



Apprenticeships

GET IN. GO FAR

An Introduction to Higher Apprenticeships

What is an apprenticeship?

- A higher apprenticeship is a nationally accredited work-based programme designed to meet employers' needs at higher skill levels and include qualifications at a level equivalent to higher education
- Individuals gain a recognised professional qualification - equivalent to the first rungs of the higher education ladder i.e. first year university level - technical knowledge, professional skills as well as wider business competencies

The Facts

47

With 47 higher apprenticeships ranging from Aerospace to Accountancy, Construction to Creative and Digital Media, higher apprenticeships range across the sectors and represent hundreds of different job roles

The Facts

10K

Almost 10,000 learners started a higher apprenticeship in England during 2012/13, representing growth of 165 % on the previous year

The Facts

25%

Recent research reveals that employers in England rate qualified higher apprentices as 25 % more employable than those who took an alternative route into work

Some employers offering Higher Apprenticeships



JACOBS



Atos



BRITISH AIRWAYS



nationalgrid



BMW Group



BDO



IBM



What is involved?

- Day-release, for example, one day a week at college or university
- Block-release, for example a 'block' of several weeks (or even your first year) full-time at a college, training centre or university. For example, higher apprentices on Rolls-Royce's Higher Apprenticeship spend the first year at a specialist engineering training centre
- Lasts at least 12 months, but can take up to 18 months or two years+ to complete.

What level of qualification does a Higher Apprenticeship represent?

Apprenticeship frameworks are available at one of three distinct levels:

1. Intermediate level – including vocational qualifications equivalent to five good GCSEs.
2. Advanced level – including qualifications equivalent to two A-levels.
3. Higher level – including qualifications equivalent to the first rungs of the higher education ladder

What level of qualification does a Higher Apprenticeship represent?

Apprenticeship Level	Education Level	Equivalent
Intermediate	2	5 GCSEs (grade A-C)
Advanced	3	2 A-levels (any grade)
Higher	4	Certificate of higher education
	5	Diploma of higher education
	6	Bachelor's degree
	7	Postgraduate / Masters degree

Activity

- Write down what you think the benefits of completing a Higher Apprenticeships are

Benefits of Higher Apprenticeships

- Provide an alternative route to higher skilled jobs in exciting organisations and sectors.
- Gain a nationally recognised qualification equivalent to the first stages of higher education.
- Gain work experience and get paid at the same time as studying.

Benefits of Higher Apprenticeships

- Provides a strong foundation on which you can build through Higher Education and studying towards professionally qualified status and Occupationally-relevant qualifications e.g. Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) qualification
- Develop transferable skills, which help you progress to higher skilled careers

Who can apply?

- Anyone living in England and Wales not in full time education over the age of 18 years old.
- You will need to meet academic entry requirements. Which is qualifications at Level 3 - such as A Levels, BTEC or OCR Cambridge National, NVQ Level 3 or an Advanced Apprenticeship
- Demonstrate you are passionate about the role and have the skills required.

Progression

- A Higher Apprenticeship can lead to further academic qualifications such as an Honours Degree.
- You might also be able to work towards professional qualifications specific to your industry - for example, engineers can take the first steps towards gaining chartered status.
- The majority of apprentices continue working for the company they trained with and work towards promotion at a higher level.
- Higher level qualifications can also help you to move to another company if you need to

What do I get paid?

- At least National Apprentice Minimum Wage for apprentices aged 16 to 18 and those aged 19 or over who are in their first year
- All other apprentices are entitled to the National Minimum Wage according to their age

BUT

- Many employers will pay higher apprentices more
- Salaries vary but expect to start on £10,000 per year, and even rising up to £25,000 on completion

National Apprenticeship Service

- Find an apprenticeship

To register and apply for an apprenticeship

www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship

- NAS helpline

Call the NAS helpdesk (T: 08000 150 600) for support using the online vacancy matching service. An advisor will also be able to give you general advice on applications and the call is free.