

A parent's guide to Apprenticeships

Introduction

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.

What is an Apprenticeship

An Apprenticeship is a job with training which allows individuals to earn while they learn, whilst gaining nationally recognised qualifications. Most of the training is delivered in the work place, with an element of 'off the job' training which usually takes place with a training provider or at a college.

If your child lives in England, is over 16 and not in full time education they can apply.

The core components are:

- A nationally recognised vocational qualification
- Functional skills, such as working in teams, problem solving, literacy and numeracy, communication and using new technology
- A technical certificate such as a BTEC or City & Guilds (relevant to your specific Apprenticeship)
- Other professional qualifications or requirements as specified by the particular job.

Benefits of doing an Apprenticeship

- Earning a salary
- Training in the skills employers want
- Excellent progression opportunities, whether looking to study further or climb the ranks within the workplace
- Increased future earning potential. Apprentices enjoy marked salary increases when they complete their training
- Better long term salary prospects (those with an Advanced Apprenticeship earn around £117,000* more than those without, over the course of their career)
- Learning at a pace suited to the individual with the support of a mentor
- There are three entry points, and progression through the different levels:
 - Intermediate Level Apprenticeship (level 2)
 - Advanced Level Apprenticeship (level 3)
 - Higher Apprenticeship (level 4 or above)

Salaries

The minimum wage for apprentices is £2.65 per hour, but many employers pay more than this. The average gross weekly wage for an apprentice is £200**. This is dependant on the sector, region and Apprenticeship level e.g. some Higher Apprenticeships can pay as much as £300 - £500 per week.

For more detail on salaries and entry criteria in specific Apprenticeship occupations you can look at advertised vacancies on apprenticeships.org.uk

Entry requirements

Apprenticeships are available to anyone over the age of 16. There are different entry requirements depending on the sector and job. Apprentices need to be committed, motivated, enthusiastic and reliable, with a 'can-do' attitude.

Duration

They last for a minimum of one year, however many can take longer, especially if they are at a higher level or in a certain sectors such as engineering.

More information and next steps

- Applying for Apprenticeships - apprenticeships.org.uk gives people the opportunity to search and apply for Apprenticeship vacancies. At any one time there are up to 15,000 jobs available in a variety of careers and industries across England. Candidates can apply for as many as they like.
 1. Go to apprenticeships.org.uk
 2. Click the "Search for vacancies" link to register.
- Watch videos of real apprentices telling their stories and browse the frequently asked questions at apprenticeships.org.uk



Find out more about Apprenticeships and view vacancies now apprenticeships.org.uk