

The Parents' Guide to Apprenticeships

2024-2025

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Covers all entry levels - from 2-7
- How to apply
- Getting interview ready
- Degree apprenticeships
- Where apprenticeships lead

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The Parents' Guide to Apprenticeships

2024-2025

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If you want to delve deeper and find out more, we've included useful links to other reliable sources. Simply click on the picture icons to be taken to our recommended websites.



KEY INFORMATION

Information we think is particularly important has been highlighted throughout this guide; pay special attention to these!



SUMMARIES

To help save you time, we have provided useful summaries at the end of each chapter containing the key points.



KEY TERMS

Easy to understand definitions are provided throughout this guide in the key terms boxes. Don't let tricky terminology stop you from supporting your child.



CASE STUDIES

Real-life examples give you a chance to hear directly from teens, parents, and teachers about their experiences.



INTERACTIVE

To make moving around this guide easier, the contents and chapter headings are interactive. Simply click on a heading to be taken to the chapter or page you would like to read.

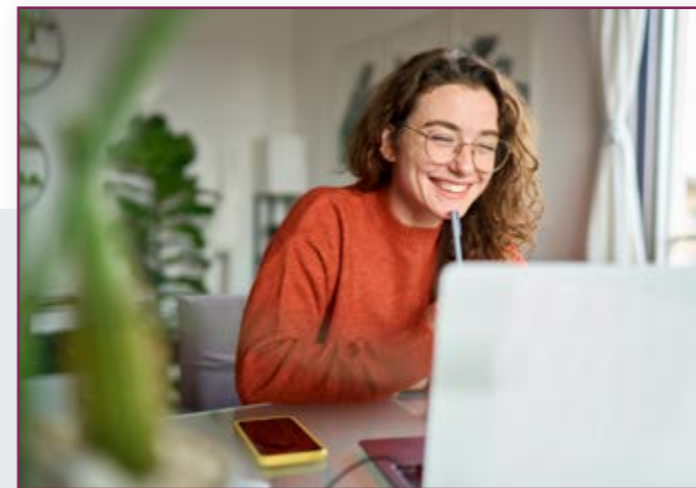
This guide does not need to be read sequentially – browse what interests you most.



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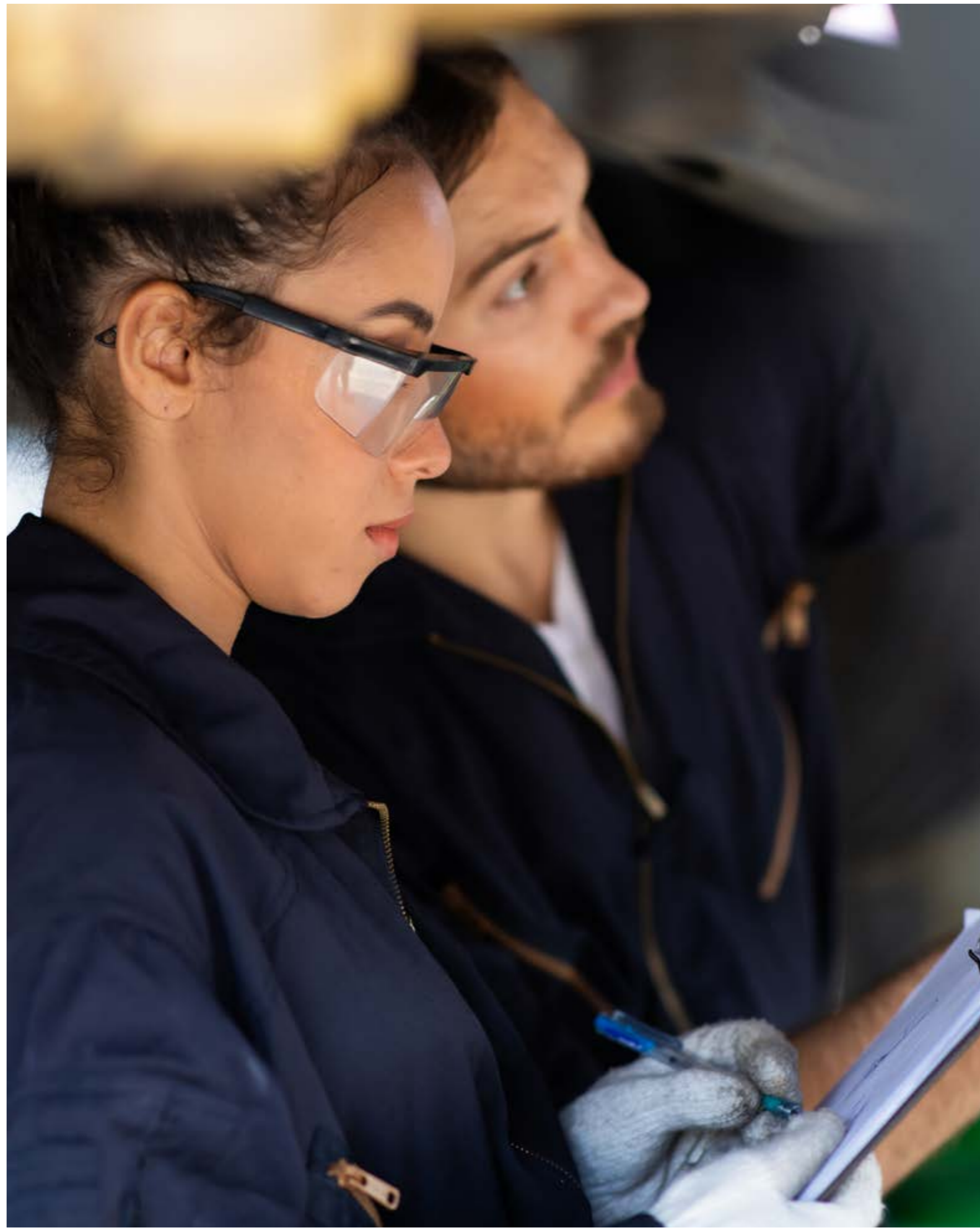


