

**I am a Young Person,
what are
apprenticeships?**

D2SEB

Derby & Derbyshire
Skills and Employment Board

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Confused about apprenticeships?

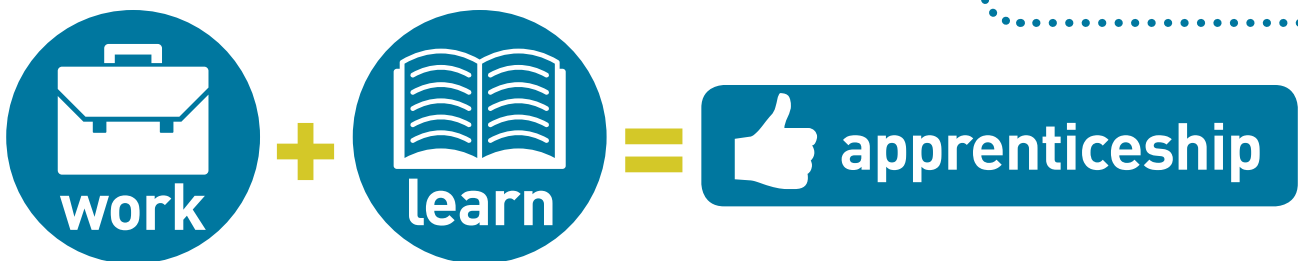
We surveyed 500 young people and 83% said they didn't know enough about Apprenticeships, so you're not alone. Apprenticeships have changed massively over the last few years, they now offer real benefits, serious earning potential, structured career pathways and progression to gaining a degree.

What is an apprenticeship?

A real job, with a real employer. There's a myth that apprenticeships are just like work experience, where you're given basic tasks or asked to make the tea, but this isn't the case. The employer will invest their time and money in helping you to gain a qualifications, valuable new skills and on the job experience. You will be given real responsibilities and expected to work hard, just like anyone else in the company.

An apprenticeship typically takes 1 to 4 years to complete, depending on the level and the subject you're studying.

- ✓ A real job with a real employer
- ✓ Paid a salary
- ✓ Qualifications and experience
- ✓ Contract of employment, holiday, sick
- ✓ Support from a training provider
- ✓ 1-4 years



Traineeships

If you're not sure whether an apprenticeship is right for you, you might want to think about doing a traineeship first.

They're ideal if you've been applying for apprenticeships, but perhaps haven't been making it through to interview. Or if you need to develop your confidence or experience to help you compete in the recruitment process. A traineeship includes three parts:



Employability skills



English and Maths support, if needed



A high quality work experience placement



Click here to watch a video about the world of apprenticeships

A world of opportunity!

Today you have more choices than ever before to:

Further your studies | Enter the job market | Begin an apprenticeship

With more and more new apprenticeships being introduced, especially higher and degree apprenticeships, there really is something for everyone.



Earn while you learn - on average apprentices can earn £400 per month or more.



Those with an advanced apprenticeship earn more than those without over the course of their career.



Learn skills employers want to see on the job and gain real qualifications.



Apprenticeships offer you the chance to learn at your own pace with the support of a mentor.



Apprenticeships offer fantastic opportunities to progress Level 3, Level 4 qualifications or a degree to further enhance your CV.



Become more independent, confident and self-assured.



Increased future earning potential - Apprentices enjoy marked salary increases when they complete their training.



Being an apprentice in the workplace allows you to meet new people.

It's important to remember that if you see an apprenticeship you're interested in, don't be put off by the pay if it's low: there's room for progression and working your way to the top of an organisation. There are some Higher and Degree level apprenticeships with salaries between £16,000 and £27,000.



Case Study

James Gill | Federal-Mogul Motorparts

I became an apprentice by applying for the job role directly. I then took an aptitude test at a college and sat through various interviews.

I feel that apprenticeships are the best way to get into engineering as they are structured solely for engineering. I would recommend an engineering apprenticeship to anyone wanting to be an engineer.

The benefits of being an apprentice are:

- Working in the environment that you're training to work in.
- Earning a wage.
- Receiving training.
- Learning from experienced others.

My parents fully supported my idea to do an engineering apprenticeship.



