



Years 10 – 13

# Apprenticeship Options



Supporting your child  
through their next steps

**UNIVERSITY  
OF WARWICK**

## What is an apprenticeship?

An apprenticeship is practical work-based experience and learning. Apprenticeships are available in many different sectors and allow vocational and knowledge-based learning, targeted at a certain skill or industry. There is also the option to progress to a degree apprenticeship after gaining further education qualifications.

During an apprenticeship, you will be treated as an employee with a salary, holiday pay and will work alongside experienced staff.

The aim is to gain job-specific skills, and there is also time for relevant study, or training for at least 20% of your working hours.

The length of an apprenticeship can range from 8 months to 6 years depending on the type and level of apprenticeship. Relevant experience (such as relevant NVQ, industry experience or prior training) may mean that you spend less time training or qualify earlier than expected. This can be agreed with the training provider before starting.

## Who can do an apprenticeship?

The criteria for most apprenticeships in England are that you are aged 16 or over, living in England and not in full-time education at the time of starting. Some apprenticeships may have specific entry requirements (such as grades or experience), but this will vary depending on the level of apprenticeship and specific employers.



## Different levels of apprenticeships

- 01 Foundation + Intermediate (Level 2)**  
GCSE equivalent
- 02 Advanced (Level 3)**  
A level equivalent
- 03 Higher (Level 4, 5, 6 and 7)**  
Foundation degree (and above) equivalent
- 04 Degree (6 and 7)**  
Bachelor's or Master's degree equivalent



Gov.uk  
apprenticeship info



## Post-16 apprenticeships

When applying for these apprenticeships, the first step is finding suitable apprenticeship providers. This can be done using the Gov.UK search tool or checking with employers directly (such as through their sites).

Next, it is important to check entry requirements as some may require you to have achieved a certain level in GCSE English and Maths or have specific transferable skills. In preparing your application, this may include making a CV and cover letter.

When submitting these applications, it may vary by opportunity, so it is important to follow the specific instructions on deadlines and what to send. There may also be a selection process before gaining a place on an apprenticeship course which may include interviews/assessments.



Gov.uk  
search tool

## Degree apprenticeships

Degree apprenticeships are the highest level of apprenticeship which can last 3 – 6 years. These include approximately 20% academic learning and 80% working and are typically assessed with an 'endpoint' assessment which is a final test of practical ability and academic learning (though there may also be assignments throughout).

With these apprenticeships, students gain a full undergraduate or master's degree while working and their degree is fully paid for. During the apprenticeship period, apprentices earn a salary like a normal employee. However, they do not qualify for government student loans.



UCAS degree  
apprenticeship info



## How to apply to degree apprenticeships?

These apprenticeships are highly competitive, but there are a growing number of roles and industries available each year.

As a starting point, your child should research potential roles and employers they would be interested in working with. There are many tools to help with this search, including the government apprenticeship search service and UCAS guides.

Once they have found some degree apprenticeships they are interested in, they should check entry requirements. Typically, degree apprenticeships will require GCSEs in English Language and Maths and level 3 qualifications, such as A-levels or a post-16 apprenticeship – however this will vary by vacancy as transferable skills are also highly valued.

The application process is similar to a job application. Applications usually involve a CV and cover letter and are sent directly to the employer (not to the university or through UCAS). These apprenticeships are advertised throughout the year and have no standardised application cycle like university (more information on the university application cycle is included in the University factsheet).

If your child is undecided, they can apply to Degree Apprenticeships and traditional university courses at the same time!



UCAS degree  
apprenticeship search tool

