

An apprenticeship roadmap for North East Employers

Did you know that 40% of UCAS undergraduates are keen on pursuing apprenticeship roles?

Despite this surge in demand, the number of apprenticeship starts for young learners remains low, especially for those aged under 19, with less than 5,000 at Level 4 and above.*

Particularly in the North East, demand is outstripping supply, leaving many students without vacancies aligned to their career aspirations.

However, there's hope on the horizon! North East businesses have a golden opportunity to tap into free apprenticeship support.

We've collated the most up-to-date financial and local provision available to help you recruit an apprentice successfully.

*Source: UCAS

Unlock the potential of apprenticeships

Wherever you are on your apprenticeship journey, - whether you're just starting to ponder the idea or already have apprentices on board - help is readily available.

In the North East, the Early Connect Employer Service is your one-stop-shop for expert apprenticeship guidance and advice.

Provided by the Education Development Trust, this service is for businesses of all sizes and sectors, and unlike before, there is no eligibility criteria. This free support is only available until August 2025 so act now to access invaluable assistance at every step of your apprenticeship recruitment process.

Email neambition@edt.org for more information and kickstart your journey today!

Small and medium sized enterprises operating in Digital, Manufacturing, Adult Social Care and Construction sectors can also access tailored support through the Apprenticeship SME Brokerage Service delivered regionally by New College Durham. Express interest [here](#).

What are the benefits?

If you're struggling with workforce and recruitment, talent acquisition or staff development then apprenticeships could be the perfect solution for you.

-  **Fresh Talent**
Inject innovation with apprentices bringing new perspectives.
-  **Cost-Effective Development**
Tailor talent while saving on recruitment costs.
-  **Increased Productivity**
Boost performance with rapidly skilled apprentices.
-  **Future-Proofing**
Secure adaptable talent, shielding from skill shortages.
-  **Loyalty and Retention**
Cultivate loyalty and retain top talent long-term.
-  **Diversity Boost**
Bridge gaps with apprentices from diverse backgrounds.
-  **Government Support**
Access financial incentives for businesses of all sizes.

Visit northeastambition.co.uk/business to discover how other businesses in the region are reaping the benefits of apprenticeships.

What funding is available?

Whether you're a big or small business, if you're hiring an apprentice, you can get help from the government to cover the costs of training. The amount you get depends on whether you pay the apprenticeship levy or not.

Apprenticeship Levy

You pay the levy if you're an employer with a pay bill over £3 million. With the [apprenticeship service](#) you can manage funds for apprenticeship training, with a 10% government top-up and minimal costs if funds run low.

Levy Transfers

Levy-paying employers can transfer up to 50% of annual funds to support apprenticeship training for other employers, including smaller businesses.

Fully Funded for SME's

The government covers full training costs for apprentices in small businesses up to age 21.

£1,000 Cash Incentive

Eligible businesses hiring young apprentices could receive a £1000 bonus per apprentice.

Streamlined Payments

Hassle-free funding directly to training providers, allowing focus on nurturing apprentice talent.