[Click here to watch the 'First Pay Check' video](#)

The levels

We now have three levels: Intermediate, Advanced and Higher. If you want to, you can now start an apprenticeship and work all the way up to achieving a degree.

Intermediate

(Level 2*)

Duration
12 - 18 months

Common place for school leavers to start, especially if they did not achieve above a grade C or 4 or 5 in their Maths and English GCSE's

Advanced

(Level 3*)

Duration
12 - 48 months

If you get C or 4 or 5 or above in Maths and English GCSE's you may be eligible to start at an advanced level. Candidates could potentially progress from an Intermediate Apprenticeship onto an Advanced.

Higher

(Level 4, 5, 6 & 7*)

Duration
12 - 36 months

With A levels or a Level 3 qualification you should be eligible for most Higher and Degree level apprenticeships.

The above is to be used as a guide and is not absolute. Entry onto specific levels may be judged on an individual basis. Entry requirements can also vary depending on the qualification been undertaken.

Level 2 is equivalent to GCSE. Level 3 is equivalent to A level. Level 4 is equivalent to a Higher National Certificate (HNC) or the first year of a degree. Level 5 – 6 is equivalent to a full degree. Level 7 is equivalent to a masters degree.

The level of apprenticeship you start at will depend on the kind of job that you are applying for. It's really important not to only look for a particular level of apprenticeship e.g. degree apprenticeships, because it may be that you need to start at advanced or higher level and work your way up.

A degree through apprenticeships?

Higher & Degree Apprenticeships

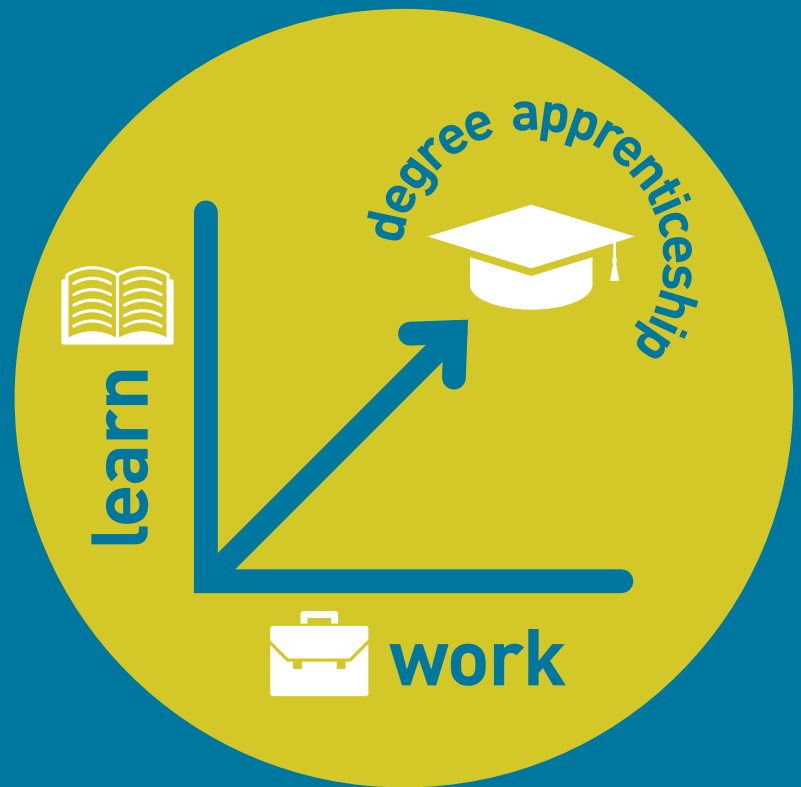
Higher and degree apprenticeships are a real alternative to following the traditional route of going to University as a full time student.

They offer all the benefits of higher education with none of the cost. You will not only be learning, but earning a salary, from day one. So with a degree apprenticeship, you're much less likely to build up any debt. Your tuition fees are paid for by your employer and the Government, so you will not be expected to pay £9000 a year.

In the past, going to university was seen as the best way to advance your career to a higher level. But with the current level of competition for jobs amongst graduates, it might not be the best route for you.

