



Department  
for Education

# Introducing apprenticeships with Early connect

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Update for parents, guardians and carers to help them support a young person in finding apprenticeship and career opportunities.

 Apprenticeships





# What's an apprenticeship?

- It's a real job where you **learn, gain experience, study for a qualification and get paid.**
- An apprentice is an employee, with a contract of employment and holiday leave.
- Over **650 different apprenticeships** available, from nuclear engineer to architect to digital marketer.



# 3 Key facts about apprenticeships

1. An apprenticeship takes between **one to six years to complete**.
2. Apprentices typically work for a minimum of **30 hours a week** (and most will work full time, between 37 – 40 hours per week). Part-time options are also available in some cases.
3. By the end of an apprenticeship, you'll have the **right skills and knowledge** needed for your **chosen career**.

# How to understand the levels

- There is an **apprenticeship for everyone**: some are more complex than others.
- It is important to note that for apprenticeships, **levels are only a rough guide**.
- For a year 13 school leaver with little or no work experience, **a level 2 or Level 3 apprenticeship is a perfect entry point**, even if you already have A levels, BTEC or T-Levels.
- Some higher & degree apprenticeships give you the opportunity to combine university study and work.

LEVEL 2

Intermediate

Job roles include: Nuclear Operative, Junior Estate Agent, Rail Engineering Operative, Finance Assistant.

LEVEL 3

Advanced

Job roles include: Chef De Partie, Fashion Assistant, Veterinary Nurse, IT Solutions Technician.

LEVEL 4+

Higher

Job roles include: Marketing Executive, Journalist, Clinical Dental Technician.

LEVEL 6-  
7

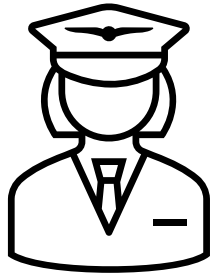
Degree

Job roles include: Aerospace Engineer, Police Constable, Cyber Security Professional, Ecologist.



# Types of apprenticeships

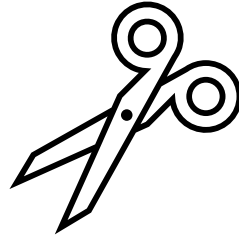
There are over 650 different apprenticeship roles to consider, here are some examples:



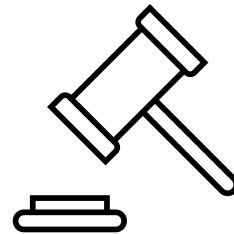
First Officer  
Pilot



Doctor



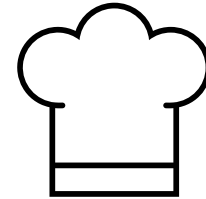
Hairdresser



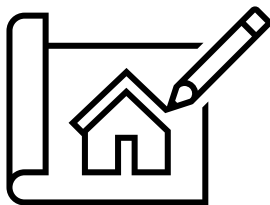
Paralegal



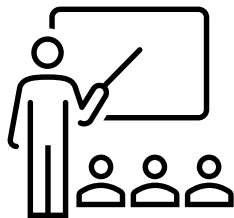
Beauty  
Therapist



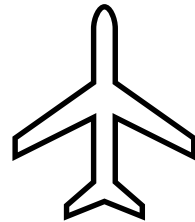
Chef



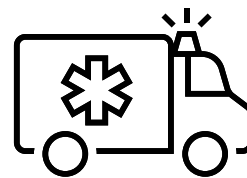
Quantity  
Surveyor



Early Years  
Practitioner



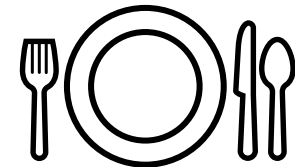
Aerospace  
Engineer



Paramedic



Business  
Admin



Dietician



# How it works

- Apprenticeships are funded by the Government and/or the employer. **This means that apprentices won't have loans or tuition fees.**
- **Apprentices have time away from their day-job protected for study** this tends to equate to a about a day a week but can be delivered in different fashions like blocks of study time or in the work-place. This is called 'off-the-job' training and is facilitated by a college, independent training provider, or a university.
- **The off-the-job time is paid time** and included within working hours.
- What apprentices earn will depend on the industry, location and type of apprenticeship.



# What is early connect?

- A pilot being delivered in partnership between the Department for Education (DfE) and Local regional partners (**London, North East, Lancashire**).
- Their aim is to **support more young people onto apprenticeships** and make it easier for employers to find apprentices.
- To date a variety of employers have pledged thousands of **apprenticeship vacancies** in the three pilot regions.



