

Apprenticeship Support

1. How apprenticeships work

Apprenticeships combine practical training in a job with study.

As an apprentice you'll:

- be an employee <https://www.gov.uk/become-apprentice/pay-and-conditions>
- work alongside experienced staff.
- gain job-specific skills
- get time for training and study related to your role (at least 20% of your normal working hours)

Apprenticeships take 1 to 5 years to complete depending on their level.

2. Levels of apprenticeship

Apprenticeships have equivalent educational levels.

	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

Some apprenticeships may also give you an additional qualification, such as a diploma.

3. Who can start an apprenticeship

To start an apprenticeship, you'll need to be:

- 16 or over
- living in England
- not in full-time education

You can apply for an apprenticeship while you're still at school but you'll need to be 16 or over by the end of the summer holidays to start the apprenticeship.

4. What you'll get

As an apprentice, you'll get:

- paid and be entitled to the National Minimum Wage
- time for training or study as part of your apprenticeship
- holiday pay and other employee rights
- Apprentice pay and the National Minimum Wage

There are different rates of pay for apprentices depending on your age and what year of your apprenticeship you're in.

Your employment contract should confirm your rate of pay.

Aged 16 to 18

The current National Minimum Wage rate for an apprentice is £5.28 per hour.

5. Time apprentices are paid for

You must be paid for:

- your normal working hours
- training that's part of your apprenticeship (at least 20% of your normal working hours)
- study towards English and maths qualifications, if they're part of your apprenticeship.

Your normal working hours should be in your employment contract (this might be your apprenticeship agreement).

6. Training

As an apprentice, at least 20% of your normal working hours must be spent on training. Your training might happen every week, every month or in a separate block of time.

The training might take place:

- at your place of work
- somewhere else like at a college or training provider.
- online

Your training provider will be able to tell you when and where your training will be.

Holidays

You'll get at least 20 days paid holiday per year, plus bank holidays.

Where to find apprenticeships

Gov Apprenticeship site

Can search a wide range of apprenticeships by level and by postcode.

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

Professional Apprenticeships

Professional Apprenticeships focuses delivery on engaging predominantly, young adults into new and emerging digital and professional career pathways.

<https://www.professionalapprenticeships.co.uk/vacancies/>

BEMA

The British Engineering Manufacturers' Association Limited (BEMA) was formed in 1936, and now the largest engineering trade association in the Southwest of England.

<https://www.bema.co.uk/jobs/>

Onsite

On Site Bristol have been supporting the construction industry in Bristol. We offer construction apprenticeship training programmes in 7 key 'On Site' trades.

<https://www.onsitebristol.co.uk/>

Greenlight

The largest independently owned Construction Apprenticeship provider, Safety Training and Consultancy company in the West and Southwest of England

<https://www.greenlightsc.co.uk/apprenticeships>

Lifetime Training

At Lifetime we work with incredible companies and well-known brands, all offering excellent apprenticeship job opportunities.

<https://lifetimetraining.co.uk/personal/apprenticeship-vacancies/>

Skills Connect Southwest

Discover skills, training, and career support in the West of England to help you get to where you want to be.

<https://www.skillsconnect.org.uk/>