With an apprenticeship, you gain the competitive advantage of gaining at least 3 years' work experience whilst completing your degree.

If you're over 16, live in England and are not in full-time education you can apply. Apprenticeships are available at intermediate, advanced, higher and degree levels.



Case Study

Luke Wiegton | Pentaxia

I heard about the apprenticeship opportunities at Pentaxia as I knew an employee, I handed my CV in and ended up being offered a trial and interview. I knew this is great opportunity for me I will be learning whilst getting paid which appealed to me.

I think apprenticeship is a great way to up you skills through working for an employer as you will get more hands on experience than going to university.

The benefits of being an apprentice are getting paid whilst learning, getting taught by skilled people their skills and learning new experiences and being able to progress.

My parents think it's a good idea as I am able to earn while learning new skills which will help in the long run.

The sectors

When we talk about apprenticeships, people often assume we're referring to traditional apprenticeships like construction and engineering. There are many brilliant apprenticeships in these areas, but there are also hundreds of new apprenticeships in exciting areas that you might not know exist.



Accounting | Advertising & Marketing | Agriculture
Animal Care | Aviation | Business Administration
Catering | Creative & Digital | Dental Nursing
Construction | Customer Service | Cyber Security
Events Management | Floristry
High Performance Engineering | Hairdressing
Health Care | Hospitality | Horticulture | Journalism
Jeweller | Legal Services | Games Technician
Police Officer | Project Management | Surveying
Solicitor | Teaching | Veterinary Nursing



How do I research or apply?



Register on 'Find an Apprenticeship'

[Click here to apply](#)

It's really important to register. Search the internet for 'Find an apprenticeship' and it will come up as the first link, or alternatively use the 'Click here to apply' link above. Once registered you'll receive an account activation code by email. After activating your account, you're ready to start applying for apprenticeship vacancies.



Do your research and search for jobs

Have a look at the different jobs that are being advertised. Remember, this is a live jobs site so it may be that you need to try a few different searches or to broaden how far you are willing to travel that you are interested in.



Start applying for jobs that interest you

You need to remember that some of the bigger companies will advertise quite early in the year (e.g. Autumn) for apprentices to start the following September, so please don't leave it until the last minute or you might be disappointed to have missed a great opportunity.



Set up your alerts

A great feature of this system is that you can get it to do all the hard work for you. You can manage your alert settings so that you receive text messages and emails when jobs come up that you might be interested in



Make contact with companies

Employers are always telling us that the applicants that really stand out to them, are those that have made a bit of extra effort. You could consider contacting the company and asking them if you could spend a few hours shadowing a member of staff or if they have any open days coming up. This will impress the employer and look great on your application, giving you an advantage over other applicants.

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Remember an apprenticeship should be considered an entry point into a career or specific sector. Once you gain experience and new skills there is a good chance new and challenging opportunities will present themselves.