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Introduction

Apprenticeships offer the opportunity to combine study with paid employment resulting in a professional qualification.

There are no tuition fees, the salary can cover living expenses and apprentices gain first-hand experience of the workplace.

If you know more about the university route to careers rather than the apprenticeship route, don't let this sway you towards considering apprenticeships as a second-rate option rather than a first-choice career plan for your teen.

Apprenticeships used to be associated with trade industries (such as electricians, mechanics or plumbers). Nowadays, apprenticeships can be taken in a wide range of industry sectors and provide entry to all types of careers, including accounting, banking, IT, law, management and television. Relatively new to the apprenticeship suite are "degree apprenticeships", offering an "earn while you learn" route to BSc or BA status. In other words, the end qualification is the same as if your child had attended university full time, the difference

is that they will not have incurred any debt in tuition fees and will finish their degree with robust and transferable workplace skills.

There are also options to take short term apprenticeships. If your teen isn't comfortable with committing to several years of further study, they can take one or two year options and still gain recognised, valuable qualifications. Better still, if they change their mind and decide they wish to extend the apprenticeship to gain higher level qualifications, this is often possible.

Taking an apprenticeship is not an easy option and competition can be fierce. It takes organisation and dedication to balance work, where your child will be expected to contribute to the same standards as everyone else, and study. Holidays are far fewer than at college or university. However, if they learn more easily through practical application, the work based nature of apprenticeships will suit them well and they will obtain valuable experience which will strengthen opportunities in finding rewarding work when the apprenticeship is over.

Level	Qualification / educational routes		
8	Doctorate (PhD)		
7	Masters degree (MA)		
6	Bachelors degree BA or BSc		
5	Foundation degree FdA or FdSc	Higher National Diploma (HND)	Degree apprenticeship / NVQ 5, 6, 7
		Higher National Certificate (HNC)	
4		Higher National Certificate (HNC)	Higher apprenticeship / NVQ 4
3	A levels Grades A-E	International Baccalaureate	Advanced apprenticeship / NVQ 3
	T Levels	BTEC (extended) diploma BTEC certificate	
2	GCSE Grades 4- 9 (C, B, A or A*)	BTEC first diploma	Intermediate apprenticeship / NVQ 2
1	GCSE Grades 1- 3 (D,E,F or G)	Foundation diploma / entry level qualifications	Traineeship / NVQ 1
	Academic route	Vocational route	Applied / work route

Levels of Education

In England, Wales and Northern Ireland there are 8 qualification levels (1 - 8) plus an entry level qualification for those just starting. Generally, the higher the level, the more difficult the qualification is. Levels 1-3 are typically taught in schools and colleges.

With so many different qualifications, it can be hard to know what they mean and where they might lead to next. To help you understand, we've created a summary of what the levels mean comparing the different routes to higher education.

History of apprenticeships

Apprenticeships date back as far as the 14th century and were closely related to medieval trades of the time. Skilled artisans taught their craft to apprentices who, eventually, became masters themselves and employed their own apprentices.

Origins

Early apprenticeships were not regulated; parents paid a master craftsman to teach their child a skill and the child was legally bound to the master for the duration of the apprenticeship which usually lasted six to eight years. Children started work when they were around 10-12 years old and the master was expected to provide moral guidance as well as food and shelter.

Regulation

In 1563, during the time of Elizabeth I, a more formal system was introduced to prevent crafts being practised by non-skilled workers including some terms and conditions of work for apprenticeships. In the following centuries, the rights and entitlements of the apprentice gradually improved and, by the mid-17th century, some apprentices started to receive a small wage for their work.

Mid to late 1900s

By the 1960s, a large number of initiatives were introduced to modernise the traditional apprenticeship. Industrial Training Boards were set up to improve and monitor the delivery and quality of apprenticeship training schemes. Despite such efforts, by the 1980s and 1990s, apprenticeship recruitment slowed. This was largely attributed to the decline in manufacturing and crafts-based industries and the increased accessibility to further education.

Recent developments

Since then, successive governments have continued to reform and modernise apprenticeships to reflect the demands of a changing economy. For example, in 2015, degree apprenticeships were introduced offering a credible alternative to university education. This enabled apprentices to obtain a degree qualification on the successful completion of their apprenticeship. In 2018, over 210,000 students successfully completed an apprenticeship with 7,000 completing the degree apprenticeship – only three years after its introduction in 2015.

Keep an open mind

Apprenticeships may have been around for centuries, but there have been significant changes in recent years. Historically, apprenticeships supported trade careers such as carpentry, building and needlework, without offering a route into professional careers such as law, accountancy and management. In addition, earlier apprenticeships didn't provide the opportunity of obtaining higher qualifications such as degrees or masters. This has now changed.

However, despite such significant changes, there are still some misconceptions and preconceived ideas. Keep in mind that apprenticeships are available across a wide range of industries, can provide a route into professional occupations and, with the introduction of degree apprenticeships, offer a credible alternative to university. Degree apprenticeships have also created routes into jobs which previously could only be entered by obtaining a degree through university, such as nursing.

Apprenticeships may have been around for centuries but there have been many changes in recent years



Apprenticeship or university?

Advantages

- ▶ Apprenticeships provide focused and applied training for those who already have a strong interest in a job or industry.
- ▶ Not everyone is suited to academic learning and apprenticeships provide a practical approach to obtaining qualifications.
- ▶ Apprenticeships provide paid employment with a structured approach to learning.
- ▶ Apprenticeships develop key transferable skills which are considered lacking in the labour market.
- ▶ Apprenticeships may provide future employment within the company and working within an organisation may reveal job roles they did not know existed.
- ▶ Gaining work experience and on the job training may provide your child with a competitive advantage when applying for a job.
- ▶ Degree apprenticeships offer the chance to gain a BA or BSc without incurring the debts associated with studying at university.

Considerations

- ▶ Apprenticeships may narrow options early on. Your child will need to have a fairly clear idea of the type of career they wish to pursue.
- ▶ It may be difficult for your child to combine studying with working.
- ▶ The salary of an apprentice can be quite low and your child will also need to consider financing their travel and living expenses if they are not living at home.
- ▶ Your child may feel that they are missing out on the 'student life' if taking a degree apprenticeship. However, some universities still offer their degree apprentices a strong student experience.
- ▶ Many companies provide graduate schemes for university leavers on completion of their degree.
- ▶ Entering the work place at an early age may lead to fatigue.
- ▶ Degree apprenticeships are still quite new so there is a limited number of vacancies at the moment.

- ✓ Does your child have a clear idea of the type of career or job they want to pursue?
- ✓ Is your child more suited to an applied and hands-on working environment?
- ✓ Is your child organised and able to balance work with academic study?
- ✓ Will your child perform better under the guidance of a supervisor in a work environment?
- ✓ Will your child enjoy the combination of different learning environments?
- ✓ Does your child enjoy practical / active homework assignments?

Apprenticeships range between Level 2 and Level 7 and are designed to be flexible



Apprenticeships offer the opportunity to combine study with paid employment



Non-degree apprenticeships

If your teen wants to continue their education after GCSE but doesn't want to continue full-time at school or college, apprenticeships could be a good option.

Likewise, if your teen wants to get more qualifications after sixth form but doesn't want to commit to a further three or four years' study at university, apprenticeships offer the opportunity to sign up for just one or two years and still obtain a recognised higher qualification.

Qualifications

Most apprenticeships work towards one or more qualifications. These qualifications correspond to the level of apprenticeship. Intermediate apprenticeships (level 2) is equivalent to gaining five GCSEs at grade 4 and above. Most apprenticeships at this level will cover basic numeracy and literacy skills as well as providing level 2 qualifications, such as awards, certificates, diplomas or NVQs depending on the length and difficulty of the work and training provided.

Advanced apprenticeships (level 3) provide qualifications equivalent to 2 A levels. Level 3 qualifications may include National Certificates, National

Diplomas or NVQs, suitable as a post 16 or post 18 option.

Higher apprenticeships (level 4/5) provide a higher education qualification equivalent to the first or second year of university. Level 4 and 5 qualifications include Higher National Certificates (equivalent to the first year of university), Higher National Diplomas (equivalent to the second year of university) or foundation degrees.

Flexibility

Apprenticeships are often flexible in that it may be possible to extend the apprenticeship period and obtain a higher qualification. For example, some apprenticeships will allow your child to continue on to a higher apprenticeship (level 4/5) once the advanced apprenticeship is complete. This means students can sometimes extend their apprenticeship and obtain higher level qualifications if they are enjoying the experience, without committing to long-term programmes at the outset. Always check with their employer whether such progression is possible.

GOV.UK

What's on offer?

Non-degree apprenticeships offer a practical, staged approach to learning through experiencing the job first-hand. There may be some separate study at a training centre or college, but most of the coaching will be provided by the employer as work experience. They are an ideal choice for students that prefer learning in real-life situations and who are practical learners. There are short-term options which offer a useful solution for those who do not want to commit to many years of study, but still want to obtain recognized further qualifications on leaving school, whether after GCSE or sixth form.

