



NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

5 - 11 FEBRUARY 2024

This week is National Apprenticeship Week, 5–11th February 2024

The week brings together businesses and apprentices across the country to shine a light on the positive impact that apprenticeships make to individuals, businesses and the wider economy. The theme for National Apprenticeship Week 2024 is 'Apprenticeships: Pathway to Success'. The week will be a celebration of the outstanding work that apprentices do and will feature stories from current apprentices about their experiences.

In school this week, each year group will have an assembly from a different employer to outline what apprenticeships are, and our Form time sessions will focus on the different levels of apprenticeships and where to find them.

- On **Monday 5th February** at 6pm there is an Apprenticeship Pathways Session for all parents and carers whose young person may wish to consider an apprenticeship at 16. You can register [here](#).
- We also encourage students and parents/carers to attend the Employer and Apprenticeship Fair at Warrington Youth Zone on **Wednesday 7th February**, 5–8pm. You can register [here](#).

The information provided in this booklet should help you as a parent/carer to support your child in making decisions about their future. We hope you find it useful.

To find out more about apprenticeships, visit: www.apprenticeships.gov.uk

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This week is National Apprenticeship Week!

We have tailored our Careers education to ensure that students are aware of apprenticeships as a potential option for their future. During assemblies this week, students will have a talk from an industry currently offering apprenticeships. Students will also have an additional session to educate them on what apprenticeships are, what types exist, and where they can look to find them.

Apprenticeships are a great work-based qualification route. They combine academic study with on-the-job training enabling you to gain industry-specific skills, work experience, a nationally recognised qualification and you'll even get paid! Apprenticeships are available across a wide range of industries, from healthcare to engineering, travel, hospitality and accountancy, as well as everything in between.

Think you have to choose between university and an apprenticeship? Think again! Apprenticeships can lead to a degree qualification and better still, employers cover the costs.

We wanted to highlight some specific resources that may interest you:

- [Myths about Social Care Apprenticeships](#)
- [Everything you need to know about Apprenticeships](#)
- [Apprenticeship interview questions](#): what to expect
- [Level 2 Apprenticeships](#)
- [Level 3 Apprenticeships](#)
- [Degree Apprenticeships](#)
- [Higher Apprenticeships](#)
- A helpful parent/carer pack can be [found here](#)
- For Key events, [click here](#)



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This booklet contains useful information, such as:

- Apprenticeship Levels explained p.4
- Apprentice stories p.7
- Careers Education at Lymm High p.8
- How much do you know about apprenticeships p.9
- Why be an apprentice? p.10
- Tips on finding an Apprenticeship p.11
- Finding the best apprenticeship for you p.12
- What is a Degree Apprenticeship? p.14
- Higher & Degree Listing p.16
- Tips on applying for an Apprenticeship p.17
- Tips on finding a Traineeship p.18

If students wish to extend their understanding further, we have attached the following resources to support them.

- [What is an Apprenticeship?](#)
- [Step-by-step guide to applying for an apprenticeship](#)



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Apprenticeship levels explained

What is a Higher Apprenticeship?

A Higher Apprenticeship is similar to intermediate and advanced Apprenticeships with the difference being you will be awarded a higher level qualification upon completion. With a Higher Level Apprenticeship, you could become qualified up to a Level 4, Level 5, Level 6 and in some cases even a Level 7. Apprentices spend 20% of the working week studying towards a qualification with a training provider, college or university institute, while the remaining time is spent with your employer learning on the job.

Levels of Apprenticeships

The levels of Apprenticeships vary depending on your level of previous experience and qualifications. Here is a list of Higher Level Apprenticeships that you can do:

Level 4 Apprenticeships

A Level 4 Apprenticeship is equal to gaining a Foundation Level Degree. They give you the opportunity to work while learning and gaining knowledge, skills and qualifications. The length of a Level 4 Apprenticeship will vary depending on your employer and your own competencies, but a Level 4 Apprenticeship typically lasts between 3 and 5+ years. The minimum length of apprenticeship for any level is one year. A Level 4 Apprenticeship is equivalent to a CertHE, Level 4 NVQ, HNC, BTEC, a Foundation Degree or first year undergraduate Degree.

Level 5 Apprenticeships

A Level 5 Apprenticeship is equivalent to a DipHE, Level 5 BTEC or NVQ, HND, Foundation Level Degree or second year undergraduate Degree. Typically, these do not provide access to postgraduate programmes.



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Level 6 Apprenticeships

A level 6 Apprenticeship is also known as a Higher Degree Apprenticeship. These enable you to gain a debt-free degree while getting paid and gaining lots of valuable -the-job work experience.

A Higher Degree Apprenticeship is equivalent to a BA, BSc Degree, Level 6 NVQ or BTEC, Graduate Certificate. These provide access to postgraduate programmes such as a Master's Degrees and Apprenticeships.

