

Apprenticeships: The Benefits

Apprenticeships give young people the opportunity to work for a real employer, earn a real salary and gain a real qualification whilst gaining valuable workplace skills and experience. Anyone living in England, over 16 years old and not in full-time education can apply to be an apprentice.

A real job: All apprentices should work for at least 30 hours a week, apart from in exceptional circumstances. Over 150,000 employers are offering Apprenticeships in more than 200,000 locations. Apprenticeships are available at Intermediate, Advanced and Higher (degree) level, covering more than 170 industries and 1500 job roles, from advertising to youth work via environmental engineering and nuclear decommissioning.

A real qualification: Quality is key and all Apprenticeships must be at least 12 months long and lead to a national qualification that is respected by employers around the world.

A real future: After finishing, the majority of apprentices (85%) will stay in employment, with two-thirds (64%) staying with the same employer. A third (32%) of all former apprentices had received a promotion within 12 months of finishing, and of those in work, three quarters (75%) reported taking on more responsibility in their job. Employers think that qualified apprentices are 15% more employable than those with other qualifications.

Kerri, Customer Services Administrator, facemediagroup

"I think Apprenticeships are brilliant. They're a chance to take a leap into the real world. I'm dealing with real-life customers and situations all the time, answering calls and emails, checking deliveries, advising customers and interacting with them. It's all about learning and moving forward, and I'm getting everything I need to move onto the next step."

What types of Apprenticeship are there?

There are three types of Apprenticeship you can apply for depending on current skills and qualifications:

- 1 - Intermediate Level Apprenticeships
- 2 - Advanced Level Apprenticeships
- 3 - Higher Apprenticeships

Higher Apprenticeships

Apprentices' opportunities for career progression are increasing with the expansion of Higher Apprenticeships. Equivalent to degrees, more of these specialised and highly skilled Apprenticeships are being offered each year, giving people the chance to continue their professional development and fully realise their potential.

How to apply?

Applying has never been easier, just visit www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship and you will be one step closer to starting your journey to become an apprentice.