.gov.uk)

FAQ'S:

How long does an Apprenticeship last?

Apprenticeships and Advanced Apprenticeships last as long as it takes you to achieve your NVQ, your key skills and necessary technical certificates. Apprenticeships usually last for about a year. The minimum length of an Advanced Apprenticeship is two years. An Apprenticeship or Advanced Apprenticeship cannot last for more than four years

Am I eligible?

Apprenticeships are open to anyone aged 16 to 24. You may need qualifications for some Apprenticeships, but the vacancy descriptions will tell you this. Advanced Apprenticeships are open to anyone aged 16 to 24. You usually need 5 GCSEs (of at least grade C or equivalent) and to show a commitment to training. High-level training means you gain responsibility quickly and follow a structured plan to develop the right skills. It may be possible for you to progress straight from an Apprenticeship to an Advanced Apprenticeship.

Will I get paid?

If you start as an employee you will receive a wage for the job.

Where will I be trained?

You will be trained with a Training Provider. This could be a specialist training organisation or local college organisation that is responsible for your off-the-job training. Some large employers train their Apprentices on company premises.

When can I start training?

This will depend on what training you want to do. Sometimes the start of training will link to the beginning of a college year. Your Training Provider will be able to advise on this.

Every vacancy posted on the Apprenticeships Online website has a 'possible start date' which is the date that you would be likely to begin.

Can I change my mind or move to another Apprenticeship?

Yes. You can discuss this with your Training Provider or Connexions Personal Adviser who can arrange alternative training for you. If you finish your programme and want to move on to the next level, your Training Provider will discuss all the options that are available to you.

As an Apprentice, will I get a job?

Most Apprentices are employed from day one and continue working with their employer after their Apprenticeship. However, continuing to work with your employer is not always guaranteed when you complete your Apprenticeship.

What do I do next?

If you've not already done so, search for vacancies on Apprenticeships Online. From there you'll be able to see what Apprenticeship vacancies there are. You can apply online or some training providers ask you to contact them directly.

USEFUL LINKS:

Apprenticeships Online:

www.apprenticeshipsonline.org

FNTC (for Apprenticeships in Childcare, Teaching Assistant, Health and Social Care, Business and Admin, Customer Service):

www.fntctraining.co.uk

SETA (for apprenticeships in Engineering, Fabrication and Welding and Engineering Construction):

www.setatraining.co.uk

CARILLION (for apprenticeships in Construction (bricklaying, carpentry etc): www.carillionplc.com

SOUTHAMPTON CITY TRAINING (for apprenticeships in Construction, Engineering, Hospitality, Hair & Beauty, Business Administration, Accountancy, Information Technology, Early Years, Child & Adult Care & Dentistry): www.sotonct.co.uk