Apprenticeships are a significant investment for companies, in staff time, finance and other resources. Companies are keen to nurture talent

because it demonstrates that they offer investment in people (not just products or services) and personal / professional growth.

It's worth remembering that this investment provides benefits for the company too:

- A workforce trained to their unique professional needs;
- Chance to reinforce their values with new employees;
- Flexible, mobile workforce to help fill any unexpected gaps.

One of the great advantages about an apprenticeship is that it works well for both employer and apprentice. As a result, it can often be the start of a long and rewarding professional relationship.



- Must live in the region where they are applying for the apprenticeship (i.e. England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland) except for degree apprenticeships (level 6);
- Must work at least 30 hours per week – which includes teaching time (though additional study time will be needed);
- Must have a Grade C / 4 GCSE (or equivalent) in English and Maths or be studying towards it;
- Should commit to the full term of their apprenticeship;
- Additional apprenticeships (i.e. higher levels) can be added on at a later date if desired.

Examples of non-degree apprenticeships

Click on a logo to discover more



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Degree apprenticeships

Degree apprenticeships (levels 6 and 7), developed by universities, professional bodies and employers, offer the chance to qualify with a bachelors or masters degree whilst working. Time is split between work and study. This can be an attractive alternative to attending university.

Fees

There are no tuition fees to pay (these are covered by the employer and the government) and the apprentice will receive a salary to cover living expenses, paid holiday and sick leave. Salaries usually range between £7k-18k p/a, although some employers offer more.

This should significantly contribute, if not totally cover, living expenses (such as accommodation, food, travel and entertainment) way beyond what their university peers can achieve through part-time work.

Links to universities

Degree apprenticeships were launched in September 2015 (2019 for graduate apprenticeships in Scotland). As they are relatively new, places are limited, but due to their popularity and success, new apprenticeships are being created regularly. Most organisations partner with a small number of universities so the choice of apprenticeship must be driven by the apprenticeship type (and reputation of the company offering it) and not location or university. Applications for degree apprenticeships are via the company offering the apprenticeships, not via UCAS.

- [Gov. UK](#)
- [UCAS](#)
- [Institute for Apprenticeships](#)
- [Learn more about university](#)

Industry specialisms

Degree apprenticeships are available in a wide range of industries, including:

- Agriculture, environmental and animal care
- Business and administration
- Catering and hospitality
- Childcare and education
- Construction, architecture and the built environment
- Creative and design
- Digital and IT
- Engineering and manufacturing
- Health and science
- Legal, finance and accounting
- Public sector
- Sales, marketing and procurement
- Transport and logistics

Finding a degree apprenticeship

There are a variety of ways to find degree apprenticeships, and we've listed some options below. Remember to select "degree level" apprenticeship and it may be necessary to widen the search across all of England to find opportunities that match the industry/area of interest. Don't forget – most degree apprenticeships follow UCAS (university) application timetables, with deadlines in January for September/October start.

- Applicants for degree apprenticeships can live anywhere in the UK;
- Must work at least 30 hours per week – which includes teaching time;
- Must have a Grade 4 "GCSE" (or equivalent) in English and Maths or be studying towards it;
- Must have Level 3 qualifications
- (minimum two A level passes or equivalent). Sometimes more is required;
- Some employers have specific entry requests;
- Should commit to the full term of their apprenticeship (which may be three to four years, or longer if part time).

What's on offer?

Degree apprenticeships are a very significant investment for companies, in staff time, finance and other resources. Employers promise to fund (or part-fund) three or four years' tuition costs, salary (and all the related additional costs, such as holiday/sick leave), a job opportunity for three or four years, mentoring and on the job training.

Such a commitment is not undertaken lightly and, for the most part, companies do this because they aim to develop talented individuals, skilled to fulfil the companies' unique needs, who will continue working for them long into the future.

There's no guarantee that a job offer will follow an apprenticeship, but a company's objective in investing in the apprenticeship is to create a top-pool of talent from which they can select the very best employees. Because apprenticeships include the development of many transferable skills (emailing, meetings, problem-solving, strategy, implementation, project management and team building to name but a few) as well as company specific skills training, it's not problematic to obtain a degree from an apprenticeship with one company but subsequently move to another. However, quite often an apprenticeship is the start of a long and rewarding professional relationship.

Examples of degree apprenticeships



As a top 100 employer, Accenture currently provide a Technology degree Apprenticeship in five locations including London, Edinburgh and Manchester. The apprenticeship lasts for 3 or 4 years and enables its apprentices to obtain a BSc degree in Digital and Technology Solutions.



Leonardo's four-year Software Engineering Apprenticeship programme is looking for people who understand the importance of communication. You will study for completion of a BSc Hons in Software Development for Business on a day release basis whilst you are at work.



On the successful completion of the Chartered Management Degree Apprenticeship offered by the BBC, apprentices will gain a BSc Honours degree in Business Management and have the option to apply for professional recognition as Chartered Managers.