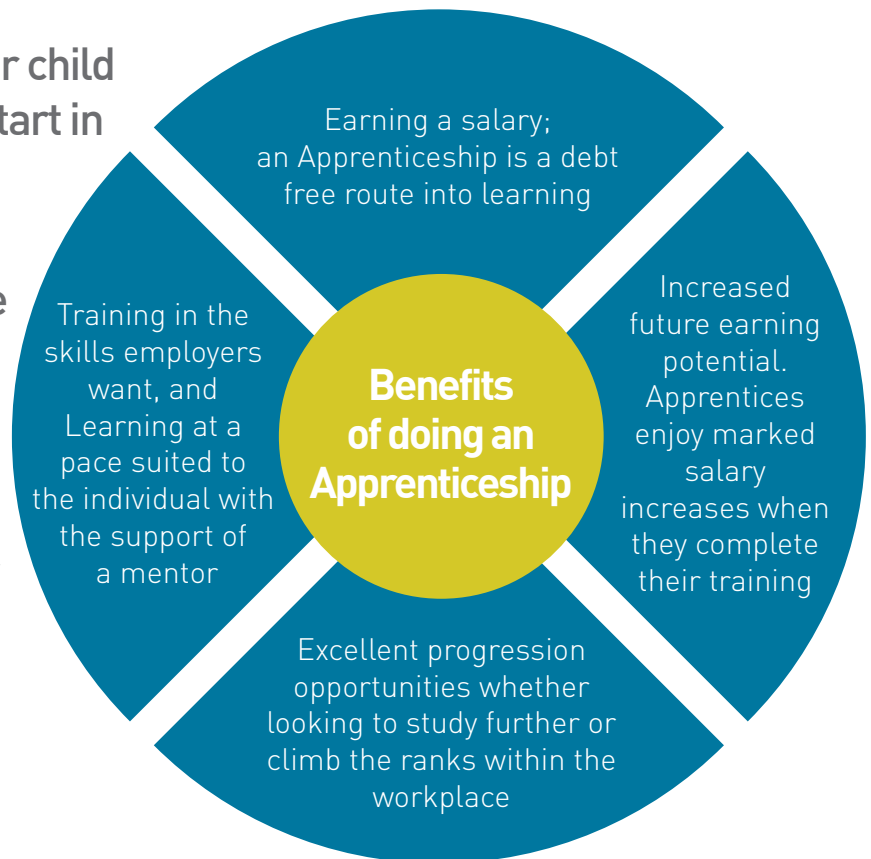
[Click here to watch the 'Find an Apprenticeship' video](#)

I am a Parent

Why should my child do an apprenticeship? ...

As a parent you want your child to get the best possible start in their career.

There are many options available to young people after they leave school, and in this guide we outline information and benefits about Apprenticeships as a key route into securing a job and progressing into a successful career.



[Click here to watch the 'Standing on your own 2 feet' video](#)

I am a School

I need support ...

The Apprenticeship Support and Knowledge for Schools project has been commissioned by the National Apprenticeship Service. To support the (ASK) Government's target of achieving 3 million apprenticeship starts by 2020.

ASK will support you to meet your statutory requirements and your Ofsted statutory requirements. The statutory duty requires governing bodies to ensure that all registered pupils at the school are provided with independent careers guidance from year 8 (12-13 year olds) to year 13 (17-18 year olds).

ASK can provide support through assemblies, focused workshops and teacher and career advisor training.



[Click here to book free support](#)

I am an Apprentice

This is my journey ...



Case Study

Chelsea Nicholson | One To One Support Services

I became an apprentice after I attended college for 1 year. I completed my first year in A-Levels, I decided that this route in my education wasn't for me and I applied for several apprenticeships. I was extremely nervous when applying for an apprenticeship as I had never worked in an office environment before and I had never worked in a Health and Social Care environment before either.

I would definitely recommend an apprenticeship to any young person who is thinking about going down this route. It is the best thing that I decided on doing. I have learnt a lot of knowledge on administration and I have also learnt a lot of knowledge within Health and Social Care. With the knowledge that I have learnt from being an apprentice at One to One Support Services it has helped me support the other team members who I work with. I understand CQC Reports, and have attended all the mandatory training that the care

team have to complete. With how fast the care sector and training sector changes it is vital I keep up to date with any new legislation as this will help me in my work role.

There are many benefits to being an apprentice, the benefits I have received are, even though I work mainly in administration I also work for a care and training provider, this has expanded my knowledge on both of these sectors. I didn't realise how much new knowledge I would have before becoming an apprentice and all the new knowledge that I have received has helped me in everyday life as well.

My parent's thoughts on me becoming an apprentice were really positive and they were as excited as I was. My mother and my father were apprehensive at first as I was only 17 when I joined One to One but they were very supportive with me when I started and even now they are still as supportive as ever.



Case Study

Calvin | Collis Engineering

As I progressed through school we would have assemblies involving talks on what we would do in the future for work/education. This is when I discovered what apprenticeships were and how they worked. Immediately I asked Collis Engineering whether there were any apprenticeships available. It was agreed that if I achieved my predicted grades at school I would be placed on the apprenticeship scheme at Collis Engineering.

As a 16 year old teenager there was nothing better than earning money while still getting an education. I settled into work happily with the help of the company who introduced me to the job and guided me through answering any questions I had.

