**Explore Apprenticeships**

An apprenticeship is a real job, where you will be employed by a company, get paid a salary and be entitled to paid holidays and sick pay. You will be working towards qualifications that are relevant to your job.

There are over 1,500 different types of jobs you can do an apprenticeship in across 170 different industries.

You can start an apprenticeship at any age, once you have turned 16. Most people do at least a year at college first, as it is always useful to gain qualifications and experience in your area of interest.

Over 121,000 under 19-year-olds started apprenticeships last year, and on average there are up to 27,000 vacancies online at any one time.

There are apprenticeships available at all levels - whether you have no qualifications, GCSEs, A levels, BTEC qualifications or even a degree!

Apprenticeships are more limited without GCSEs or other qualifications, so please bear that in mind. You may however find some vacancies where an employer may be more interested in your personal qualities, as long as you are able to work hard and train to do the job – and you will also have to impress them at your interview!

The training part of the apprenticeship takes up 20% of your week and is done by a **Training Provider** such as a college. Usually you will be expected to attend this college for one day per week and spend the other four days at your workplace. Sometimes the training may be done at the workplace so you won’t need to go to college. If you look at the **Training** header it will give you more details including their contact information so you can find out more if needed.

Some of the key differences between an apprenticeship and going to college or sixth form, are:

* You will be paid. If your family get child benefit for you, this will stop.
* Apprenticeships are usually 5 days pw, whereas a college course is usually 3 days pw.
* You have to apply for a particular position, so there is likely to be others also applying. With a college course, you are usually offered a place unless you don’t have the entry requirements

**Apprenticeship Websites**

**National Apprenticeship Service**

[**https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship**](https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship)

Here you will find all the latest vacancies and you can apply online.

Search for apprenticeships of interest to find out what the employer will expect from you.

You need to check everything to make sure it is suitable for you. All vacancies have a **Requirements and Prospects** heading where they list job information such as:

**Personal Qualities, Desired Skills, Desired Qualifications**

Following that there is an **Apprenticeship Summary** where you will find information on:

**Weekly Wage, Working Week, Expected Duration, Possible Start Date, Distance (from your postcode), Apprenticeship Level, Duties**

**Amazing Apprenticeships**

[**https://amazingapprenticeships.com/**](https://amazingapprenticeships.com/)

A great starting point to find out more about apprenticeships.

They have information for students (and parents) on everything related to apprenticeships. You can take part in Interactive Workshops and Webinars such as:

**Recognising your Strengths**

**How to Write a Winning Apprenticeship Application**

**Interview Skills**

As well as this they offer one to one or small group support.

**Careerpilot**

[**https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/**](https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/)

Click on **Apprenticeships**

Click on **Sectors and qualifications**

Find out about different levels and an A-Z list of different apprenticeship frameworks as well as information about Higher and Degree apprenticeships.