Offering apprenticeships in Digital Technology and Business, apprentices have the opportunity to gain degrees in Software Development, Digital and Technology Solutions or IT Management at one of CGI's four partner universities.



A top ten apprentice employer, BT offers an impressive array of apprenticeships including apprenticeships in Technology, IT, Cyber Security, Business Management, Engineering, Logistics and Digital Development. Apprenticeships are likely to be highly competitive.



KPMG offers a vast array of apprenticeships including apprenticeships in technology and engineering, consulting, business services, law and finance.



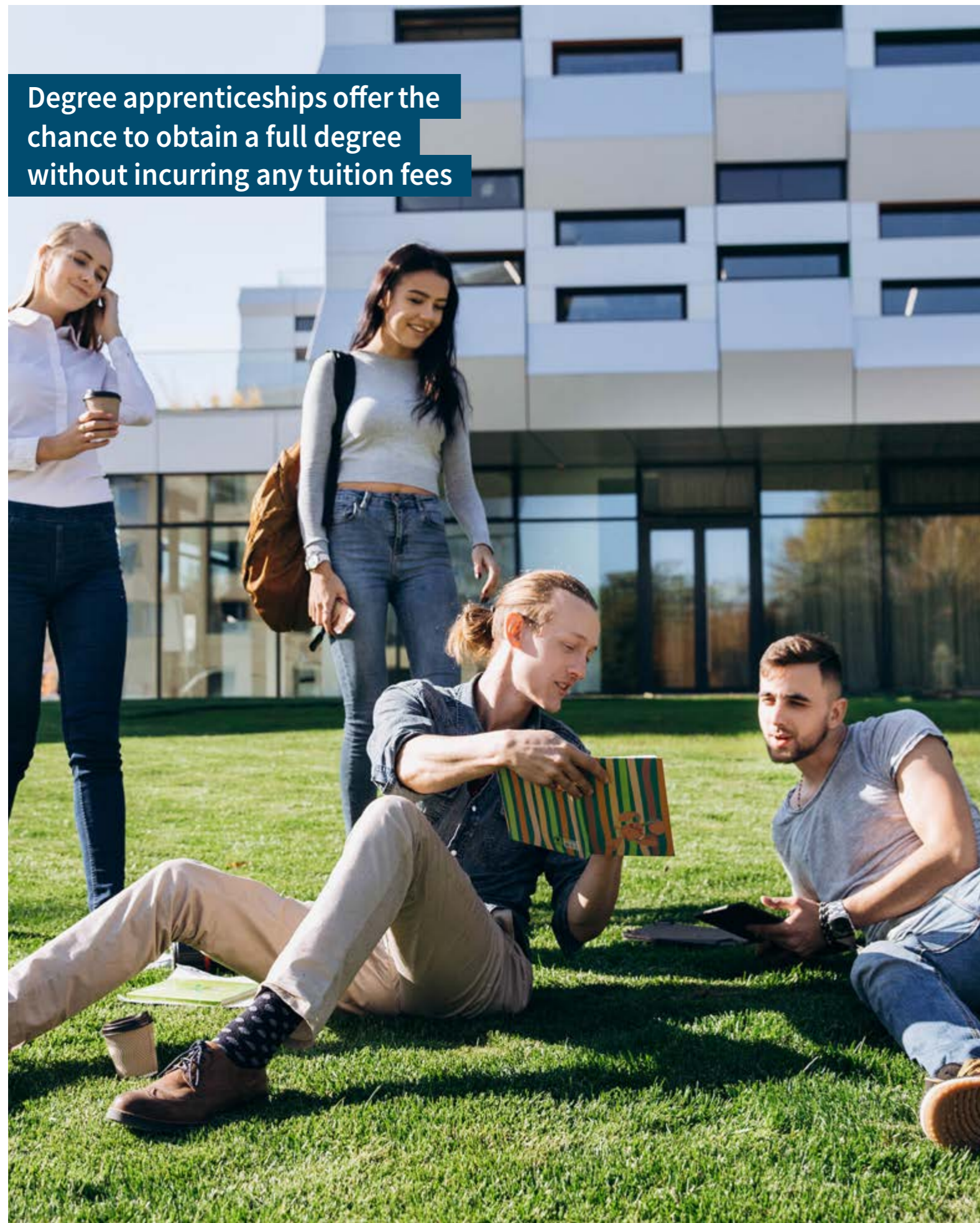
The Nestle Academy offers a Chartered Management degree apprenticeship, which consists of four placements within the business. The apprenticeship lasts for three years and entry requirements start from 104 UCAS points.



Santander offer a degree apprenticeship in Corporate and Commercial Banking which is designed to lead to permanent roles within the business. Entry requirements range from 104 to 112 UCAS points and a grade 4 or above is required in maths.

University or apprenticeship?

Degree apprenticeships offer the chance to obtain a full degree without incurring any tuition fees



With the introduction of degree apprenticeships in 2015, apprenticeships now provide a viable alternative to university in gaining a full degree qualification. Degree apprenticeships are a relatively new addition to the range of options available for school leavers and it's important to understand the pros and cons of opting for one route over another: there are benefits and drawbacks.