My views on my apprenticeship would be that it's a rather fun experience, it enables you to become qualified in a trade while gaining experience on the job.

The benefits of being an apprentice are continuing your education, benefiting you and your employer, gaining experience on the job. being financially supported and seeing the progress you are making and the possible routes you can take.

Both parents agreed it was a positive career choice with the potential to advance my learning within the industry which in turn would create better future for myself, my family and this would put me in a position to advise any future children I have myself.





Case Study

Connor | Federal-Mogul Motorparts

I wanted to get a job instead of going to university and I liked the idea of learning whilst I worked and thought an apprenticeship would benefit me more in the future.

I think apprenticeships are the best way as you're getting work experience from a young age whilst being paid at the same time so I would advise them to look for an apprenticeship.

You're getting on the job training which is important for the future, you're guaranteed a job at the end of your training, you're getting paid from a young age and you'll become more experienced day by day.

My family were really supportive and liked the idea of me getting an apprenticeship."



Case Study

Sam Wilmot | The Arkwright Society, Cromford Mill.

I saw a job advertised in the local newspaper that read 'Receptionist/Digital Marketing Apprenticeship' and thought it sounded interesting and something that I thought I would enjoy. I had heard a lot about apprenticeships but never really looked into them as I had always just gone straight into work but was always intrigued because I understood that you could get trained in something while earning money which sounded like a winner!

I am thoroughly enjoying my apprenticeship and feel like I am really benefiting from doing this course. It has helped me learn skills that I can take into later life and hopefully progress as a full time Digital Marketer. When (hopefully!) I finish my apprenticeship I will come out with a level three diploma in Digital Marketing which is equivalent to three A-Levels and I can then start to apply for jobs within that sector and hopefully secure a full

time job. I would say to the youth of today that an apprenticeship is well worth looking into and that you may find the training/job of your dreams.

I would say the best benefit is that you can learn your skills in the workplace while getting paid, granted it's not a massive wage at the beginning but you are learning, working and earning all at the same time. Another benefit is that at the end of your apprenticeship you will come out with great qualifications that can either get you onto the next level of your apprenticeship or you can take those skills and go and look for a full time job.

My parents were like... "Are you joking?? On that wage? When are we ever going to get rid of you?!" Haha no I'm just kidding, they were very supportive and thought it was a great idea. They are very glad that I am doing something that is more up my street and think it will benefit me greatly.



Case Study

Sahara | Brighter Directions

I didn't like school so as a result I left with not many qualifications. I didn't mind as I'd always figured I would work anywhere for decent money. After a fair few factory jobs I began to realise that not having to use my brain on a daily basis was really NOT what I wanted to be doing for the rest of my life. I finally stumbled across an apprenticeship vacancy within Brighter Directions (just down the road from me) which I promptly applied for and stalked when I didn't get a response. The training provider didn't get back to me so I contacted Brighter Directions directly, and the rest, as they say, is history...

I have always thought apprenticeships were a good idea. The fact is that most jobs call for some experience within the role that you are

looking to apply for but without doing things like apprenticeships or work placements, you'd simply never get the opportunity to get that experience. It's definitely an avenue which young people should consider (and at any age to be quite honest, as my experience has demonstrated!)

I found actual hands on practical experience a real benefit of my apprenticeship. It's the perfect way to build your CV with a qualification and experience, plus if the company you have done the apprenticeship with doesn't have a full time, permanent role for you once it's finished, you have a reference to give future possible employers which can highlight your work ethic, time management, job skills, punctuality and attitude!



Derby & Derbyshire Skills and Employment Board (D2 SEB) is the leading voice for improving employment and skills opportunities for the D2 area. Led by local employers, we are working together to make sure young people in Derby and Derbyshire have the right skills to match the needs of local employers, both now and in the future.

Our dedicated board members ...



Proud to be supported by ...



For more information

If you need professional advice on making the right choices, then contact the National Apprenticeship Helpdesk. Email: nationalhelpdesk@findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk or phone: 0800 015 0400

Or alternatively contact the National Careers Service helpline, Monday to Sunday, 8am to 10pm on 0800 100 900 | Text messages: 07766 413 219 | Textphone: 0800 096 8336

