

Degree Apprenticeships

Degree Apprenticeships provide students with the opportunity of gaining a degree (Level 6) qualification without any of the usual costs. Degree apprentices work for an employer, get paid and attend university at the same time.

What to consider when thinking of Degree Apprenticeships

Be True to Yourself

Students need to consider if a degree apprenticeship is the right choice for them. Studying this way can mean getting a degree with none of the debt but students need to be very focussed and willing to put in lots of hours each week. Studying for a degree and working full time takes a lot of dedication and this will be needed for somewhere between 3 and 5 years. If students would prefer to have a full-time undergraduate lifestyle, then the degree apprenticeship is not going to work.

Commitment

Applying for a Degree Apprenticeship will require commitment and perseverance. Successfully gaining a Degree Apprenticeship has never been an easy task. Students need to start the process very early (early autumn 2024) and be prepared for submitting lots of applications for often very little response. The process of completing the online application is a long one needing careful thought and attention to detail. Students will want their application to stand out for the right reasons not the wrong ones. Everything will need to be triple checked for spelling and grammar. Also keep a copy of what has been submitted for each one. It will be important to persevere and keep applying. Applicants may also have to wait sometime to hear if they have got through to the next stage, they may never hear if their application has been unsuccessful.

Research

Do some initial research on companies who have vacancies. Get an idea of what is important to them and the qualities they look for in employees and try to get these across when completing the application. Much more detailed research on the company will be required for the interview stage. When it comes to interview it will be essential to have detailed knowledge of the company – Who is their CEO? What are their shares worth? What is their turnover? Who are the key competitors? What is the mission strategy?

Stages

The number of stages does vary according to the size of the company. For large multinational companies the stages may consist of the following:

Online application: This will generally include uploading a CV and cover letter.

Online assessment: Candidates successful in stage one, may be directed to an online aptitude assessment.

Phone/video interview: Getting to this stage means that the employer is interested and wants to find out more. Candidates may be asked some follow-up questions about why they applied for the position and questions about the company.

The stages so far may be outsourced to another company.

Assessment centre: This method of assessing potential candidates is popular with mid to large companies. This consists of a day or half day held at a particular venue where multiple applicants are given group and individual tasks which simulate a typical work environment and are assessed on their performance throughout the day.

Interview: This will be an opportunity for the employer to ask some final technical and behavioural questions and is also an opportunity for you to ask questions of your own, so come prepared for both! The interviews can take place one to one, or by a panel or 2/3 people or a series of speed interviews.

Practice, Practice, Practice.

Be prepared for the stages. Get advice from family members, teachers, careers advisers and search the internet. The [University of Kent Careers and Employability Service](#) produces a lot of helpful information and although it is intended for graduates the advice is still applicable for school students. [Target Careers](#) also has some relevant advice.

Where to look for vacancies

Applicants should consider registering with the websites below so as they are notified of new opportunities.

Government website	Amazing Apprenticeships	Get My First Job	Not Going to Uni	Target Careers
Rate My Apprenticeship	Career Finder UCAS	Indeed	Prospects	

Employers who recruit Degree Apprentices

The list below is a snapshot of some companies who have recruited degree/higher apprentices.

Accountancy/Business/Finance

Aviva	Barclays	BDO	Deloitte	Visa
Ernst Young	National Audit Office	HSBC	KPMG	

Automotive Industry

BMW	Ford	Rolls-Royce	Jaguar Landrover
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Construction

Barratt Homes	Redrow PLC	Skanska UK	Vistry
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Engineering

EDF	Leonardo	MIS	Virgin Media O2	Dyson
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Plus

[Amey](#) Civil and Construction Engineering, Environmental and Civil Engineering, Civil Engineering, Rail Design.

[BAE Systems](#) a wide range of apprenticeships are available including Software Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Project Management, Finance, Aircraft Maintenance and Mechanical Engineering.

[Balfour Beatty](#) a wide range of apprenticeships including Civil and Mechanical Engineering, Quantity Surveying, Construction Management, Digital Engineering, IT, Data and Software Support, Health, Safety, Environmental and Sustainability.

[BT](#) a wide range of apprenticeships including Cyber Security, Engineering Services, Digital, Openreach Engineering.

Healthcare

[NHS](#)

IT

CapGemini	Qinetiq	Network Rail	IBM	CGI	Microsoft
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Law

Kennedys	Eversheds Sutherland	Burgess Salmon	Weightmans
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Media (not degree level)

BBC	Channel 4	SKY
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