Choice

Traditional degrees offer far greater variety in the range of courses, subjects and modules available:- choose from over 1,500 different titles. Traditional degrees enable students to study subject areas that interest them and to tailor their degree during their study by opting for certain modules as their interests evolve. In contrast, degree apprenticeships are far more focused and industry-specific and the university and location of study is limited to the universities working with the employer.

The student experience

'Student life' will be different for an apprentice compared to a full-time student. Whilst degree apprentices will experience some aspects of campus life, it will be different to those students fully immersed / living on campus. Most university degrees offer plenty of flexibility with how students manage their study time, but times for study will be limited when also working. Holiday periods are different too. University students will have around 14 weeks' holiday each year, but apprentices will have only four or five. Some university apprenticeships offer the opportunity of full-time academic study during university term time, and full time work during the holiday periods.

Employability

One of the biggest advantages apprentices achieve over their peers who have similar level qualifications obtained through university is that they will have developed many commercially desirable soft skills. First-hand experience of meeting work deadlines, forming professional relationships with colleagues at many different levels, building rapport and trust with external

stakeholders, and corresponding (whether by email, phone call or in meetings) in a work environment is highly valuable to future employers.

Direction

Degree apprenticeships enable students to develop the skills and knowledge needed for specific jobs and careers. They are an excellent choice for school leavers who have a clear idea of the type of job role and career they would like to do. In contrast, university degree courses remain relatively open and provide a springboard to a range of career prospects after graduation.

Style of learning

Although largely dependent on the type of university and the chosen course, full time students are likely to be better suited to classroom and teacher led learning. Degree apprenticeships offer a more vocational and applied learning environment where much of the learning and training is done on the job.

Finances

Degree apprenticeships are fully funded by the government and the employer and apprentices are paid a wage for their time. Apprentices usually complete their apprenticeship debt free. A traditional degree will cost students around £9,750 a year excluding their living

(“maintenance”) expenses. Low interest loans, scholarships and bursaries are provided by the government, but it is likely that a full time student will graduate with a sizeable debt. However, repayment terms are linked to pay levels, so it is possible for graduates not to have to repay loans if they don’t earn enough in wages.

Flexibility

Don’t worry if your child is still unsure whether a university degree or degree apprenticeship is right for them. Students can apply for degree and higher apprenticeships at the same time as applying to university through UCAS. Details on how to apply are covered in **chapter 4**.

Summary

Apprenticeships have changed considerably over the last few decades and both higher and degree apprenticeships are now an attractive alternative to full-time university courses. Degree apprenticeships have also opened up routes into jobs which previously could only be entered by obtaining a degree through university.

- [The Parents’ Guide to](#)
- [Amazing Apprenticeships](#)



Finding the right apprenticeship



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I was never keen on school and I didn't want to stay on for sixth-form. A level 3 apprenticeship got me straight into work whilst also studying for an NVQ in Design and Technology.

Researching apprenticeships

Apprenticeships vary in the qualifications that can be achieved, length of commitment and balance between work and study. They may involve moving away from home. With so many variables, it might help to think about the different elements separately to work out which type of apprenticeship suits your child best.

What level of apprenticeship is appropriate?

First, your child needs to decide which level of apprenticeship they wish to take. This will be determined by two things:

- Having the necessary qualifications to be accepted;
- How long they intend to commit to their apprenticeship.

For post-GCSE apprenticeships, your child will need 5 GCSE passes to apply for Level 3 or a minimum standard of Maths and English to apply for Level 2.

To apply for a post-sixth form apprenticeship, your child will need Level 3 status (two A levels or equivalent) and in some cases (even for lower level apprenticeships), they may need to have exceeded this.

Degree apprenticeships offer an attractive alternative to studying full time at university, whilst still obtaining a BA or BSc. Like university, this will mean committing to three or four years study and – unlike university – it will mean working in a real job too! Level 7 degree apprenticeships offer the chance to obtain a masters degree.



What sectors are they interested in?

Next, they should decide on their area of interest and see what apprenticeships are available within that sector. If they don't know where their areas of interest lie, it's time to do some research! Of course, careers advisers can help at school, but they might want to jump online themselves. If they get bored reading about a certain sector, chances are that's an indication the sector isn't for them. Getting some work

experience is also a good way of deciding whether reality matches up to the theory of a dream job.

Will the apprenticeship help them get the career they want?

There's no need to be too specific about the job or role they ultimately want, but it's important that they can see a correlation between their apprenticeship, the areas of study, the experience it will give them, and where they want to be in the future (say five years' time).

Research starts by deciding what level apprenticeship your child would like to take



Apprenticeships and disability

The number of UK disabled people in apprenticeships has more than tripled in the last ten years



In order to expand their pool of top available talent and benefit from a workforce that reflects the diverse range of customers they serve, many UK employers offer support and equipment to help apprentices with special educational needs and disability (“SEND”) to do their jobs. This includes making reasonable adjustments during the application and interview process.

What financial support is available?

