



# APPRENTICESHIPS

## INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Apprentices learn on the job, building up knowledge and skills, gaining qualifications and earning money all at the same time. Apprentices work towards a work-based qualification such as a National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) and other nationally recognised qualifications. Employers all over the country recognise and value Apprenticeships as they show that they've been trained in the skills they need.

Apprenticeships typically take between one and four years to complete, depending on the type of framework. There is no set time to complete an Apprenticeship as they vary widely in content and size. The length of time taken will depend on the ability of the individual apprentice and the employer's requirements.

### **EARN WHILE YOU LEARN**

Apprentices do real jobs for real employers. So apprentices are paid while they learn. If they are entering work for the first time, they will start earning from day one of their Apprenticeship.

There is no set rate of pay for apprentices, however all employed apprentices must receive a wage of no less than £2.65 per hour and a recent survey showed that the average wage per week for an apprentice is now around £170 and in some job roles around £210 per week.

As their skills develop, their pay will increase accordingly. Apprentices may also get additional money for essential books, clothing or equipment, or to help them with a disability. As an apprentice, they will receive the same benefits as other employees such as pension contributions, subsidised canteen and leisure facilities.

There may be different entry requirements for Apprenticeships depending on the occupational sector. Individuals just need to be living in England and not taking part in full-time education.

Apprenticeships are open to all age groups above 16 years-old whether they are just leaving school, have been working for years or are seeking to start a new career. Competition for places with employers can be fierce, so they will need to show that they are committed, and aware of their responsibilities to both themselves and the company who would employ them. Young people also need to be happy to work as both part of a team and individually, and be able to use their own initiative..

### **APPRENTICESHIP LEVELS**

Apprenticeships are increasingly recognised as the gold standard for work-based training. There are over 100,000 employers offering Apprenticeships in more than 160,000 locations; there are more than 250 different types of Apprenticeships available offering over 1,400 job roles. There are three levels of Apprenticeship available:

#### *1 - Intermediate Level Apprenticeships*

- Apprentices work towards work-based learning qualifications such as a Level 2 Competence Qualification, Functional Skills and, in most cases, a relevant knowledge-based qualification.

#### *2 - Advanced Level Apprenticeships*

- Apprentices work towards work-based learning such as a Level 3 Competence Qualification, Functional Skills and, in most cases, a relevant knowledge-based qualification.

#### *3 - Higher Apprenticeships*

- Apprentices work towards work-based learning qualifications such as a Level 4 Competence Qualification, Functional Skills and, in some cases, a knowledge-based qualification such as a Foundation Degree.

**GET FURTHER INFORMATION AT...** [www.apprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk)