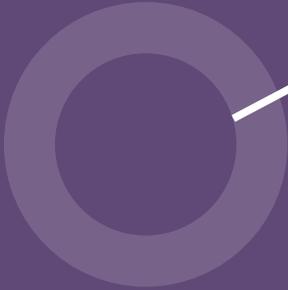




Higher  
Horizons+



# All About Higher and Degree Apprenticeships



**Apprenticeships are an alternative route of study after you finish your GCSEs, and could lead to a Degree-level qualification in your chosen subject area.**

**Apprenticeships combine practical training in a job with studying at a college, university or training provider. Your employer will decide how long you spend at college or university to learn as you work.**

As an apprentice you'll:

- work alongside experienced staff
- gain job-specific skills
- earn a wage and get holiday pay
- get time for study related to your role (usually one day a week)

Apprenticeships take 1 to 6 years to complete depending on their level, but are only currently available in certain subject areas so may not be suitable for everyone.

Apprenticeships allow you to earn while you learn. As an Apprentice, you are entitled to the National Minimum Wage for your age, unless you are under 19 or over 19 but in the first year of your Apprenticeship, during which time you are entitled to the Apprentice rate. You can find out what the latest rate is at

**[gov.uk/national-minimum-wage-rates](https://www.gov.uk/national-minimum-wage-rates)**

This booklet contains everything you need to know about Apprenticeships and where to go to find out more.



**Because Apprenticeships are another way to study, the different levels are equal to the types of qualifications you can gain from college and university.**



# Apprenticeship Levels

APPRENTICESHIP TYPE	QUALIFICATION LEVEL	ACADEMIC EQUIVALENT
Degree Level Apprenticeship	6 or 7	Bachelor's degree (a 'traditional' degree), Master's degree or other Postgraduate qualification such as teaching qualifications or legal practice courses.
Higher Level Apprenticeships	4 or 5	A HNC or HND, or a Foundation Degree.
Advanced Apprenticeship	3	A Levels, BTECs or T Levels.
Intermediate Apprenticeship	2	GCSEs.

Some Apprenticeship providers may require you to complete the Apprenticeship route level by level. This means that even if you have GCSEs or A Levels, you may need to start on an Intermediate or Advanced Apprenticeship to progress on to a Higher Level Apprenticeship. Always check with your Apprenticeship provider what level you will be starting at, and make sure this is right for you.



# Degree Level Apprenticeships

Degree Apprenticeships are a new way to study for a degree. You will split your time between work and studying, and get paid while you learn. You do not have to take out a Student Loan to pay tuition fees while studying for a Degree Apprenticeship. These Apprenticeships are very new, and they are only currently available at certain universities in specific subject areas. You will also need to have a job to complete one of these apprenticeships: employers usually advertise these opportunities on the government website: [gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship](https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship)

Some examples of current Higher and Degree Apprenticeships include:

- **Nursing Associate**
- **Digital Marketing**
- **Civil Engineering**
- **Diagnostic Radiographer**
- **Data Scientist**
- **Police Constable**
- **Chartered Manager**
- **Social Worker**
- **Network Engineer**
- **Registered Nurse**
- **Software Developer**

More apprenticeships are being developed all the time, so this list does not include all the opportunities available. You can get an idea of what is available by going to: [www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship](https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship)



# Apprenticeships: Pros and Cons

There are pros and cons to studying for a degree through the apprenticeship route. This route is not right for everyone, but it is important to understand your options so you make the best decision for you and your future.

## ***Pros of a Degree Apprenticeship***

- Your employer pays your tuition fees, so you do not have to take out a student loan.
- You gain real experience of the world of work.
- You earn a salary while you are studying.

## ***Cons of a Degree Apprenticeship***

- Degree Apprenticeships are not available in all subject areas so there might not be one available in the subject you want to study.
- It might take longer to complete a Degree Apprenticeship than a traditional undergraduate degree.
- You will be taking on a lot of responsibility and will need to balance a full time job with degree level study.
- Degree Apprenticeships are still quite rare, so gaining a place on one can be very competitive.

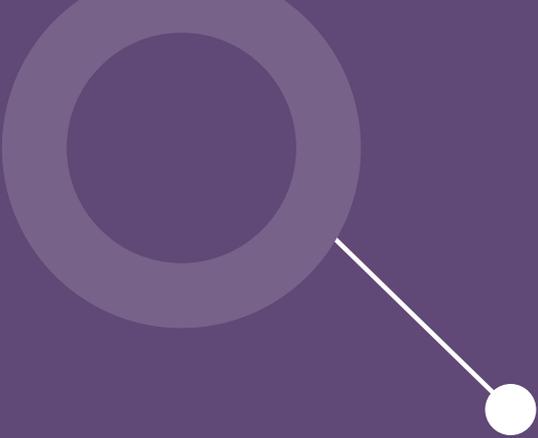


# How to Apply

***Unlike university applications, there is no deadline to apply for a Degree Apprenticeship. Apprenticeship vacancies at all levels are advertised on the government apprenticeship system: [gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship](https://gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship). Applying for these apprenticeships is like applying for a job - you are applying to work for a company as an apprentice, rather than applying to the university who offers the training alongside your job. You can search university websites to see what courses are available with them, and they can tell you where to go to apply for them.***

Because applying for a Higher or Degree Level Apprenticeship is like applying for a job, you might be asked to submit a CV and covering letter. Some application processes can be tough, and you may face competition from other people who are applying for the same apprenticeships. You might have to complete some kind of assessment, or a telephone or zoom/teams interview. These applications do require time and effort, but don't let that put you off. This is your chance to shine and show that you are suited for the job.





# Where to go to find out more

Degree Apprenticeships are still new, and more are being developed all the time. If you're interested in this route, it's really important to do your research. Some good places to start are:

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

Find apprenticeships available in your area. The list will be kept up to date by the government so check often to find new opportunities!

## [ucas.com/understanding-apprenticeships](https://www.ucas.com/understanding-apprenticeships)

UCAS also provides information on apprenticeships, including information and advice from current degree apprentices about how they got their apprenticeships.

## [prospect.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/apprenticeships/degree-apprenticeships](https://prospect.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/apprenticeships/degree-apprenticeships)

Prospects is a graduate careers website. It includes information about degree apprenticeships, like what to expect and how to find opportunities near you.

If you have a question that hasn't been answered in this booklet, you can chat to our friendly team for free at [www.higherhorizons.co.uk/ask](https://www.higherhorizons.co.uk/ask)





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