Access to Work (“AtW”) funding is available to support apprentices in the workplace providing money towards extra costs, such as travel, specially adapted equipment or support workers. The money does not have to be paid back and is only available for additional costs, not expenses that any apprentice incurs.

Look out for companies displaying the “disability confident” logo on job / apprenticeship adverts. These companies have signed up to the Government led scheme designed to recruit and retain disabled people and people with long term health conditions for their skills and talent. There are three levels of accreditation aligned with bronze, silver and gold standards: committed, employer and leader.

To enable employers and trainers to make reasonable adjustments to provide a suitable training and work environment, there is extra funding via the Government and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (“ESFA”) for those employing young people that previously were in care, had an education and healthcare plan (“EHCP”), or require adjustments under the Equality Act.





Apprenticeships with the top ten employers are likely to be very competitive

Top 10 apprenticeship employers: 2024

- | | | | |
|----|---|-----|---|
| 1. |  | 6. |  |
| 2. |  | 7. |  |
| 3. |  | 8. |  |
| 4. |  | 9. |  |
| 5. |  | 10. |  |

Based on 4,000 reviews - statistics compiled by www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk
For a list of the top 100 apprenticeship employers click [here](#).

The application process



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My school provided a lot of help about how to apply for an apprenticeship, but I still needed to research the company and job role myself

Preparing for an interview

To help your child prepare for their interview, a list of commonly asked interview questions have been included in this guide. The aim of this is not to encourage your child to learn answers off by heart, but to help build their confidence in speaking around these topics.

Research the company & job

Questions on the company itself are likely to be asked - so make sure your child has researched carefully the values and aims of the business. Direct them to the required skills / competencies found in the job description to gain a better understanding of what the employer is looking for and how they can demonstrate these in their responses.

Prepare responses

Get your child to write down some short-hand answers to each of the questions on page 71. Preparing thoroughly prior to the interview gives your child thinking time and will help them to provide considered responses to difficult questions.

Reflect on past experiences

Make sure your child can support their answers with specific examples

of when they have previously demonstrated the skill or character trait they are talking about.

Practise:

One of the key things employers will be looking for is good communication skills. Encourage your child to practise their responses out loud to improve the way they come across. You may wish to role-play interviews with your child using the list of questions opposite to guide you. Pay particular attention to what your child says, how they speak and their body language.

Prepare your own questions

It is very common for interviewers to ask their applicants if they have any questions at the end of the interview. This is a great opportunity for your child to demonstrate their interest in the apprenticeship. Help your child to prepare some questions in advance - some ideas are shared with you on the next page.

- Target Careers
- [NAW](#)

Typical interview questions

Questions about the company:

Why do you want to apply for this apprenticeship?

Why do you want to work for this company?

What do you know about this company?

What qualities do you think are important to this role?

Which part of the job role do you think will be the most challenging?

What do you think are the most challenging issues facing the company at the moment?

Questions about the applicant:

Tell me about yourself.

What skills can you bring to the role?

What do you think makes you stand out from other applicants?

What are your three key strengths?

Do you have any weaknesses? (the answer is always yes!). What are they and how are you addressing them?

Where do you see yourself in 5 years?

What do you think you would like least about this role?

Give an example of why you feel you are a good communicator / team member?

How have you influenced team decisions?

How do you respond to stressful situations / under pressure / difficult customers?

What are your hobbies and interests?

Questions your child might ask:

Where do you think this company is going to be in the next five years?