Level 7 Apprenticeships

A level 7 Apprenticeship is also known as a Graduate Apprenticeship or Master's Apprenticeship. These provide equal qualifications to a Meng, MSc, MA, PGCE, postgraduate certificate or a Level 7 NVQ.

If you haven't already, you might need to complete your Level 2 or 3 Functional Skills qualifications alongside your apprenticeship programme. These will help you qualify in English, maths and sometimes IT. The training provider will check your previous exam grade prior to the start of your apprenticeship and will let you know if you need to complete your functional skills exams.

Employers may also give you the chance to gain a variety of other qualifications which are related to your job. For example, if you're working in engineering, you may receive training and qualifications in operating machinery.



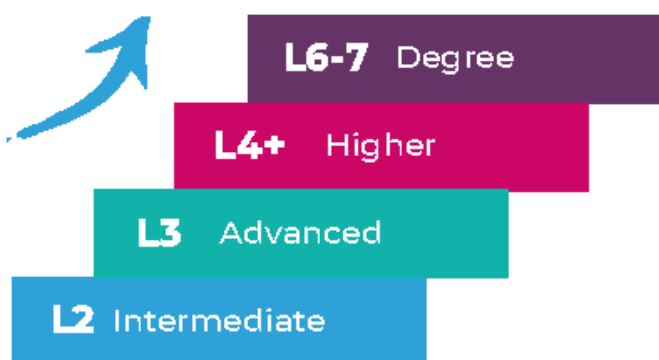
APPRENTICESHIP LEVELS EXPLAINED

Ranging from intermediate to degree level

Apprenticeship levels range from level 2 (intermediate) through to level 7 (master's level) in more than 1,500 different job roles.

There are four types of apprenticeship

- Intermediate (level 2)
- Advanced (level 3)
- Higher (levels 4 and above)
- Degree (levels 6 - 7)



Intermediate apprenticeships

Intermediate apprenticeships are typically considered to be the same level as five GCSE passes.

Intermediate apprenticeships are a fantastic way to get started with your career in an entry level role within an organisation.

Advanced apprenticeships

Advanced apprenticeships are considered to be the same level as two or three A level passes. Many individuals who have completed their A levels or other level 3 qualifications will undertake an advanced apprenticeship as it will enable them to gain experience in the workplace and undertake a variety of different tasks.

Higher apprenticeships

Higher apprenticeships include qualifications at levels 4 and above. They can be suitable for those looking to progress from level 3 qualifications, including advanced apprenticeships.

Degree apprenticeships

Degree apprenticeships are offered by universities and other higher education providers. They contain either a full degree or degree-level qualification and go up to master's level (which is post-graduate).

Which level is right for you?

The type of apprenticeship undertaken will depend on both the needs of the employer and the job role as well as the apprentice, their previous experience and qualifications held.

Your training provider will also be able to guide you as to the most appropriate level for you.



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Apprentice stories



Ben is a Broadcast Operator at the BBC. Scan the QR code to read about his apprenticeship journey.



Sorcha is an Apprentice Zookeeper at Africa Alive! Scan the QR code for an in-depth look into her apprenticeship journey.



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Careers education at Lymm High

We have tailored our Careers education to ensure that students are aware of apprenticeships as a potential option for their future. During Form time this week, students have had sessions to educate them on what apprenticeships are, what types exist and where they can look to find them.

Students' Careers Education at Lymm High School is primarily delivered through the UniFrog online programme. Students can log-in by [clicking here](#).



Students log-in using their school email address and password. In the event they have forgotten their password, this is easily reset using the reset option on the website.

Parents can also access this site by using the sign in code sent previously. Please contact lhughes@lymmhigh.org.uk if you have any issues with this.



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How much do you know about apprenticeships?

Apprenticeships increasingly offer a brilliant alternative to a full university degree, however, they can be difficult to understand. National Apprenticeship Week offers students the opportunity to learn more about apprenticeships across the country.

Test your knowledge with this fun quiz and learn a little more about what roles are available, when to apply, when companies advertise and what they might be looking for.

Can you get 10/10?

[Take this quiz](#) to find out:



WHY BE AN APPRENTICE?

Achieve your career goals

Paid employment while you train



Professional qualifications available in some sectors

Real jobs and a real future



Employment prospects: 90% of apprentices stay in employment

No limits: from nursing to nuclear engineering



Transferable skills for life

Improved employability through real work experience

Career progression from intermediate up to degree

Employers you know: from Sky to British Airways to the BBC



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Tips on finding an Apprenticeship

This [online vacancy search](#) can help you find an apprenticeship. You can search without creating an account.

