

Degree Apprenticeships

A guide for students, teachers and careers advisors



What is a Degree Apprenticeship (Level 6/7)?

A degree apprenticeship is an opportunity to be employed by a business or company as an apprentice and to complete a degree qualification* at the same time. An apprenticeship provides training and professional development. The number of degree apprenticeships is growing with over 260 apprenticeships that lead to a higher or full degree qualification in 15 different industry sectors.

The degree apprenticeship standard is linked to an occupational role, e.g nurse, and is chosen by the employer. The employer also chooses which training provider or university they wish to partner with. The delivery model requires you to spend at least 6 hours per week with the training provider. The rest of the time you are working with your employer.

Typically, you will spend one day per week studying at the university, or in self-directed study when there are no timetabled classes. Some universities deliver the apprenticeship in a block release format, while others deliver a hybrid with on campus days and online days. This will be agreed by the employer and the university/training provider.

A degree apprenticeship can take anywhere from 3 years to 6 years to complete and will provide you with a competitive salary and other employee benefits such as holiday and sick pay.

After finishing a degree apprenticeship, in most cases you will have achieved a degree, a graded apprenticeship certificate and, in many instances, professional regulatory body recognition, without any student loans, as well as multiple years of experience on the job.

* not all degree level apprenticeships include a mandatory higher education qualification. Please check on the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education site www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards and with the training provider.



Is a Degree Apprenticeship for me?

Degree apprenticeships allow you to gain work experience whilst working towards a degree, however, you should consider the pros and cons and whether it is the right choice for you. As a degree apprentice, you will be treated as an employee in the organisation and so, you must be prepared to enter the world of work potentially well before your peers from school or college.

Pros



You gain work experience alongside earning a degree



You avoid any student debt



You earn a salary alongside your work and studies

Cons



You need to balance working a full-time job alongside your studies



You often miss out on the 'typical' student experience



You do not get access to student loans





How do I find a Degree Apprenticeship?

Finding a degree apprenticeship can be difficult as there is not always as much advertising as typical university options. The easiest way to find an apprenticeship is through the National Apprenticeship Service (NAS): www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship. However, you can also find four top tips to finding a high-quality degree apprenticeship below:

1. Try and attend an apprenticeship fair and ask about degree apprenticeships at Higher Education (HE) and Careers Fairs. Lots of local schools and colleges host fairs dedicated to apprenticeships. Ask your career lead at school if they know if your school is having an apprenticeship fair or if your school/college can support you to attend a national apprenticeship fair
2. Use UCAS or the Government Apprenticeship finders. Both UCAS www.ucas.com and the government apprenticeship portal www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship offer apprenticeship searching tools. You can specify your sector of interest, location, start date, and which level of apprenticeship you're looking for. Make sure to look for degree level apprenticeships (Level 6 or 7)
3. Visit the apprenticeship zone at a UCAS fair. At all UCAS fairs, there is a dedicated section for degree apprenticeships. This can be a great opportunity to learn more about the world of degree apprenticeships and the sort of roles available in your local area.
4. Visit the websites of employers near you. Many employers are now offering degree apprenticeships and so, it is worth looking at the websites of nearby major employers to see if they are offering any degree apprenticeships in the coming year. If you're not sure whether an employer is offering degree apprenticeships, give them a ring!



How do I Apply for a Degree Apprenticeship?

To apply for a degree apprenticeship, generally, you apply directly to an employer through the National Apprenticeship Service, rather than to a university. Typically, the application process for a degree apprenticeship is similar to a job application rather than a university application. Since each employer runs their own application process, applying for each role will be slightly different.

However, there are still some steps that most degree apprenticeships will require from all applicants:

1. **Make sure you are eligible.** Most degree apprenticeships have certain qualities and qualifications required of applicants. Make sure you meet all the criteria before applying for a role.
2. **Read the person specification/job description.** A degree apprenticeship's person specification will tell you what sort of applicant the employer is looking for, a job description will detail how your role will fit into the organisation and what will be expected of you as a degree apprentice. It is important that you understand what you are applying for and tailor your application to each degree apprenticeship.
3. **Complete the online application form.** When applying for a degree, you normally will fill out an online form giving your contact details and any relevant work experience and qualifications. Ensure you have a professional email address, and all your contact information is up to date.
4. **Submit your CV and/or cover letter.** Degree apprenticeship applications are quite similar to typical job applications. Often, you will be asked to submit a CV and/or a cover letter. These documents tell your professional story ranging from any work experience to your time in school and college. To find some more information about how to write a CV or cover letter, take a look at the UCAS website www.ucas.com/careers/help-and-advice/how-write-cv.
5. **Take part in an interview.** Like most jobs, degree apprenticeships will usually interview applicants before offering them a role. This is your final opportunity to sell yourself and make it clear why a degree apprenticeship is right for you. To get some top interview tips, read UCAS's How to Prepare for an Apprenticeship Interview www.ucas.com/apprenticeships/how-apply-apprenticeship/how-prepare-apprenticeship-interview.
6. **Assessment Events:** many employers will invite a shortlist of applicants to an assessment event. They will always tell you what to expect at the event but, typically, you will be asked to take part in a group activity with other applicants, give a presentation, and be interviewed by two or more people from the company. Sometimes the training provider/university attend these events too, so it's a good chance to ask questions about the apprenticeship.





10 Steps to Starting a Degree Apprenticeship

- ☐ 1. Weigh up the pros and cons and decide if a degree apprenticeship might be for you.
- ☐ 2. Research degree apprenticeships by attending a fair or looking online and use an official degree apprenticeships website to find a degree apprenticeship for you.
- ☐ 3. Check who the employer has chosen as their training provider and what the provider's experience of offering degree-level education is in order to ensure that you are going to get the best training experience possible. Also check what additional support the training provider offers.
- ☐ 4. Make sure you are eligible for the degree apprenticeship you are interested in.
- ☐ 5. Read the apprenticeship job description and person specification.
- ☐ 6. Write a tailored CV and cover letter – remember to get someone else to read over it!
- ☐ 7. Submit your online application.
- ☐ 8. Take part in an interview or selection day.
- ☐ 9. Look over the apprenticeship job offer carefully and decide if it is the right step for you.
- ☐ 10. Start your degree apprenticeship!



What Degree Apprenticeships are offered at UWL?

At UWL, we offer Degree Apprenticeships in three sectors:

- **Computing and Engineering**
- **Health and Social Care**
- **Business and Leadership**

These apprenticeships will put you on a path to a range of different careers including, but not limited to, a registered nurse, software engineer, data analyst, business manager or civil engineer. Whichever path you choose, a degree apprenticeship at UWL will provide you with support from the University as well as your employer and, at the end of the apprenticeship, a fully paid-for degree from UWL.

As with all apprenticeships, to apply for these you must apply directly to one of our employer partners. You can find a list of all vacancies with UWL partners currently being offered at www.uwl.ac.uk/degree-apprenticeship-vacancies.



Useful Resources

UWL Apprenticeships: www.uwl.ac.uk/degree-apprenticeship-vacancies

UCAS Apprenticeship Search: careerfinderucas.com/jobs/apprenticeship

UK Government Apprenticeship Search: www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship

National Apprenticeship Search: www.apprenticeships.gov.uk

Rate my Apprenticeship: www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk

The National Apprenticeship Show: nationalapprenticeshipshow.org

UCAS How to Prepare for an Apprenticeship Interview: www.ucas.com/apprenticeships/how-apply-apprenticeship/how-prepare-apprenticeship-interview

UCAS How to Write a CV for a Degree Apprentice: www.ucas.com/careers/getting-job/how-write-cv