

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 are you unsure about?
- What questions do your students ask you?



What are degree apprenticeships?



Apprenticeship levels



How do they work?



80%
Employer



20%
Training Provider



Job sectors

- **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)

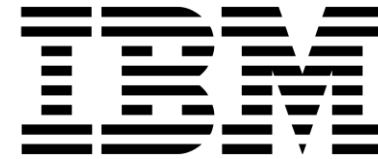
- Civil Engineering (BEng)
- Digital and Technology Solutions (BSc)
- Financial Services Professional (BSc)
- Accounting Finance Manager (BSc)
- Operations Manager (CertHE)
- Project Management (BSc)
- Mine Management (BEng)

Employers we work with

Bloomberg



J.P.Morgan



Day to day

Work (80%)

- Job
- On-the-job training
- Shadowing
- Mentorship

Training (20%)

- 6 hrs a week
- Block learning
- Lectures/seminars
- Online/in person

Independent study

- Assignments
- Portfolios
- Essays
- Reports

End Point Assessment: portfolio of evidence and a professional interview.

Key points

- Paid from £7.55 p/h
- Funded by the government
- Covered by employment law (sick pay and holiday)
- Training follows national standards
- Apply directly to company
- Not tied to one employer
- Usually 4-5 years

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

How should students decide?



What's the difference?

Feature	Traditional Degree	Degree Apprenticeship
Main activity	Full-time study	Work and part-time study
Location	University campus	Workplace and university/college
Fees	Student pays (student loans available)	Employer and/or Government pays
Salary	No (may get part-time job separately)	Yes (earn on the job)
Work Experience	Optional internships/placements	Built-in full-time job experience
Time Commitment	3 – 4 years (maybe 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 or have strong job prospects
Debt	Student loan debt	No student debt

What's the difference?

Traditional Degree

Pros

- Full university experience (social life, clubs, societies/sports)
- Deep academic learning and broader subject exploration
- Flexibility to choose career paths after graduation
- Opportunities to study abroad
- Specialise in specific area

Cons

- Expensive (tuition + living costs)
- Graduates often have large student loan debt
- Job market can be competitive after graduation
- Less practical work experience during the degree

What's the difference?

Degree Apprenticeship

Pros

- Earn a salary while studying
- No tuition fees – debt-free degree
- Gain real-world work experience (attractive to employers)
- Often leads to permanent job after graduation

