

Degree Apprenticeships

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What we'll cover

What are degree apprenticeships?

How should students decide?

Researching Degree Apprenticeships

Supporting your students

What do you know about degree apprenticeships?

Consider:

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



What are degree apprenticeships?



What is a degree apprenticeship?



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- 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
- Apprentices spend 80% of their time working / 20% studying, gaining 3+ years' experience while earning a salary. They can be taught via block teaching, day release or online depending on the pairing with their employer and education provider
- Opportunity to develop industry and transferable skills
- Nationally recognised qualification
- Various programme levels to suit you, with progression routes

When we talk about degree apprenticeships for post-secondary education, we would be looking at a **Level 6 qualification**



Why do a degree apprenticeship?

- 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.

- 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

Bloomberg



Deutsche Bank



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

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How should students decide?



What's the difference?

Feature	Traditional Degree	Degree Apprenticeship
Main activity	Full-time study (Contact Hours)	Work and part-time study
Location	University campus	Workplace and university/training provider
Fees	Student pays (student loans available)	Employer and/or Government pays
Salary	None	Yes
Work Experience	Optional internships/placements	Full-time job experience
Time Commitment	3 – 4 years (more depending on degree)	3 - 6 years (work + study balance)
Focus	Academic and theoretical knowledge	Practical skills + academic knowledge
After Graduation	Job search begins	Often stay with employer/ strong job prospects
Debt	Student loan debt (Maintenance and tuition)	None. (No maintenance or tuition loan.)
Support	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>Academic qualification: A Bachelors or Masters degree, diploma, or graduate certificate.</p>	<p>Academic qualification: A Bachelors or Masters degree, diploma, or graduate certificate.</p> <p>Apprenticeship certificate: IfATE apprenticeship certificate that is graded at pass, merit or distinction.</p> <p>Professional qualification: Some include professional accreditation or prepare you to sit professional examinations. You can often gain a professional qualification alongside your degree.</p>

Apprenticeship salaries*

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

Considerations

- 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

Applying to Degree Apprenticeships



Where can I find apprenticeships?

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

Apprenticeship Guide:

<https://read.degreeapprenticeships.guide/view/548515636/1/>

Find an apprenticeship:

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

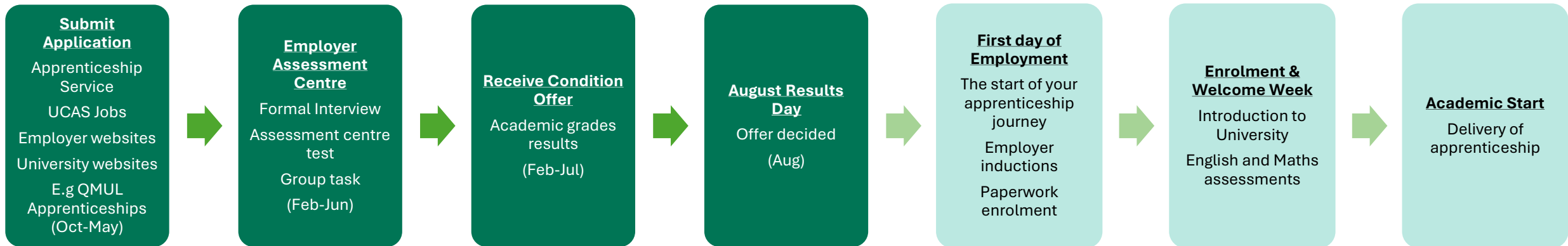
UCAS apprenticeships:

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

Apprenticeship Guide:

<https://read.degreeapprenticeships.guide/view/548515636/1/>

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?

- 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

What can students do in advance of application time?


- 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?



Supporting students

- Spreadsheet/ tracker
- Group for students interested in doing a DA
- Rejection fatigue resilience building
- LinkedIn profile
- Practice (mock interviews, practise exams)
- 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?



To summarise...

- 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

- www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship
- www.ucas.com/apprenticeships
- www.amazingapprenticeships.com
- www.exeter.ac.uk/degreeapprenticeships
- www.qmul.ac.uk/degreeapprenticeships
- www.NotGoingToUni.co.uk
- www.Higherin.com
- <https://degreeapprenticeships.guide/>

Thank you!

Questions?

