

# A guide to apprenticeships



**What's an apprenticeship?** It's a real job, with real training, meaning you can earn while you learn and gain a nationally recognised qualification.

## What can I earn?

The minimum wage for apprentices is £3.50\*\* per hour, but many employers pay more than this. This is dependant on the sector, region and apprenticeship level e.g. some higher apprenticeships pay up to £500 per week.

More details on salaries and entry criteria in specific apprenticeship occupations can be found on [gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship](http://gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship).

## What levels are there?

All apprenticeships include elements of on the job and off the job training leading to industry recognised standards or qualifications. Some apprenticeships also require an assessment at the end of the programme to assess the apprentice's ability and competence in their job role.

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

## How do I apply?

At any one time there are up to 28,000 apprenticeship vacancies available online in a variety of careers and industries across England. Visit [gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship](http://gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship). You can search by keyword (job role, occupation type or apprenticeship level) and by location.

Once the right job comes up, you can simply register on the website and follow the step by step instructions to apply for the role.

Our YouTube channel has useful hints and tips on applying plus other videos on apprenticeships, visit YouTube and search apprenticeships/NAS.

Not quite ready for an apprenticeship or job? You could try a traineeship with a local employer to gain valuable work experience and the opportunity to improve their English and Maths, if needed. Visit [gov.uk/find-traineeship](http://gov.uk/find-traineeship) for more information or to apply for traineeship opportunities.

## What's in it for me?

- Earn a real wage;
- Be trained in the skills employers want;
- You are more likely to progress quicker and higher than a typical student;
- Learn at a pace that suits you and be supported by a mentor;
- Have a holiday and be paid while your away;
- You will set yourself up for the future
  - apprentices enjoy marked salary increases when they complete their training, and those completing a higher apprenticeship could see increased earnings of an estimated £150,000 over their lifetime.\*

## Entry requirements

Apprenticeships are available to anyone over the age of 16, living in England. There are different entry requirements depending on the sector and job.

Some apprenticeship vacancies will display the 'Positive about disabled' logo meaning the employer has agreed to take action to meet five commitments regarding the employment, retention, training and career development of disabled employees. Any disabled candidate applying for vacancies showing this logo will be guaranteed an interview as long as they meet the requirements for the job being applied for.\*\*\*