

# A guide to apprenticeships



**What's an apprenticeship?** It's a genuine job, with training, meaning you can earn while you learn and gain the necessary skills and professional competencies in your chosen career.

## What can I earn?

The minimum wage for apprentices is £3.50 per hour, but many employers pay more than this. This is dependent on the sector, region and apprenticeship level e.g. some higher apprenticeships pay up to £500 per week.

More details on salaries and entry criteria in specific apprenticeship occupations can be found on **GOV.UK** and search 'apprenticeships'.

## What levels are there?

All apprenticeships include elements of on the job and off the job training leading to industry recognised standards or qualifications. Some apprenticeships also require an assessment at the end of the programme to assess the apprentice's ability and competence in their job role.

Name	Level	Equivalent educational level
Intermediate	2	5 GCSE passes
Advanced	3	2 A level passes
Higher	4, 5, 6 and 7	Foundation degree and above
Degree	6 and 7	Bachelor's or master's degree

## How do I apply?

At any one time there are up to 28,000 apprenticeship vacancies available online in a variety of careers and industries across England. Visit **GOV.UK** and search 'apprenticeships'. You can search by keyword (job role, occupation type or apprenticeship level) and by location.

Once the right job comes up, you can simply register on the website and follow the step by step instructions to apply for the role.

Our YouTube channel has useful hints and tips on applying plus other videos on apprenticeships, visit YouTube and search apprenticeships/NAS.

Not quite ready for an apprenticeship or job? You could try a traineeship with a local employer to gain valuable work experience and the opportunity to improve your English and maths, if needed. Visit **GOV.UK** and search 'traineeships' for more information or to apply for traineeship opportunities.

If you need professional advice on making the right choices, visit: **nationalcareerservice.direct.gov.uk** for a web-chat with an adviser or call: **0800 100 900** (free from landlines and mobiles).

## What's in it for me?

- Earn a real wage;
- Be trained in the skills employers want;
- You are more likely to progress quicker and higher than a typical student;
- Learn at a pace that suits you and be supported by a mentor;
- Have a holiday and be paid while you're away;
- You will set yourself up for the future – apprentices enjoy marked salary increases when they complete their training, and those completing a higher apprenticeship could see increased earnings of an estimated £150,000 over their lifetime.\*

## Entry requirements

Apprenticeships are available to anyone over the age of 16, living in England. There are different entry requirements depending on the sector and job.

Recent legislation has come into effect which changes the minimum English and maths requirements needed to complete an apprenticeship for people with a learning difficulty or disability. The changes will lower the English and maths requirements for these apprentices to an Entry Level 3 qualification.

A Disability Confident Employer will generally offer an interview to any applicant that declares they have a disability and meets the minimum criteria as defined by the employer. For more details search Disability Confident on gov.uk.