

Would you like to get paid while you train? Would you benefit from hands-on experience and a nationally recognised qualification?

Apprenticeships

- Apprenticeships are available if you are aged between 16-24 and are leaving or have left full-time education. They are funded by the Learning Skills Council (LSC).
- They offer a great way to gain vocational training, qualifications and a wage all at the same time.
- There are two ways of applying for an Apprenticeship, firstly by contacting a learning provider or secondly by going direct to an employer.
- If you are employed by a company you can earn between £80:00 and £150:00 per week.

Levels

Pre Apprenticeships - Entry to Employment (e2e):

These are foundation or entry level courses for those who have the potential to join an Apprenticeship, but aren't quite ready for the full programme.

Apprenticeship:

This is a level 2 qualification (equivalent to 5 GCSEs A to C) which includes NVQ's, Key Skills and possibly Technical Certificates.

Advanced Apprenticeship:

This is a level 3 qualification (equivalent to 2 A' levels) which includes NVQ's, Key Skills and possibly Technical Certificates.

Examples of Apprenticeships

There are over 180 apprenticeships available, within 80 industry sectors including:

Agriculture & Land Based Business Services, IT, Building Trades, Engineering and Manufacturing, Hairdressing & Beauty, Health & Care, Hospitality, Motor Vehicle, Retail & Distribution and Sport & Recreation.

Getting help and applying

You will need to decide on the type of apprenticeship you want to do and the area you want to study. Try and be flexible to increase your options. For example if you are interested in motor mechanics, you may also wish to consider related areas such as engineering or construction. Try and find out about the job before applying, you could telephone the nextstep helpline or go online at www.learndirect.co.uk. You could also ask people in the industry about their job roles for example.

Contact the training providers

- The training provider is the organisation that will train and assess you. You can receive training in the workplace, at college or a training centre.
- You can obtain a copy of the training providers from nextstep by ringing the freephone helpline on **0800 138 5550**. Alternatively visit the apprenticeships website - www.apprenticeships.org.uk.
- You will need to choose a subject area and training provider from the list. It is advisable to contact as many of the training providers as possible before applying to find out what they can all offer.
- Ring the training provider and ask for an application form which you send back to them, they will then let you know the outcome of your application.
- If a college says they can not help, this may be because all the places are full or you don't currently have the right qualifications. Entry requirements can vary so talk to the college about what they expect.

Finding an Employer

Some training providers have a list of employers needing trainees, but you will be expected to look yourself. Some colleges make it a requirement of the Apprenticeship that you find your own placement. Try and research companies and make contact with them.

If you need help with writing your CV or interview skills call the nextstep helpline.

Useful Contacts

Apprenticeship helpline 0800 0150 600 or visit www.apprenticeships.org.uk.