

# APPRENTICESHIPS

## EXPLAINED

An apprenticeship is a real job, with hands-on experience, a salary and the training while you work. You're treated just like all the other employees, with a contract of employment and holiday leave. If you're 16 or over, you can become an apprentice as long as you spend at least 50% of your working hours in England - for the duration of the apprenticeship and you are not in full-time education. When you're an apprentice:

- you get paid and train at the same time, with at least 20% of your time spent in off the job training, often at a college, university or with a training provider
- you train to be fully competent in your chosen occupation
- some offer a career path to higher qualifications - with lots of future potential for you
- Your apprenticeship can take between one and six years to complete, depending on which apprenticeship you choose, what level it's at, and your previous experience.



Apprenticeships are competitive to get, and each has its own entry requirements. Most require that you have at least a grade 4 in maths and English GCSE. This is partly because many who start without these grades fail to complete the programme. Degree apprenticeships usually require A Levels or equivalent level 3 qualifications.

Employers will also want to know that you are keen to learn, have a positive attitude, can get on well with your colleagues and have excellent attendance and time keeping. They will usually check these things by taking a character reference from school or your employer if you have a job already. Volunteering and extra curricular activities are other ways to demonstrate your potential.

If you think you might want to do an apprenticeship it's important to research the sector you want to work in and aim to meet the entry requirements the employers are asking for. You can search vacancies [here](#).

Amazing  
Apprenticeships