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Everything you ever wanted to know about Apprenticeships

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SC050285 (Scotland)

Outline of the session

- What are degree apprenticeships?
- The application process
- Key differences between traditional study and Degree Apprenticeships
- Finding Degree Apprenticeships
- Discussions!

Introductions

Emma Chu, Student Recruitment Officer (Degree Apprenticeships) Manchester Metropolitan University

- Alternative Routes Widening Participation Officer at the University of Chester 2012-2023
- Recruitment Officer for Degree Apprenticeships at Manchester Metropolitan University 2023 onwards

Karen Hinton, Associate Director Marketing, University of Suffolk

- Set-up and managed apprenticeships at the University of Suffolk between 2016-2019
- Due to complete a PhD considering the experience of apprenticeships, by early 2026

What are Degree Apprenticeships?

In groups, discuss what you think degree apprenticeships are

You might want to include:

What kind of sectors are they available in?

What kind of jobs do apprentices do during their apprentices?

How much time is spent at university/in the workplace?

What are Degree Apprenticeships?

- Introduced in 2015 to "Equip people with the skills they need to get on in life and to back businesses to create jobs"
- Fees paid through an 'Apprenticeship Levy'
 - Mix of employer and government contributions
 - Student does not contribute

Level	Apprenticeship Type	Entry Requirements	Qualification Equivalents
Level 6	Degree	University requirements	Bachelor's degree
Level 5	Higher	5 x GCSEs + Level 3 (A Level, BTEC)	Years 1 – 2 of degree Foundation degree HNC, HND
Level 4			
Level 3	Advanced	5 x GCSEs	A Levels BTEC Level 3 Diploma NVQ Level 3
Level 2	Intermediate	2 x GCSEs	GCSE grades 4 – 9 BTEC Level 2 Cert/Dip NVQ Level 2

Degree Apprenticeships



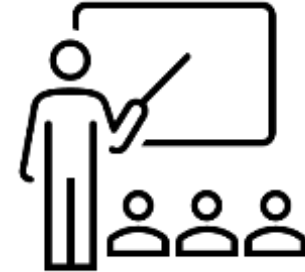
Degree Apprenticeships



Approx 25 days
in University *



Combination of assignments
and work-based projects



Time Allocated for
Off-the-Job training

Typically, 4
Years

104 – 112
UCAS Points

GCSE English
& Maths L4
and above



Building and
Surveying



Finance



Policing



Paralegal and
Solicitor



Healthcare
and Nursing



Construction



Food
Technology



Engineering



Business and
Management



Chemical
Science



Digital
Marketing



Digital
Technology

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Applying for Apprenticeships

- Applications **DIRECTLY TO THE EMPLOYER**
- Competitive market for budding apprentices
- Different deadlines and timeframes
- Peak vacancy time – November to April
- Range of entry requirements (employer vs university)
- Encouraged to apply for Degree Apprenticeships alongside traditional university courses

Applying for Apprenticeships

- Some are listed on UCAS – but all levels
- Employer websites
- GOV.uk – set vacancy alerts
- Sometimes minimal information (e.g. training provider, mode of delivery)
- Interview and selection process
- Up-skilling or 2+2

Applying for Apprenticeships

- Job offers (contracts) are usually based on predicted grades
- Employers are looking for ‘potential, not polish’
- After successful application, students are asked to submit an application to the company’s partner institution
- Results Day
 - If criteria is met, degree apprenticeship will be confirmed and student can withdraw from traditional choice(s), by withdrawing on UCAS hub
 - If criteria is not met, employer may terminate the contract or offer an alternative route where possible

How are they different from UG courses?



No tuition
fees



Paid Salary



Significant
employment
experience



Learning
structure is
different



Fast Career Progression
opportunities available
before graduation

Other differences

- All off-the-job training has to be strictly monitored and logged
- Monthly tripartite meetings
- Limited module choices
- Limited opportunities for annual leave
- Limited time for assignments
- The experience can be very dependent on employer practices/involvement

Support for apprentices

- Fellow apprentices
- Designated programme leaders and lecturers
- Student Union
- Association of Apprentices
- Skills Coach
- Workplace Mentor



Graduating

- All paperwork strictly in place
- End Point Assessment
- Level 2 Maths and English
- Evidence of occupational skills, knowledge and behaviour
- Changes in employer can affect completion
- Some progression opportunities to Level 7 apprenticeships



Key differences: Summary

- Trained for a specific role and sector
- Identity: Employee vs student vs apprentice
- Lack of choices
- Employer is in control
- Employer's involvement in learning
- Excellent opportunity to apply learning to an occupation
- No student debt

Where to find apprenticeships



Discussion

What advice would you give to students considering a degree apprenticeship?

Our Top Tips

Prospective apprentices should:

- Consider what type of university experience is important to them
- Research the Apprenticeship options, and the potential employers
- Contact employers for information on recruitment plans and deadlines
- Set vacancy alerts
- Have a good CV ready – adapt for each vacancy
- Don't decide *against* University – keep all options open
- Apply through UCAS for traditional study, but don't pay accommodation deposits until certain on final decisions
- Manage expectations on availability

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Q & A

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