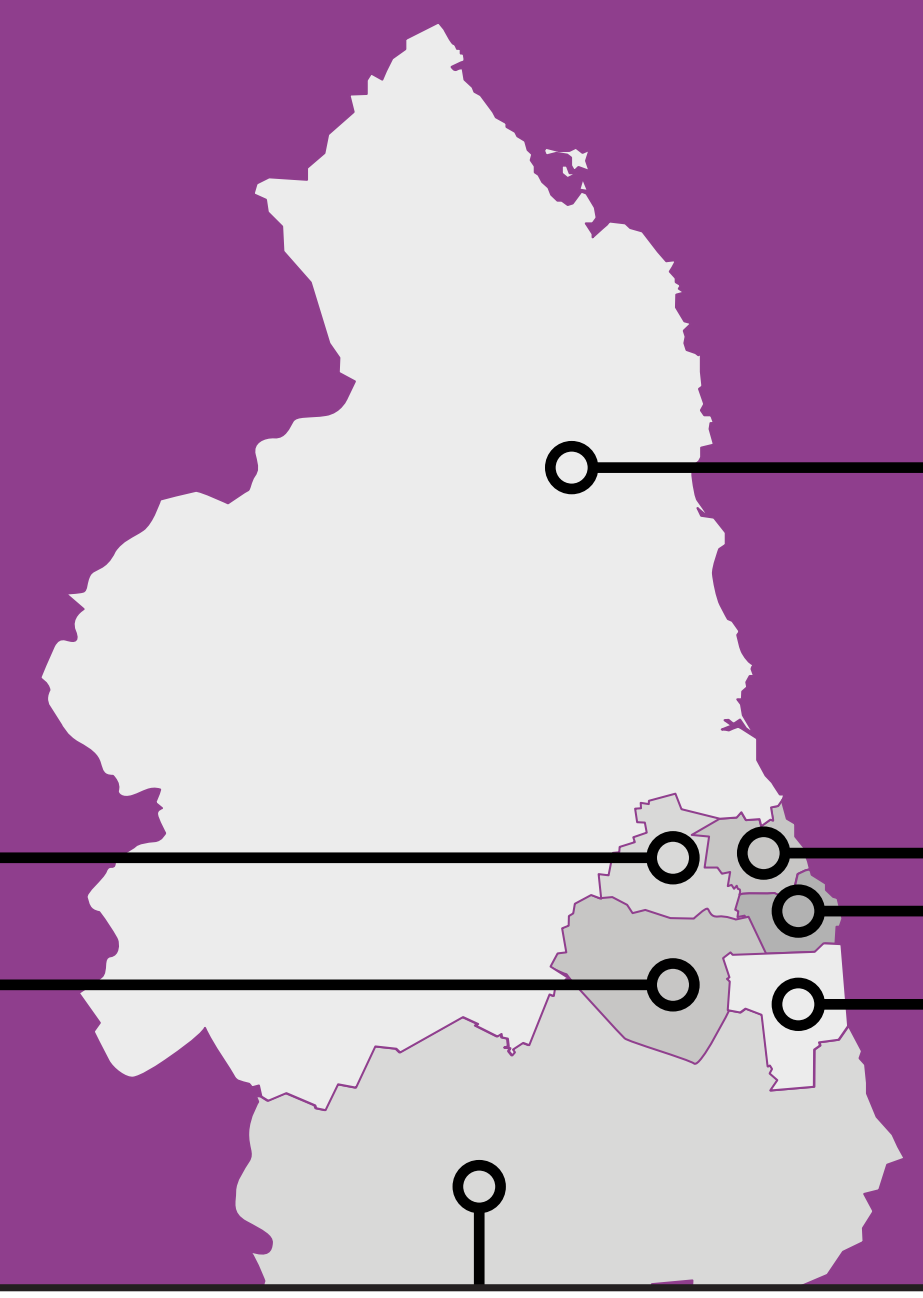
CITB Grants

CITB provides grants for approved apprenticeship schemes focusing on core construction skills.

Check out this website for more support when employing an apprentice: [Employ an apprentice for your business: step by step \(apprenticeships.gov.uk\)](#)

Apprenticeship support in your local area

As well as the Early Connect Employer Service there is a range of localised apprenticeship provision that employers can tap into.



All North East Areas
[North East Apprenticeship Ambassador Network \(NEAAN\)](#)
 NEAAN champions apprenticeships in the North East, connecting businesses with opportunities, offering networking and mentoring to help business engagement in recruiting and supporting apprenticeships.
[Construction Industry Training Board \(CITB\)](#)
 CITB's New Entrant Support Team (NEST) is a free service for CITB registered employers that helps successfully navigate the pathway to hiring an apprentice.

Apprenticeship Training Providers
 If you already know what you're looking for, you can browse sector specific apprenticeship training providers via the links below:
[Provider Portal - North East Ambition \(northeast-ca.gov.uk\)](#)
[Our Members | North East Learning Providers \(NELP\)](#)
[Apprenticeship training courses \(education.gov.uk\)](#)

Newcastle
[Newcastle City Council](#)
 Offer a range of recruitment support through partners Work and Thrive.
[Newcastle College](#)
 Help with apprenticeship funding and recruitment support, with a pipeline of skilled and work-ready students.

Gateshead
[Gateshead Council](#)
 Offer an apprenticeship recruitment service which includes free advertising and assessments of all applicants to ensure you get the very best candidates.
[Gateshead College](#)
 A free recruitment service providing support to develop the training you need to help build an inspired, confident and skilled team.

Universities
 The North East's four leading universities have dedicated business development experts who will work with you to provide industry-specific skills, qualifications, and experience. Learn more via the following links:
[Newcastle University](#) • [Durham University](#)
[The University of Sunderland](#) • [Northumbria University](#)

County Durham
[Business Durham](#)
 Provide support for a range of apprenticeship opportunities through networking events, workshops and business programmes.
[New College Durham \(NCD\)](#)
 A specialist apprenticeships team to support with funding and recruitment.
[Derwentside College](#)
 Dedicated apprenticeship recruitment team to advise employers about apprenticeship opportunities and guide you through the process.
[East Durham College \(EDC\)](#)
 EDC offer a fully managed apprenticeship service, including your apprentice's training, support on funding, and free recruitment. Email business@eastdurham.ac.uk to arrange a meeting with a business development consultant.
[Bishop Auckland College](#)
 Fully managed support services for businesses to help you implement and manage the apprenticeship levy programme.

Northumberland
[Northumberland County Council](#)
 Offer a range of services to assist your business to recruit apprentices.
[Northumberland College](#)
 Get the best talent for your team with the college's dedicated recruitment support.

North Tyneside
[North Tyneside Council](#)
 Deliver apprenticeship programmes designed around the needs of employers.
[Tyne Metropolitan College](#)
 A collaborative approach to ensuring apprenticeships work best for your business.

South Tyneside
[South Tyneside Council](#)
 A free recruitment service to support you with your workforce and skills needs.
[South Tyneside College](#)
 Work with employers to help support, train and nurture apprentices and trainees to the way businesses work.

Sunderland
[Sunderland City Council](#)
 The business support team can provide apprenticeship advice and information.
[Sunderland College](#)
 Holistic support including a range of over seventy apprenticeship standards and frameworks, to dedicated recruitment support.