

Apprenticeships – work, earn and learn at the same time.

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
- you're on a career path - 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.

Different apprenticeships are available all over England, at companies large and small, in a wide range of industries and organisations. From local organisations to large national brands. You get valuable hands-on experience working whilst you learn, which helps you progress in your working life. Completing your apprenticeship means you've earned and learned. Given your training is funded by contributions from the government and your employer, and you receive a regular salary, apprenticeships are a wonderful choice for getting on the job ladder or supercharging your career.

Levels of apprenticeship

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

This is a useful site: [A guide to apprenticeships - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

With GCSEs you would normally start at Intermediate level, with A levels you should aim to start at Higher level, but you may need to start at a lower level to progress upwards.

Minimum salary is £4.30 per hour (April 2021) for those under 19, or those who are 19 in their first year of training. [Become an apprentice: What you'll get - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

To find an apprenticeship: [Find an apprenticeship \(findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk\)](http://findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk)

Use the vacancy search function – you can set alerts so that you get emails sent to you when new opportunities are posted.

There are many other websites, but I would also recommend [Not Going To Uni: Apprenticeships & Work Experience in the UK](http://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk) for Higher Apprenticeships.

The estimate is that 70% jobs are never advertised so do not limit your search to websites alone, or you will miss opportunities.

For a successful apprenticeship, three individuals/organisations need to be involved, which gives you further clues for how to find unadvertised vacancies:

1. You – the apprentice
2. Your employer
3. Your training provider

To find those jobs that are not widely advertised you need to be pro-active! Who do you know? Who do your contacts know? It's estimated that everyone in the world is connected by no more than 5 people, so the chances are you already know of people who could help you, so start telling your friends and family what you are looking to do – they may be able to help or may hear of vacancies.

Employers - Who would you like to work for? Do your research to find local employers. Look on employer websites – do they have vacancies advertised? Many employers ONLY put an advert on their website – so make sure you look. Who do you know? Do you have contacts who already work for potential employers? Ask them to put in a good word for you and see if you can visit to look around or do work experience.

No vacancies? Make a speculative application – phone potential organisations and ask to whom you should speak or write.

Training Providers. Find out who are the key providers for your apprenticeship framework; it is often local colleges (Weston College, Strode College, and Bridgwater & Taunton College). Apply to the training providers, since they often know of employers who are looking for apprentices; many will expect you to find your own employer but will give advice.

Back-up Plan: You cannot assume you will find an apprenticeship in the timescale you need, so consider applying to a local college to start a course in a related subject. You can continue looking while at college and if you want to, stop the course and transfer to the apprenticeship – you will have gained useful, transferable skills in the meantime.