

# PARENTS' GUIDE TO APPRENTICESHIPS



# APPRENTICESHIPS: YOUR GUIDE AS A PARENT/CARER

Apprenticeships are becoming an increasingly popular alternative to university, with around half a million apprenticeship starts a year. With a continued push to ensure that apprenticeships have the same status and esteem as a degree, they're becoming even more relevant in today's workplace.

## Benefits at a glance

These are just some of the key benefits of taking an apprenticeship:

- Earning a salary
- Training in the skills employers want
- Excellent progression opportunities, whether looking to study further or climb the ranks in the workplace
- Learning at a pace suited to the young person with the support of a learning provider

## Q: What is an apprenticeship?

**A:** An apprenticeship is a real job with training so learners can earn while they learn and achieve nationally recognised qualifications. Apprenticeship duration is a minimum of a year and can vary dependant on the type or level of the programme. There are a variety of job roles from Accountancy to Engineering, IT to Health and Social Care. They're available from Level 2 (Intermediate level) to Level 7 (Post Graduate level)

## Q: What are the benefits of doing one?

**A:** Apprenticeships provide a great way to combine work with study, enabling learners to gain experience at the same time as taking nationally recognised qualifications and earning a salary.

Apprentices are employed to perform a specific job role. They work alongside experienced staff to gain job-specific skills. Whilst apprentices are on a programme they study an occupational area specific to their apprenticeship with a college or training provider.

Apprenticeships offer career progression opportunities that can provide a route into higher education or to climb a chosen career ladder. They have a great fit with employers both large and small, including some of Britain's brightest and best companies.

*"I wanted to continue with my education and I also wanted a job so an apprenticeship seemed like the perfect solution to me."* – Katie Henderson, **OCR Level 3 Business Administration** apprentice at Whitworth Chemists



## Q: Who do they suit?

**A:** Apprenticeships are open to anyone aged 16 or over, including workers, job seekers, school leavers and career changers – but they must be living in England and not in full-time education. There may be specific entry requirements depending on the apprenticeship and the industry.

## Q: Why are they an increasingly popular alternative to university?

**A:** Apprenticeships provide an alternative to university for learners who want to continue their education while embarking on their chosen career. Learners can get ahead of their peers at university as they gain applied and relevant work experience. They're proving popular as learners earn while they learn, plus there are no tuition fees.

*"Apprenticeships have a vital role to play in supporting the long-term economic plan. Through the support of employers, Apprenticeships are a solid route into some of the country's most prestigious professions."*

**Nick Boles**, Minister of State for Skills and Equalities

## Q: What if a learner isn't quite ready for an apprenticeship or job?

**A:** They could try a traineeship with a local employer to gain work experience and the opportunity to improve their English and maths, if needed. Visit [gov.uk](http://gov.uk) and search 'traineeships' for more information and details of traineeship opportunities.

### TRAINEESHIPS

A programme offering a combination of training and work experience to help young people develop the necessary skills to help them secure an apprenticeship, further learning or a job.

Traineeships are suitable for aged 16-24 yrs and learners up to the academic age of 25 yrs who are in receipt of a Learning Difficulty Assessment (LDA)

Entry Level to Level 2

## Q: What options are available?

**A:** Apprenticeships are available at different levels.

### APPRENTICESHIPS

A first-class way to start a career, using a combination of real work with training to prepare an individual for their chosen career.

- Intermediate apprenticeship (Level 2) – equivalent to 5 A\*-C GCSEs
- Advanced apprenticeship (Level 3) – equivalent to 2 A levels

### HIGHER APPRENTICESHIPS

An industry-relevant qualification.

- Levels 4 and 5 are equivalent to a higher national diploma or a foundation degree.
- Level 7 is equivalent to a master's degree.

## Q: What will my child earn during their apprenticeship?

**A:** They're entitled to the relevant apprenticeship national minimum wage. From 1 October 2015 this is £3.30 an hour. This rate applies to apprentices aged 16 to 18 and those aged 19 or over in their first year. All other apprentices are entitled to the National Minimum Wage for their age.

There's more information here: [www.gov.uk/apprenticeships-guide/pay-and-conditions](http://www.gov.uk/apprenticeships-guide/pay-and-conditions)

You'll also find more details on salaries and entry criteria in specific apprenticeship occupations by looking at the vacancies on 'Find an apprenticeship'. ([www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch](http://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch))

## Q: Where can we find details of what's available?

**A:** Visit [gov.uk](http://gov.uk) and search 'Find an apprenticeship'. At any one time there are thousands of apprenticeship vacancies available on the 'Find an apprenticeship' site in a variety of careers and industries across England. You can search by keyword (job role, occupation type or apprenticeship level) and by location.

## Q: How do you apply?

**A:** You simply register for free on [gov.uk](http://gov.uk) and follow the step-by-step instructions to apply for a role.

For more information, you could also go to [www.youtube.com/user/ApprenticeshipsNAS](http://www.youtube.com/user/ApprenticeshipsNAS) where you'll find the National Apprenticeship Service's 'How to apply' film and other films on apprenticeships.

You can also find more information at [apprenticeships.gov.uk](http://apprenticeships.gov.uk)

To see all the latest apprenticeship information and case studies visit our website [ocr.org.uk/apprenticeships](http://ocr.org.uk/apprenticeships)

..."I feel that doing an apprenticeship has helped me out a lot. It's taught me many new things to do with work and it's a training process for me, where I can work my way up the business from doing the apprenticeship and I can learn different aspects of the business..." Dan Hawkins, **OCR Level 3 Business Administration** apprentice at CDI Anderselite



To find out more

**[ocr.org.uk/apprenticeships](http://ocr.org.uk/apprenticeships)**

or call our Customer Contact Centre on **02476 851509**

Alternatively, you can email us on **[apprenticeships@ocr.org.uk](mailto:apprenticeships@ocr.org.uk)**



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