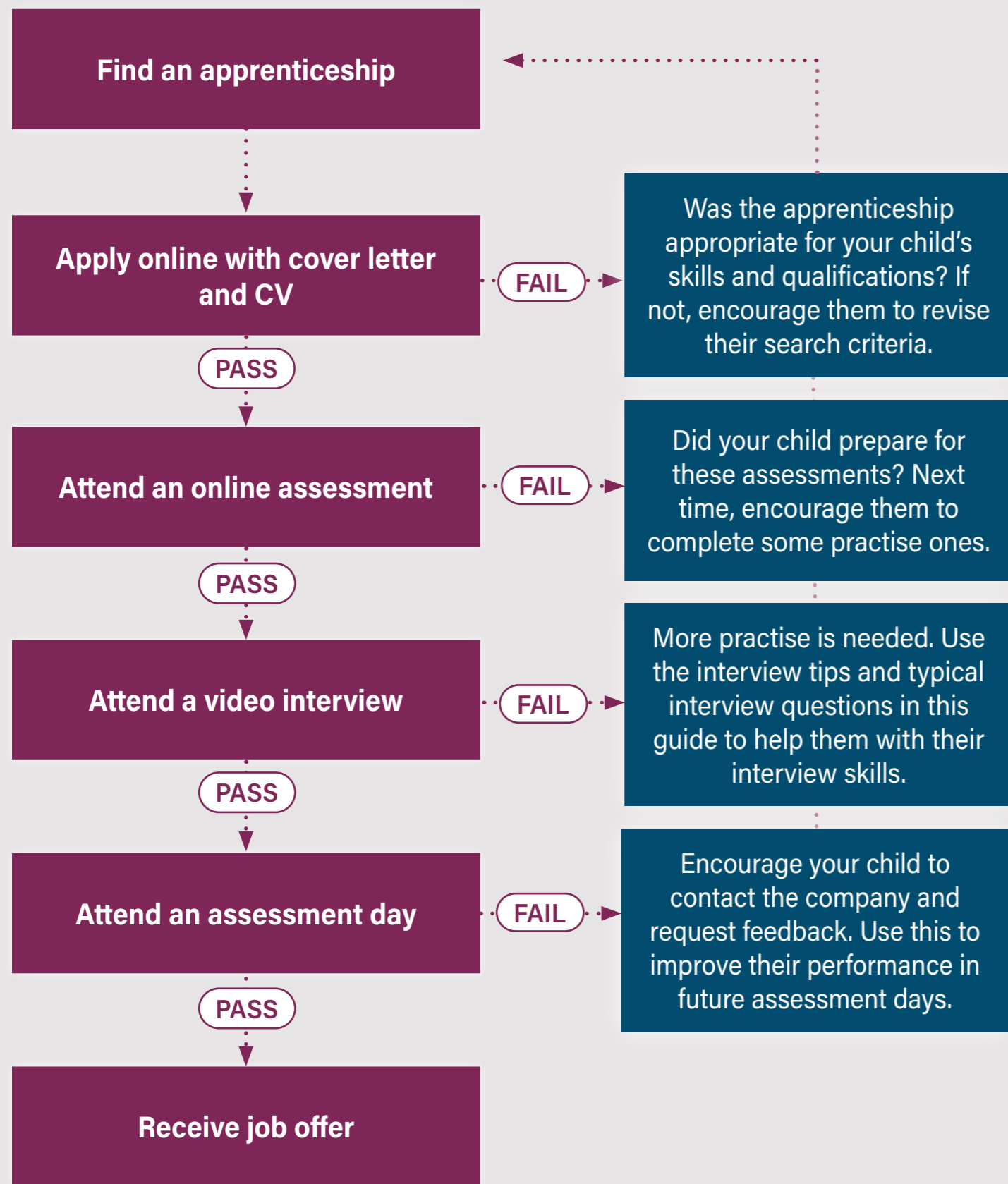
What do apprentices usually go on to do?

Will there be the option to continue my training after the apprenticeship finishes?

How regularly will my work performance be reviewed?

TIP: Get your child to find a recent news article on the company / industry they are applying in. Based on what they have read, help them think of a question they might like to ask at the interview.

Application flowchart



Dealing with rejection

Experiencing rejection for the first time can be tough. As adults, we have had many years to develop the coping mechanisms to deal with this type of disappointment. However, this may be your child's first experience of rejection so it is important to know what to do if this situation arises.

As apprenticeships continue to grow in popularity, so too have the number of student applications. For some of the larger company names, places can be highly competitive.

Bear in mind that letters of decline are likely to happen in the lead up to exams. Try your best to prevent this from having a negative impact on your child's study or revision efforts by following some of these strategies.

1. Try to encourage your child to research and apply for more than

one apprenticeship scheme. Aim for at least five apprenticeships - just like university applications - choosing five apprenticeships helps your child to avoid placing all their eggs in one basket.

2. Encourage your child to request feedback from the company. Whilst not all companies offer this, many do. Feedback will help your child understand the reasons for not being successful and will help them improve for future interviews.

3. Be there. Listen carefully to their feelings and reassure them that in the long-run, things will work out.

4. Apprenticeships are available all year round. If they have not been successful yet and have already finished school, encourage them to take on an internship or some additional work experience to help strengthen future applications.

You may also be interested in:

The Parents' Guide to Teenage stress and anxiety

Includes information on:

- How to spot the signs of anxiety and stress
- Ways to help right away
- Long term strategies to build their resilience
- Encouraging healthy routines

[Buy now](#)





Next steps

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“ My time as an apprentice was much more social than I expected. I made some great friends at work as well as some great friends at university.



Final Words

We hope you'll be feeling excited and proud about what your child's achieved as they embark on their first independent steps towards adulthood by entering the workplace as an apprentice. But it may be tinged with an element of sadness as you realise your parenting role is about to evolve into something different. Don't forget your child still needs you - albeit in a different way.

Be there for them! Leaving school and long-term friends to start a new life is exciting but it's emotional too. For your child, everything is about to change. The life that's been so familiar to them (especially if they've been at the same school since Year 7) disappears. Work is dramatically different from school, with new colleagues, bosses and priorities. They will also have new teachers for the learning element, possibly a

new place to live, new commuting journeys and a new peer group in which to find friends. That's a lot of adjustment.

Even if they are not moving away, there's still much in their new life that will be different from before. In this sea of change, you are likely to be their only familiar anchor. Yes, they need space to adapt at their own pace, but they may also need to know you are still there for them and that there is some certainty and consistency in a fast-changing environment.

Finally ... don't forget about yourself. These are exciting times for your child and they're exciting times for you too. You'll be taking a step towards a whole different style of parenting which, whilst equally important, should also include much more time for yourself too!

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