You can find details of Higher and Degree Apprenticeship vacancies using this [UCAS search tool](#). These include vacancies being advertised by a small group of employers well in advance of their September start date (or later), giving you plenty of time to consider all your options.

The Unifrog platform also has an Apprenticeship Vacancy search, it is well worth a look!

You might need to use these other ways too.

- **Internet and local newspaper** – check your local newspaper for vacancies or try searching online for local providers and employers.
- **College or training provider websites** – check the websites for local colleges and training providers as many advertise vacancies on their website. You can usually register your details with these and they will give you advice on how you can find an apprenticeship. Some colleges and training providers will also forward your CV to employers looking for apprentices.
- **Employer websites** – employers sometimes advertise on their own website. Search their site to find vacancies and get a better idea of what they're looking for in their employees.
- **Approach an employer** – you could directly approach an employer to ask if they would consider taking on an apprentice.
- **Job vacancy sites** – Another place to look can be on the national job vacancy sites, which also include local search options. Have a look at:
www.indeed.co.uk,
www.monster.co.uk
www.totaljobs.com
www.jobsite.co.uk.



FINDING THE BEST APPRENTICESHIP FOR YOU

Top tips to help you know when and where to look

With thousands of different apprenticeships to choose from - it can sometimes feel daunting to know where and when you should be looking - and what you should be looking out for.

Follow these top tips for finding the best apprenticeship for you:

Know what interests you most

A great place to start is to spend some time thinking about what interests you and the subjects, activities and tasks that you enjoy the most. It can be really useful to try and think about what you don't like as much as what you do like!

Take the [Which Apprenticeship Am I](#) quiz to help you to research the variety of apprenticeships available.

Listen to real apprentice stories

The range of apprenticeships is really huge. One of the best ways to help you to decide what you're interested in is to hear from other apprentices.

Research different employers

Apprenticeships are offered by large companies and small companies, right throughout England. The full range of apprenticeship job roles and levels that a company offers may not always be obvious to you, especially if that company is well-known for a particular product or service, or if you've never heard of the organisation before. Take some time to research the types of employers that offer apprenticeships and think about the kind of company you see yourself working in.

INSPIRE ME!

To hear from real apprentices, explaining how they found their apprenticeship and what they love most about their job roles, scan the QR code with your phone or visit: amazingapprenticeships.com/apprentice-stories



FINDING THE BEST APPRENTICESHIP FOR YOU

Top tips to help you know when and where to look

Be clear on what matters to you

The best apprenticeships are not necessarily the ones paying the highest salaries or the biggest global brand. There are many other factors you can consider when researching your options and the different programmes available. Being clear about what is most important to you can really help in your decision-making process. For example, you could consider:

- What does the company do?
- Do the company's values and ethos fit with your own?
- What level is the apprenticeship?
- What progression are they offering?
- Is the position fixed-term or permanent?
- How many apprentices do they employ?
- How long will the apprenticeship last?
- Do they support apprentices to join networks of other apprentices?
- How far away is the apprenticeship?
- What kind of tasks will you be doing day to day?

Know where to look

There are lots of ways you can search for apprenticeships, including:

- Find an apprenticeship website
- Company websites
- Social media
- Through friends and family
- Local job sites

If you have a particular employer in mind, you can always send in your CV.

Understand the recruitment cycle

There is not one fixed application date for apprenticeships. Vacancies are advertised throughout the year and the employer will decide when they want to recruit. Some employers will advertise almost a year ahead of the planned start date (this is typical for large schemes) and other employers will advertise with a fairly short application window and closing date.

TOP TIP

Never wait for the closing date before submitting your application. If an employer receives a lot of applications, they may decide to close earlier than expected and you don't want to miss out!



WHAT IS A DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP?

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a degree apprenticeship?

Degree apprenticeships are exactly what they say - an apprenticeship programme that leads to a full degree-level qualification. This could be a bachelor's or master's degree, or an equivalent professional qualification.

Who are they for?

Degree apprenticeships can be for new recruits into apprenticeships (for example, those leaving school) or they can be for an existing employee who is looking to upskill or retrain in their job role.

How long do they take to complete?

Degree apprenticeships will typically take between 2 - 6 years to complete, depending on the level and programme. The apprentice will split their time between working and studying with a training provider.

How much do they cost?

The apprentice will not be required to pay towards the cost of the training, this will be funded by the employer and/or government. The apprentice will earn a salary throughout their apprenticeship, which means they are being paid to learn and will not incur student fees.