Cons

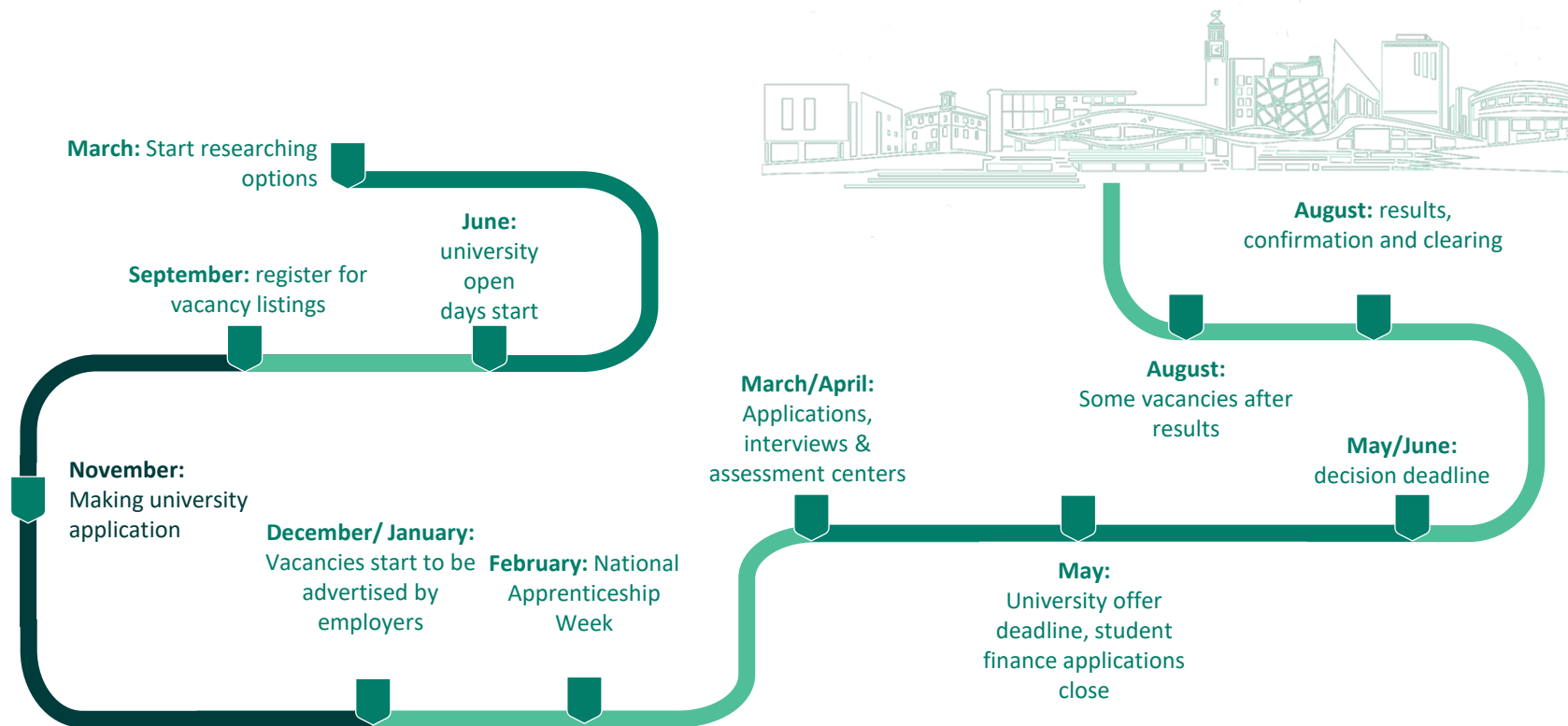
- Less of the 'classic' university social life
- Varying demands (balancing work + study can be tough)
- Limited flexibility to change career paths
- Usually have fewer subject choices (based on what the company offers)

Researching Degree Apprenticeships



When to start looking

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



Finding opportunities

Training providers

- Often promote apprenticeship vacancies they teach
- Vacancies webpage
- Main university programme web pages

Gov.uk and other search engines

- Search vacancies across country and filter by location, level, sector etc.
- No one comprehensive search engine, so best to combine

Employer websites

- If you know the company you want to work with
- Apply directly through their website

Links and resources

- www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship
- www.ucas.com/apprenticeships
- www.amazingapprenticeships.com
- www.exeter.ac.uk/degreeapprenticeships
- www.NotGoingToUni.co.uk

How can you support your students?



The Application Process

Applying to Degree Apprenticeships may span over a two-year timeline.

- **Researching their options**

- Students interested in degree apprenticeships should follow the same timeline as the UCAS cycle.
- Starting in Year 12 on where they could do a degree apprenticeship, and the area of focus.

50,000 +

Degree apprenticeships
available across England
(23/24)

Only 1%

of applicants are likely to be
accepted at some programmes

The Application Process

Applying to Degree Apprenticeships may span over a two-year timeline.

- **Competitiveness**

- Degree apprenticeships are incredibly competitive.
- Encourage students to work towards strong grades.

- **Relevant skills**

- Communication
- Time-management
- Organisation
- Enthusiasm
- + more

50,000 +

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The Application Process

Applying to Degree Apprenticeships may span over a two-year timeline.

- **What are they applying to?**

- Ensure that students are checking the job description and person specification.
- Most cases, the application will go to the employer, not the university.

50,000 +

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The Application Process

Applying to Degree Apprenticeships may span over a two-year timeline.

- **Tailoring their applications**

- Students submit an application to each degree apprenticeship they are applying to.
- Taking part in any extra-curricular or gain experience in their sector to boost their application.

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Next Steps

- If applications are unsuccessful, can they receive any feedback so they can adapt for their next application?
- Can you support with interview techniques/direct them to the right person. This may be their first interview.



Thank you!

Questions?

