Degree Apprenticeships and Higher Apprenticeships

An alternative route to gaining a degree to full time University, combining work with study.

They are available in a wide range of fields including law, surveying, midwifery and teaching.

No costs are involved for the apprentices who are employed and paid wages.

They are offered by employers such as BooHoo.com and the NHS.

They are recognised as being just as invaluable as a university degree.
DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS
They are available at levels 4 – 7, with qualifications that could be work based, academic or combined, or an industry relevant professional qualification.

A Degree Apprenticeship is a level 6 and 7 qualification – these are full BA, BSc and MA awards.

A Higher Apprenticeship is equivalent to foundation degree and above.
Some advantages of Degree Apprenticeships:

- Earn while you learn
- Tuition fees covered
- Real qualification
- Boost confidence
- Broadens career options
- Higher skill level
- Long term career path
- No university debts or fees
- Nus card for discounts
- Employee rights – holidays, sick pay, contract
- Don’t need to choose between study and work – do both!
- Anyone of working age can do an apprenticeship
- Designed by employers so you know you are getting the right skills and knowledge for that industry
Some drawbacks of Degree Apprenticeships

- You will need to have a clearer idea of the type of career you want to pursue, your options may be more open with a “traditional” degree
- Check the qualification awarded
- Some employers may be quite a distance from your place of study. There may be more commuting involved
- Not an easy option as you must work and study for a degree at the same time. You are expected to achieve academically and in the workplace
- Not available in every industry/occupational sector yet
- There are limited numbers of Degree Apprenticeships. It could be you could do an Intermediate or Advanced whilst higher and degrees are being developed further
- Less holidays than University or college
- May have to relocate
Entry requirements

Entry requirements are generally academic –

- Good GCSE Results: 5 Grade 9 - 4's/A-C
- A-levels or BTEC in a relevant subject

Entry requirements do vary as they will depend on what you have done already in terms of skills and qualifications. You may find if you have A levels you might still need to do an Intermediate level as you will not have the occupational skills e.g. financial services, science or engineering sector.

What does an employer want from you?

- Enthusiasm – in some cases this is as important as specific grades
- Interest and commitment
- Prior experience
- Flexibility
- Self-motivation and self-discipline
- Initiative
- Attention to detail
- Teamwork and collaboration
- Good cv – no gaps, work experience
- Vocational/career focus

So that’s academic but what about you as a person.
THE LOW DOWN ON DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS

Tips for applying

- Use a suitable email address
- Read the job description, especially the essential qualifications and entry requirements
- Do some background research on the company – what does it do, what are its key areas, what are its aims and objectives, what are its priorities
- Be honest and confident in self
- Give specific examples and back up what you say
- Track your application
- May be combination of application, online assessments, phone or online interview, and in some cases an assessment day
- Don’t necessarily wait for near the deadline date to apply as some employers may close the application process if they get enough candidates

Tips for things to consider

- Think about your skills and experience relevant to the job
- Can apply for apprenticeships and University if you are undecided
- Apply for several Apprenticeships
- Apprenticeships can start at any time in the year and deadlines for applications will vary between different employers
THE LOW DOWN ON DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS

Where to find an apprenticeship

Search and apply on Apprenticeship site
www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship

Check out the apprenticeship section on the UCAS website for information
www.careerfinder.ucas.com
You can search for and browse apprenticeship vacancies on that site. If you want to apply though you will need to create an account on the site. When you want to make an application, you would sign in and then you can complete and submit applications for apprenticeships on that site.

Further Education colleges, Universities and training providers advertise apprenticeships too.

Councils are increasingly advertising for apprentices so you could check out those too.

For example [www.leicester.gov.uk](http://www.leicester.gov.uk) and [www.leicestershire.gov.uk](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk)
Pathways’ partners: