

# Learn More About Apprenticeships:

## To become an apprentice, you must:

- be 16 or over
- not already be in full-time education
- live in England

You can start an apprenticeship whether you're starting your career, want a change or you're upskilling in your current job. You can have a previous qualification like a degree and still start an apprenticeship.

## As an apprentice you'll:

- learn and train for a specific job
- get paid and receive holiday leave
- get hands-on experience in a real job
- study for at least 20% of your working hours - usually at a college, university or with a training provider
- complete assessments during and at the end of your apprenticeship
- be on a career path with lots of future potential

## What is an apprenticeship?

An apprenticeship is a real job where you learn, gain experience and get paid. You're an employee with a contract of employment and holiday leave. By the end of an apprenticeship, you'll have the right skills and knowledge needed for your chosen career.

It can take between one and 6 years to complete an apprenticeship depending on which one you choose, what level it is and your previous experience. It's funded from contributions made by the government and your employer.

## Levels of an apprenticeship

Each apprenticeship has a level and an equivalent education level. You can start an apprenticeship at any level.

Depending on the level, some apprenticeships may:

- require previous qualifications such as an English or maths GCSE
- give extra training in the English or maths skills needed so you're at the right level

At the end of your apprenticeship, you'll achieve the equivalent education level. For example, if you complete a level 3 apprenticeship, you'll achieve the equivalent of an A level.

Level	Equivalent education 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

If you think you need more skills and work experience before starting an apprenticeship, you can find a traineeship instead.

**The following videos are excellent starting points to know more about apprenticeships and what to expect;**

The Transition from school to apprenticeship- <https://amazingapprenticeships.com/resources/>

Another excellent video to watch is how you can boost your motivation as you apply for apprenticeships as this can be a daunting task especially if you have to go for an interview.

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/resources/>

This video shows you the life of an apprentice

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/resources/>

**The top seven tips for applying for an apprenticeship:**

**1) There are still vacancies out there but there are less than usual so;**

If you are researching apprenticeship vacancies, you will need to think about how, where and when you search for jobs.

You will need to be clued-up about using technology to enable your search techniques by signing up to vacancy alerts, following companies on social media, speaking with family and friends, visiting [Vacancy Snapshot](#) and being proactive in approaching companies and asking for work experience or attending virtual open days to get yourself noticed by employers.

**2) Don't wait for the deadline to submit your application**

Some employers and recruiters have explained to us that they may decide to close recruitment windows early if they feel that they have received a sufficient volume of applications.

Competition for jobs is likely to be increasing, so you should try to submit your application as soon as you are ready, rather than waiting for the deadline.

Don't rush it though – it's important that you check your spelling & grammar and take time to get it right.

**3) Most recruitment is now online**

A lot of employers have told us that they have replaced traditional face-to-face recruitment with the use of telephone and video interviews and also online assessment centres.

You will need to be ready for 'virtual recruitment' and ensure that you know what to expect so that you stand the best chance of being successful.

There are lots of resources out there to help you to prepare for these processes.

#### **4) New apprentices are starting – but the induction might feel a bit different**

It's great news for everyone that many employers are finding ways to start new apprentices. You will need to be prepared that you may not be in the workplace immediately, or even full-time.

For example, you may find yourself working from home one week, in the workplace the following week, in work bubbles or you might be working 100% from home or in the workplace.

Your employer will be able to explain more about their arrangements.

#### **5) Have a plan A, B, C and D.....keep your options open**

One of the best ways to be resilient when plans change is to have other options lined up. We always encourage individuals who are considering applying for apprenticeships to explore multiple options simultaneously at both post-16 and post-18, without judgement or prejudice.

The range of options is now vast and really exciting!

It is important that as well as the more traditional options, you also make sure that you understand apprenticeships, traineeships, T Levels and FE College.

#### **6) Make use of your support networks**

At some point you will need to make a decision about which path you want to follow, but remember that it's ok to change your mind too. Whatever path you decide to follow, you will want to know that you've given it your best shot. If you're struggling or not enjoying it, don't be afraid to ask for help.

Make use of the support networks around you too. Your school/college will have a Careers Leader who you could speak to. There is also the National Careers Service who offer free of charge information, advice and guidance.

#### **7) Apprenticeships are still amazing**

Apprenticeships are completely different to studying full time and as they are real jobs, we may still see more changes in the coming months.

Keep checking back in with us on social media, sign up to our newsletter and remember to have regular conversations with your friends, teachers, families and anyone else who is helping you to line up options for your future.

