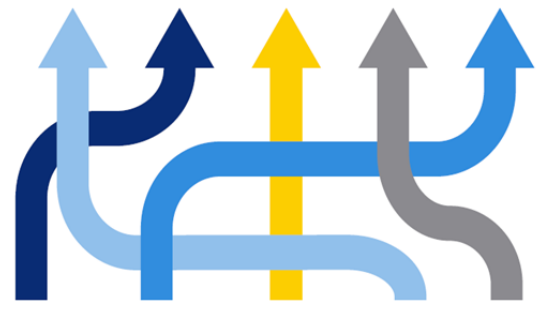
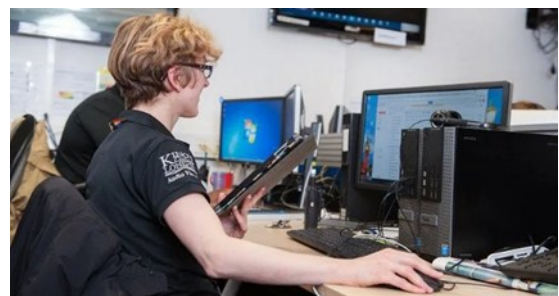
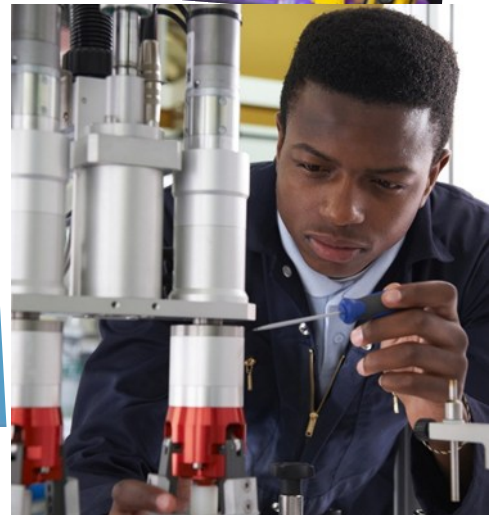




Park Hall Futures

A Guide to Apprenticeships



THERE ARE FOUR TYPES OF APPRENTICESHIPS IN THE UK ✓

INTERMEDIATE

Like 5 GCSEs, A* – C/4+

What qualifications
can I get?

Level 2 NVQ, Diploma,
National Certificate

ADVANCED

Like 2 A-levels

What qualifications
can I get?

Level 3 NVQ, National
Certificate, BTEC

HIGHER

Like a foundation degree
or above

What qualifications can I get?

Foundation degree,
Bachelor's degree, Master's
degree, Level 4–7 NVQ,
Higher National Diploma

DEGREE

Like a Bachelor's/
Master's degree

What qualifications can I get?

Foundation degree,
Bachelor's degree, Master's
degree, Level 4–7 NVQ,
Higher National Diploma

AN APPRENTICESHIP IS A JOB

You will work 80% of the time, and study or train 20% of the time. Typically, you will attend a college, training centre or university 1 day per week.

Most apprenticeships operate on a day-release basis however, some higher level apprenticeships might have block-release where you attend university for 4-6 weeks every year.



APPRENTICESHIPS

WHAT ARE THE FACTS?



**NO UPPER
AGE LIMIT**



**EARN AS
YOU LEARN**



**GAIN A
QUALIFICATION**



**ENTHUSIASM
COUNTS**



**GET VALUABLE
WORK EXPERIENCE**

Did you know there are over 1500 different types of apprenticeships in all sectors, including construction, engineering, finance, law, healthcare, hospitality and more...

AN APPRENTICE IS AN EMPLOYEE

You will be paid for your work and have a job title and responsibilities. You will receive the same employee benefits as other full-time employees such as pension contributions, holiday pay and sick pay. You will be expected to perform and may be subject to review processes should you not perform your duties well. Apprentices can be promoted during their apprenticeship, and they can be fired.

Post-16

Students leaving Year 11 should aim for a Level 3 Advanced Apprenticeship. If a student does not have the necessary qualifications (English and maths GCSE passes are essential), a Level 2 Intermediate apprenticeship may be considered and the student will have to retake their English and/or maths GCSE, alongside their apprenticeship.

Post-18

Students leaving sixth form or college can apply for Level 4 and above - higher or degree apprenticeships. Degree apprenticeships are Level 6. For careers which are difficult to get into, students should consider Level 3 also – to get their foot in the door!

AN APPRENTICE IS RESILIENT

You have to be resilient, and persistent, if you want to become an apprentice. The application process is rigorous with multiple stages including telephone or video call, assessment centre and formal panel interviews.

AN APPRENTICE EARNS MONEY

Apprentices are guaranteed a [minimum wage](#). However, employers are willing to pay more to attract high calibre candidates. An Intermediate apprentice will be on minimum wage, or just above. An Advanced apprentice could earn between £12-15K per year. Degree apprentices can earn between £20-30K per year...

All of this depends on what the employer is prepared to offer.

Pros	Cons
You get paid	Work and study can be demanding
You get a qualification, equal to others on the same level	Finding the right apprenticeship at the right time is difficult
You get work experience	Competing with other applicants - what have you got to offer?
You build employability skills	Rigorous recruitment process - how confident are you?
You kick-start your career	You are training to do one specific job
You can get more responsibility and promotion whilst training	You are missing out on the college or university experience
You can network and build relationships within your organisation or with future employers	
You get targeted support from professionals	If you do not perform well in your job, you might be "let go", or fired.
You get customised training	
No student debt - your employer pays for your training and qualification	

Am I right for an apprenticeship?

- You need to know exactly what job it is you want to do.
- You need to know that you are [work-ready](#), e.g., confident, willing to learn, responsible, energetic, committed, and great at communicating!
- You need to have some skills to speak of, such as teamwork (you play for a football team); commitment (you have a DofE award); reliable (you are a student leader)...
- Apprenticeships are competitive – you need to know you have [strong CV](#) or application.
- You need to know you have the resilience required to get through the [recruitment process](#).
- You need to know you can handle rejection.

Are you ready? You tell me...

What if I want to earn money, and train, but I don't know what I want to do?

- Think about what you are good at and what interests you. Perhaps you like fixing your bike or building computers? Maybe an apprenticeship in engineering or IT would suit you. Perhaps you love spending time with people? Perhaps an apprenticeship in hospitality or retail would suit you. Perhaps you like caring for people? Perhaps an apprenticeship in childcare or residential care would work for you. Maybe you are very organised and analytical – consider apprenticeships in business or finance?
- Research jobs to find out more. Ask yourself what do you like/dislike about the job. Work out the [pros and cons](#) to help you decide. Browse [NCS](#) , [Prospects](#) and [Career Pilot](#) to find out more. Attend career insight events and get some work experience or a part-time job.
- Have a go at a couple of career quizzes – use [Unifrog](#) to get started.

How do I find an apprenticeship?



- Your first port of call should be the Government website – [Find an Apprenticeship](#). All apprenticeships are featured here. Register now and have a play with the filters. Can you see anything suitable?
- For Intermediate and Advanced Apprenticeships, you can also check on college websites. For example, Solihull College [vacancies](#).
- If you want to work for a specific company, check the organisation's own website under "early careers" or "vacancies". Or, you could use the Government website and search by organisation.
- If you enjoy your part-time job and you have a good working relationship with your employer, ask them if they are willing to set up an apprenticeship for you.
- You can search higher and degree apprenticeships using [UCAS](#).
- [Get My First Job](#) and [Amazing Apprenticeships](#) are also useful.

Can I get support with CVs and applications?

- Yes, speak to your Careers Advisor.
- Yes, there is lots of information online – check out [Amazing Apprenticeships](#) and [Career Pilot](#)
- Yes, check out podcasts and Youtube – see what people who've been through the process have to say.

AN APPRENTICE IS PREPARED

As a future apprentice, you will need to work on your [CV and/or application](#). This is the first thing the employer sees and it must stand out. CVs list academic achievements and, just as important, they list your interests and skills; this is what will set you apart from the crowd. Apprentices have researched [assessments](#) and practiced [interviews](#) by taking part in [mock-interviews](#).

I've never worked before, how can I demonstrate skills?

- Have you ever taken part in team sports or competitions? - **TEAM-WORK, COMMUNICATION, MOTIVATION, DETERMINATION**
- Have to attended a club for a long time? - **LOYALTY, COMMITMENT**
- Have you ever volunteered? - **INITIATIVE, HARD WORK, CAN-DO ATTITUDE, ENERGETIC, COMMUNITY VALUES, EMPATHY**
- Do you work part time? - **CUSTOMER SERVICE SKILLS, COMMUNICATION, TRUSTWORTHINESS, SELF-MOTIVATED, ORGANISED**
- Do you have any special interests? - **PASSION, ENTHUSIASM, TIME-MANAGEMENT**
- Can you speak more than 1 language? - **COMMUNICATION, LISTENING, CULTURAL AWARENESS**
- Do you look after anyone (younger siblings or elderly neighbour, for example)? - **CALM, TRUSTWORTHINESS, CONSIDERATE, PATIENT, HELPFUL, COMPASSIONATE**
- Are you the group organiser? - **ASSERTIVE, LEADERSHIP, INITIATIVE**
- Do you fix stuff? - **PROBLEM SOLVER, CREATIVE THINKER, EYE FOR DETAIL**
- Do you like to perform? - **CONFIDENCE, DYNAMIC, CREATIVE, ZEST**

Learn more [here](#).

Are degree apprenticeships difficult to get?

- Yes. The employer will be investing a lot of money into your training - they will pay your student fees and your salary, which will include NI and pension contributions. Per annum, you could cost them over £45K. For this reason they will choose only the best candidate for the job. You will therefore need to compete and demonstrate strong employability skills.
- Yes, because you will receive the same degree as full-time university undergraduates, free of charge, apprenticeships are very sought after.
- Yes, there may be a limited number of places in a particular organisation or sector.
- Yes, being able to develop your career and employability skills is very attractive.
- Yes, the recruitment process is very rigorous with multiple stages including informal and formal interviews, and assessments where you are observed and compared against other candidates.
- Want to know more, click [here](#).



Are degree apprenticeships worth going for?

- Yes. If you're happy to forego the uni experience, you want a degree, work experience and to start developing your career, before undergraduates even qualify.



If you would like to chat to someone about apprenticeships, you can refer yourself for personal careers counselling , using this [LINK](#) or QR Code:



Mrs Butcher-Johns, Careers Guidance Counsellor

Mrs Churchill, Assistant Headteacher i/c Careers

Notes

Consider your area of interest, for example: retail, administration, IT, construction, engineering, childcare, etc. Click [HERE](#) for more ideas.

Register on the [Find an Apprenticeship](#) Website to receive alerts.

Check college websites, for example, [Solihull College](#).

Check company websites' early careers pages.

Make notes about your work experience and [employability skills](#).

Are you looking for Intermediate, (Level 2), Advanced (Level 3), or higher (Levels 4-6)?

Are you organised?

Are you ready?

Notes

Notes