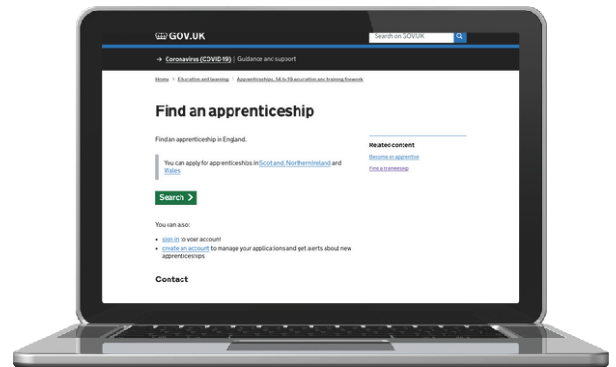
How do you find a degree apprenticeship?

Degree apprenticeships are still relatively new and the number of vacancies is expected to increase each year. Top places to look include:

Find an Apprenticeship

www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship

This is the government website where you can set up an account to search, apply and receive alerts for different apprenticeship vacancies.



Higher & Degree Listing

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/higher-degree-listing/>

Twice a year, a listing of higher and degree apprenticeship vacancies is published on the Amazing Apprenticeships website containing a wide selection of opportunities and links to apply. Look out for this in November and February.



WHAT IS A DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP?

Frequently Asked Questions

UCAS Career Finder

careerfinder.ucas.com

The UCAS website also hosts some higher and degree apprenticeship vacancies.

What else happens if I don't finish the apprenticeship? Do I have to pay the fees back?

No, the apprentice will never be expected to pay back the apprenticeship training costs.

Do employers value degree apprentices as highly as they value a traditional degree?

Yes! Employers really value degree apprenticeships because you will be applying what you learn immediately in the workplace and helping to introduce and suggest new ideas and approaches.

Do apprentices get a social life?

Of course! You get the benefits of meeting new people at your workplace and through your training provider. There are also many networks you can join as an apprentice to meet others as well as applying for an [NUS Apprentice Extra Card](#) to access fantastic discounts and benefits.

Is a degree apprenticeship a real degree?

Yes - it is exactly the same degree that you would study full-time, except it will be studied in a different way and your apprenticeship may also include additional qualifications and/or professional accreditation.

Do I apply to the employer or the university?

Firstly, you will need to secure an apprenticeship with an employer, and they will decide which training provider is best suited to the needs of their business. Depending on which training provider they are using, there could be additional applications or assessments that you will need to undertake.



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Apprenticeships
Amazing Apprenticeships

**Higher & Degree Apprenticeship
Vacancy Listing for
2024 Recruitment**

January 2024

Visit apprenticeships.gov.uk

HIGHER & DEGREE LISTING!

Explore 1,400 Higher and Degree apprenticeship vacancies in the January edition of the Higher & Degree listing 2024.

Discover vacancy details from over 70 employers, including:

- Vacancy locations
- Salary information
- Direct application links

Download the Higher & Degree listing in PDF format or find out more about the listing, who it is for and how to best use it in our FAQs below.

The Higher & Degree Listing is a **bi-annual publication**, with the next release planned for October 2024!

[**DOWNLOAD HERE**](#)



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Tips on applying for an Apprenticeship

- **Research the apprenticeship thoroughly.** You'll need to know the role inside-out for your application and any possible interviews. Check if there's a number you can call for an informal chat about the role – don't be afraid to ask questions if you're unsure about anything. Print out a copy of the vacancy so that you can refer to this when you are filling out your application.
- **Make a list of your experiences, hobbies and interests.** Print it off and keep it in front of you while you apply. You could also use your CV if you have one. If you get stuck, you can refer to it throughout your application. You need to compare and match your experience with what the employer and training provider are looking for in their job specification.
- **Make sure you tailor your application to the job you're applying for.** Tie in your experiences and hobbies with what you'll be doing in the apprenticeship. For example, if you're applying for an apprenticeship in engineering, talk about relevant projects you've worked on in science or maths.
- **You'll need to be able to write about yourself.** If you're stuck, ask teachers, friends and family to list your three top qualities to give you a starting point.
- **Talk about your skills and qualities,** not just your hobbies. For example, if you've been the captain of the school football team, this shows leadership and teamwork skills.
- **The application form will be similar to a job application.** You'll need to provide examples to prove what you're talking about. For example, if you say communication is a strength of yours, have evidence to back this up – such as being on the school debating team.
- **Don't just spellcheck your application.**
Get someone to read through it before you send it.
Good spelling, punctuation and grammar are important.

Good Luck!
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Tips on finding a Traineeship

You may want to consider a Traineeship if you have been unable to secure an apprenticeship. The programme can last up to a maximum of 6 months with the content tailored to your individual career needs. A traineeship will usually include a work experience placement, work preparation training, and English and Maths if needed.

You could be suitable if you are:

- Motivated to work
- Unemployed, or work fewer than 16 hours per week and have little work experience
- Aged between 16–24 and qualified below Level 3

Traineeships are ideal if you are motivated to get a job but lack the skills and experience that employers are looking for.

To search for traineeship vacancies use this [government website](#).

