

# Degree Apprenticeships

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# What we'll cover

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What are degree apprenticeships?

How should students decide?

Researching Degree Apprenticeships

Supporting your students

# What do you know about degree apprenticeships?

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## Consider:

- What common questions do your students ask you?
- What questions do you have about apprenticeships?



# What are degree apprenticeships?

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# What is a degree apprenticeship?

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ADVANCING  
ACCESS

From the  
**RUSSELL  
GROUP**



A degree apprenticeship is a structured, paid job that combines full-time employment with part-time higher education



Employment with a contract and salary, with the same rights and responsibilities as other employees



Opportunity to develop industry and transferable skills



Nationally recognised qualification



Apprentices spend about 80% of their time working and 20% studying, gaining 3–6 years of experience while earning a salary.



Various programme levels to suit you, with progression routes

# Why do a degree apprenticeship?

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No debt - Your tuition fees are fully funded by the government and your employer, meaning you will not need to take out a tuition fee loan.



Support from University and Employer provided to apprentices for progression.



Earn while you learn - All degree apprentices earn a competitive salary throughout the duration of the programme.



Career prospects - Data published by the UK Government showed that after finishing their apprenticeship, 77 per cent of apprentices stay with the same employer, 46 per cent received a pay rise, and 36 per cent reported getting a promotion



Dual certification: Apprenticeship certificate and degree



Practical experience - as an apprentice, you get to work alongside experienced professionals throughout your programme, gaining useful work experience while completing your studies. You will have the advantage of putting the theory learnt in the classroom to practical experience in the workplace.

# How are they taught?

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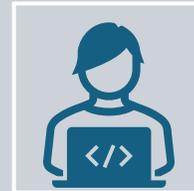
Day release (one day / week) – in person teaching on campus for study days



Online



Block release (1 week/ 2-week period every month – three months) with self directed learning for in between



Hybrid (online with block release)

# Apprenticeship levels

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# Job sectors

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- **Business** (e.g. accounting, marketing, human resources, recruitment, sales)
- **Construction** (e.g. building, plumbing, quantity surveying)
- **Digital and IT** (e.g. information security, software development)
- **Law** (e.g. paralegal, legal executive, solicitor)
- **Healthcare** (e.g. dental nursing, youth work, various NHS roles)
- **Engineering** (e.g. civil/mechanical/electrical engineering)
- **Media** (e.g. journalism, live events, costume design)
- **Finance** (e.g. investment operations, financial services)

- Digital and Technology Solutions (BSc)
  - Software Engineering
  - Business Analyst
  - Data Analyst
- BSc (Econ) Applied Finance (Level 6 Financial Services Professional programme)
- Solicitor Apprenticeship launching in September

# Employers we work with - QMUL

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**Bloomberg**

**amazon**



**Deutsche Bank**

**Morgan  
Stanley**

**CIBC**

**Goldman  
Sachs**

 **REPLY**

**pwc**

Programmes suitable for school/college leavers:

- Civil Engineering (BEng)
- Digital and Technology Solutions (BSc)
- Financial Services Professional (BSc)
- Accounting Finance Manager (BSc)
- Operations Manager (Cert HE)
- Project Management (BSc)
- Mine Management (BEng)

# Employers we work with

ADVANCING ACCESS / From the RUSSELL GROUP

**Bloomberg**

**BBC**

J.P.Morgan



lineal



Amey



IBM

amazon



UBS

GSK



CACI

RENISHAW

Wincanton

NHS

EST. 1857  
ST AUSTELL  
BREWERY

# How should students decide?

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# What's the difference?

| Feature                 | Traditional Degree   | Degree Apprenticeship  |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Main activity</b>    | Full-time study (Contact Hours)  | Work and part-time study   |
| <b>Location</b>         | University campus  | Workplace and university/training provider   |
| <b>Fees</b>             | Student pays (student loans available)   | Employer and/or Government pays  |
| <b>Salary</b>           | None   | Yes  |
| <b>Work Experience</b>  | Optional internships/placements  | Full-time job experience   |
| <b>Time Commitment</b>  | 3 – 4 years (more depending on degree)   | 3 - 6 years (work + study balance)   |
| <b>Focus</b>            | Academic and theoretical knowledge   | Practical skills + academic knowledge  |
| <b>After Graduation</b> | Job search begins  | Often stay with employer/ strong job prospects   |
| <b>Debt</b>             | Student loan debt (Maintenance and tuition)  | None. (No maintenance or tuition loan.)  |
| <b>Support</b>          | Personal Tutor, Module Leads, Peer Mentoring. Access to campus facilities: Wellbeing, Library, Studying and Careers support. | University Mentor, Employee Mentor. Access to campus facilities: Wellbeing, Library, Studying and Careers support. |

# What's the difference?

| Feature        | Traditional Degree   | Degree Apprenticeship   |
|----------------|--|---|
| Qualifications | <p><b>Academic qualification:</b> A Bachelors or Masters degree, diploma, or graduate certificate.</p> | <p><b>Academic qualification:</b> A Bachelors or Masters degree, diploma, or graduate certificate.</p> <p><b>Apprenticeship certificate:</b> IfATE apprenticeship certificate that is graded at pass, merit or distinction.</p> <p><b>Professional qualification:</b> Some include professional accreditation or prepare you to sit professional examinations. You can often gain a professional qualification alongside your degree.</p> |

# Apprenticeship salaries\*

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Age 16-18</b>  | £8 per hour (Apprentice rate)           |
| <b>Aged 19 or over and in your first year</b>           | £8 per hour (Apprentice rate)           |
| <b>Aged 19 or 20 and have completed your first year</b> | £10.85 per hour (National Minimum Wage) |
| <b>Aged 21+</b>   | £12.71 per hour (National Living Wage)  |

Many of our apprentices start on much higher than this, e.g. £28,000 per year in London.

\*As of April 2026

# Case Study Allaina - AI Engineer

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“Honestly, it was a **challenge to balance both work and the apprenticeship** throughout the four years of the course.

My ability to balance the two fluctuated over the years.

However, each year I learnt what works for me, so that when the final year arrived, I knew exactly what I needed to do to meet my deadlines and troubleshoot problems that arose.”



# Considerations

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- No student debt
- Lots of industry experience
- Strong professional network
- Practical focus
- Paid from day one
- Highly employable

- High workload
- Training for one role/job
- Less flexibility and time off
- Not the 'uni' experience
- Requires maturity
- Competitive

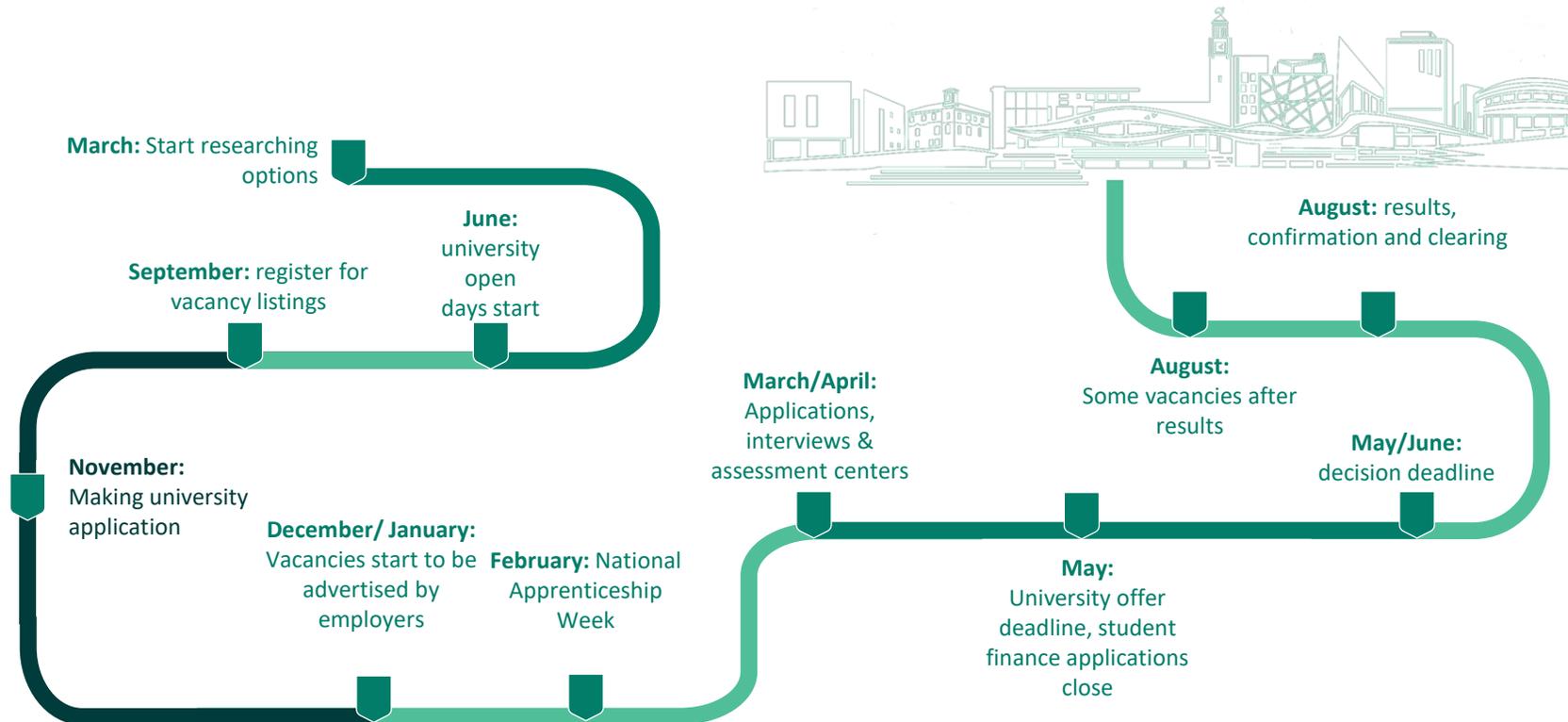
# Researching Degree Apprenticeships

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# When to start looking

The process of finding degree apprenticeships is not like the traditional route of finding degrees, but the timeline is similar.



# Where can I find apprenticeships?

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There are several ways of finding an apprenticeship.

**Step 1:** Determine what apprenticeship standard you are interested in  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/skills-england>

**Step 2:** Find the employers that are running your apprenticeship

**Find an apprenticeship:**

<https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch>

**UCAS apprenticeships:**

<https://www.ucas.com/apprenticeships>

**PUBLIC BETA** This service is currently in public beta

Skills England's occupational maps show where technical education can lead

Explore Skills England's occupational maps by selecting a route below:



### Digital Business Services

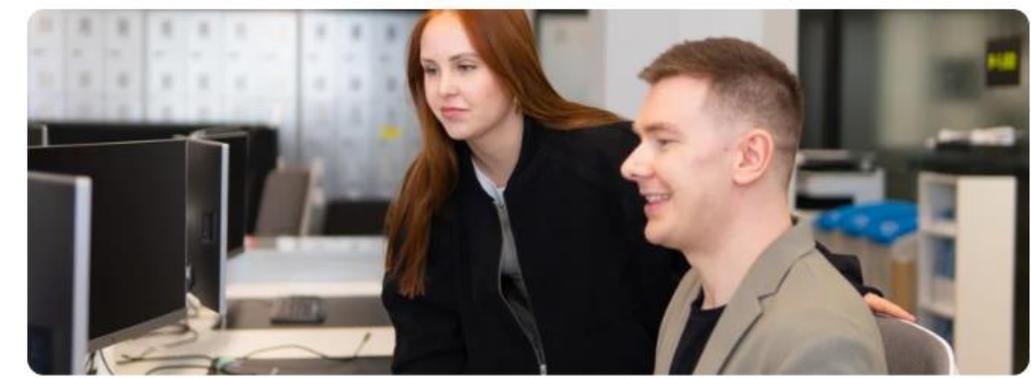
| Digital solutions technician                        | Digital solutions advanced technician  | Digital solutions professional  |
|---|--|---|
| <p>Digital content administrator</p> <p>Level 2</p> | <p>Artificial intelligence (AI) and automation practitioner</p> <p>Level 4</p> | <p>Artificial intelligence AI data specialist</p> <p>Level 7</p>                                    |
|   | <p>Digital community manager</p> <p>Level 4</p>                                | <p>Digital and technology solutions professional - business analyst professional</p> <p>Level 6</p> |

# UCAS Apprenticeships

## Apprenticeships

Interested in an apprenticeship? Check out some of the great resources, useful hints and tips, and vacancies UCAS has to offer.

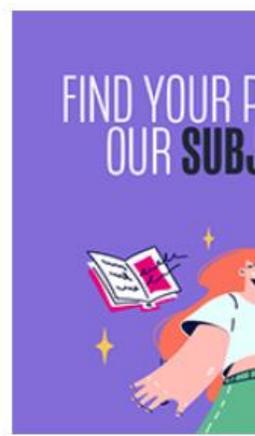
DISCOVER APPRENTICESHIPS - FIND OUT EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW



**Find an apprenticeship**  
Search for an apprenticeship using our apprenticeship search.



**What is an apprenticeship?**  
Get the facts on apprenticeships and how they work.



# Find An Apprenticeship

**Active filters** [Clear filters](#)

**Where**  
Mile End, Greater London (within 10 miles) X

**Apprenticeship level**  
Level 6 X

[Sign in to create an alert for this search](#)

**Apply filters**

**What**  
Enter a job or company

**Where**  
Enter a city or postcode  
Mile End, Greater London

Find companies recruiting nationally

**Apprenticeship type**  
[Show](#)

**Apprenticeship level**  
1 selected  
[Hide](#)

[Understanding apprenticeship levels \(opens in new tab\)](#)

Level 2  
Equal to GCSE

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**Building Services Degree Apprenticeship - London (Rail Stations)**  
WSP UK LIMITED  
WSP, 11 Westferry Circus, Canary Wharf, London (E14 4HD)  
**Distance** 0.9 miles  
**Start date** 7 September 2026  
**Training course** Building services engineer (level 6)  
**Wage** Competitive  
Closes on Friday 1 May 2026  
Posted 24 October 2025

**Rail & Rail Systems Engineering Degree Apprenticeship - London (Rail Engineering Services)**  
WSP UK LIMITED  
WSP, 11 Westferry Circus, Canary Wharf, London (E14 4HD)  
**Distance** 0.9 miles  
**Start date** 7 September 2026  
Closes on Friday 1 May 2026  
Posted 24 October 2025

**Rail & Rail Systems Engineering Degree Apprenticeship - London (Rail Stations)**  
WSP UK LIMITED  
WSP, 11 Westferry Circus, Canary Wharf, London (E14 4HD)  
**Distance** 0.9 miles  
**Start date** 7 September 2026  
**Training course** Rail and rail systems senior engineer (integrated degree) (level 6)  
**Wage** Competitive  
Closes on Friday 1 May 2026  
Posted 24 October 2025

You can choose Location, Apprenticeship Type, subject area.

You choose the employer – they are paired with an education provider

**Top Tip:** Check regularly as not all apprentices are advertised at the same time – S/M organisations are likely to open later

Contents

- [Summary](#)
- [Work](#)
- [Training](#)
- [Requirements](#)
- [About this employer](#)
- [After this apprenticeship](#)
- [Ask a question](#)
- [Apply now](#)

challenges

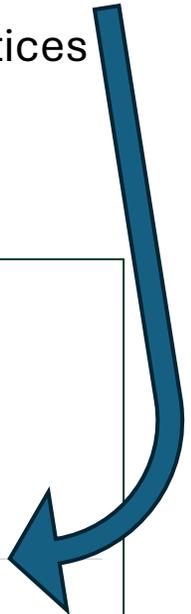
**Where you'll work**

Unit 3  
Newlands Road  
Bognor Regis  
DBN5  
PO22 9FJ

[Check your travel to work](#)

**Training**

Apprenticeships include time away from working for specialist training. You'll study to gain professional knowledge and skills.



# Applying to Degree Apprenticeships

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# The apprenticeship application Process



Top tip for students: **Time management!**  
Interviews, assessment centres and exams all at once!

# What will apprentices need for the application process?

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From the  
**RUSSELL  
GROUP**

- A good CV and cover statement
- Practice with interviews (both virtual questions and with people in person/online)
- Understanding of an assessment centre
- Time management
- Resilience: Expect rejection – it's very competitive

**An assessment centre** is a way for an employer to:

- get to know you more than they can in a traditional interview
- see how you interact with other people and work as a team
- see how you approach a range of tasks and activities
- assess lots of candidates at the same time

<https://www.ucas.com/careers-advice/how-to-get-into-work/how-to-impress-at-an-assessment-centre>

# What can students do in advance of application time?

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- Find the companies you might be interested in.
  - Sign up for their talent newsletters/ blogs/ early talent opportunities
- Set up your LinkedIn profile and search out opportunities
  - Seek current apprentices and companies
  - Locate and engage with free events in your area of interest
- Practice!
  - Assessment Centres
  - Interviews
  - Psychometric Testing

# How can you support your students?

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# Supporting students

- Spreadsheet/ tracker
- Group for students interested in doing a DA
- Rejection fatigue resilience building
- LinkedIn profile
- Practise (mock interviews, practise exams) ASK
- Soft skills and professional behaviours
- Research company values
- Apply through UCAS for universities as well

**APPRENTICESHIPS**  
**DISCOVER THE EXTRAORDINARY**

UCAS

## ARE YOU CONSIDERING AN APPRENTICESHIP?

HERE'S A CHECKLIST TO HELP YOU STAY ORGANISED.

1. Start early. Apprenticeship vacancies are posted year-round, and some close as soon as they receive enough applications. Don't wait.
2. Apply to many. It's normal to make several applications before finding success. Explore as many relevant opportunities as possible.
3. Research. Learn about the company, role, and industry to tailor your application and stand out. Why are you suited to this position?
4. Prepare. Practise common interview questions, refine your CV, and ensure you're ready for assessments or tests.
5. Check the detail. Review each part of the application to ensure you have completed it correctly; qualifications and security forms are often missed.
6. Track your applications and stay organised. Make sure you know which employers you have applied to and when the deadlines are.
7. Ask for help. Seek advice or support from friends, family, teachers, or even the apprenticeship provider. Don't hesitate to request extra time for tests or pre-interview materials if needed.
8. Don't limit yourself. Did you know you can apply to university and apprenticeships at the same time? It's always a good idea to explore all your options.
9. Go for it. What's the worst that can happen? If you don't try, you'll never know what's possible.

REGISTER ON [UCAS.COM](https://ucas.com) TO ACCESS ALL THE LATEST TOOLS AND GUIDANCE, INCLUDING CV BUILDER.

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK 2025 10-16 February

# How do you currently support your students?

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# What success looks like...

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# Case Study Molly - Bridge Engineer

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ADVANCING  
ACCESS

From the  
**RUSSELL  
GROUP**

“I have amassed five years of direct industry experience and achieved professional accreditation within my industry. I am much more employable and earning a better wage in my position than someone who has complete a full-time degree and gained two years’ industry experience.”



# Case Study – QMUL Graduate

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**Student had never studied anything in computing and Tech at school but decided to apply for a Digital and Technology Apprenticeship.**

## **What did you do to increase your chances?**

- I learned as much as I could to leverage during the application and interview process

- Attended Hackathons

- Engaged with Women in Tech with IBM

- Enrolled in a Cisco certification in Python

- Created a strong LinkedIn presence to find events in tech aimed at early Careers

# Case Study – QMUL Employer

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**This employer had apprentices in multiple programmes (tech and finance) for 25/6 entry.**

## **What factors have led you to reject an application in the past?**

If an applicant did not mention the firm or the sector in which they operate, they did not progress their application past the first round. It is important that they were following trends in the sector and understood the application of tech in the finance sector or the finance sector generally.

## **What made applicants stand out?**

Any application that had solid extracurricular activity pertaining to tech or finance stood out.  
Examples: Set up and launched businesses themselves, helped friends with websites, posted code on git hub, did certifications, engaged with learning about the sector.

CV+ personal statement that highlighted paid/unpaid work experience (e.g. insight days, internships, attendance at events /exposure in the sector they are working with). Soft skills are also key and those who were able to demonstrate this throughout the recruitment cycle were more successful.

Applicants who demonstrated strong reasons as to why they would want to do an apprenticeship over a traditional degree were also more frequently shortlisted for the next stage of the recruitment process.

Applicants who showed to employers that they have self-starter ambition were also shortlisted.

# To summarise...

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- Entry requirements
- Check job description and person specification
- Research and tailor
- Extra-curricular activities/ work experience relating to the apprenticeship
- Essential skills:
  - Good communication
  - Excellent time management
  - Enthusiasm and ambition
- Check application and interview process
- Practice

# Links and resources

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- [www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship](https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship)
- [www.ucas.com/apprenticeships](https://www.ucas.com/apprenticeships)
- [www.amazingapprenticeships.com](https://www.amazingapprenticeships.com)
- [www.exeter.ac.uk/degreeapprenticeships](https://www.exeter.ac.uk/degreeapprenticeships)
- [www.qmul.ac.uk/degreeapprenticeships](https://www.qmul.ac.uk/degreeapprenticeships)
- [www.NotGoingToUni.co.uk](https://www.NotGoingToUni.co.uk)
- [www.Higherin.com](https://www.Higherin.com)

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**Thank you!**

**Questions?**