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# How can you support your child?

- Encourage them to **be open-minded** to the pathway they might take after school/college.
- Support them to **explore and search for apprenticeship opportunities** and encourage them to continue if they're not successful the first time around.
- Where you can, **help them to research** what the recruitment process might be like and how they might need to prepare.







# How to explore and apply for apprenticeships

Students can use Find An Apprenticeship to:

- Explore apprenticeship opportunities across all industries, employers and locations
- Shortlist their favourites
- Apply for apprenticeship vacancies
- Set up alerts and notifications around favourite searches

The screenshot shows the GOV.UK 'Find an apprenticeship' search results page. At the top, there is a 'GOV.UK' logo and the text 'Find an apprenticeship'. Below this, a 'Prototype' notice states 'This is not a real service.' A '< Back' link is visible. The main heading reads '62 apprenticeships found'. On the left, a 'Filter' sidebar is active, showing 'Selected filters' for 'Business' and 'Where' as 'Sheffield (within 10 miles)'. Below the filters are input fields for 'What' (job or company) and 'Where' (city or postcode). On the right, the search results are sorted by 'Distance'. The first result is 'Business Apprenticeship' by AOF Consulting Ltd in Sheffield, S7 3PT, with a distance of 0.4 miles, a training course of Business analyst (Level 4), and an annual wage of £25,000. It closes on 30 October at 11:59pm and was posted on 13 June. A 'Closing soon' badge is present. The second result is 'Business Administration Apprenticeship' by King recruitment LTD in Sheffield, S1 3FG, with a distance of 0.6 miles.



# What does your child need to do?

- Set up an account on Find An Apprenticeship
- Vacancies for summer 2025 starts will be advertised from November 2024
- Create Alerts for favourite types of apprenticeship
- Be proactive, explore employers own websites in industries of interest
- Tailor the application for each vacancy, be positive about skills and experiences
- Engage the local support in our pilot areas

The screenshot shows the GOV.UK website interface for creating an account on Find an Apprenticeship. At the top, there is a dark navigation bar with the GOV.UK logo on the left, and 'GOV.UK One Login' with a user icon and 'Sign out' on the right. Below this is a light grey breadcrumb bar with the text 'Find an apprenticeship'. The main content area has a heading 'Create an account for Find an apprenticeship' followed by the text 'We need to ask you some questions to create your account.' Below this, it says 'By continuing, you confirm that you agree to our:' followed by two bullet points: '• [terms and conditions \(opens in a new tab\)](#) - how we run this service' and '• [privacy notice \(opens in a new tab\)](#) - how we use your data'. At the bottom of this section is a green 'Continue' button.



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# Create an account to search & apply for apprenticeships



## Find an apprenticeship

Use this service to search and apply for apprenticeships in England.

During an apprenticeship, you'll:

- work and get paid
- train and gain a qualification

There's a different way to [apply if you live in Scotland](#), [apply if you live in Wales](#), or [apply if you live in Northern Ireland](#).

### Who can do an apprenticeship

You can start an apprenticeship if you're:

- 16 or over - there's no upper age limit
- not in education (full or part-time)

You can have a previous qualification, like a degree, and still start an apprenticeship.


### Related content

[Career skills and training](#)



# The student journey

**Set up Alerts**  
Student defines interests and can sign up to be alerted when vacancies are added to FAA



October

Advisers signpost students to the FAA

Student registers for FAA

Explore apprenticeships

Search for vacancies

Make an application

Get An Apprenticeship Advisor



# Support for parents

[apprenticeships.gov.uk/influencers/support-for-parents-and-guardians](https://apprenticeships.gov.uk/influencers/support-for-parents-and-guardians)

- Find out more about apprenticeships
- Access resources and support
- Learn about apprentices' real-life stories
- Access the latest Parent & Carer apprenticeship newsletter

The screenshot shows the 'Apprenticeships' website. The top navigation bar includes 'APPRENTICES', 'EMPLOYERS', and 'INFLUENCERS'. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with 'How they work', 'Request support', 'Resource hub', and 'Apprenticeship ambassador network'. The breadcrumb trail reads 'HOME > INFLUENCERS > HOW THEY WORK > SUPPORT FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS'. The main heading is 'Support for parents and guardians' with a sub-heading 'Influencers'. Below the heading is the HM Government logo. The main content area contains three paragraphs: 'If you're a parent, guardian or carer, you can help inspire the apprentices of tomorrow.', 'Apprenticeships are designed by employers so the training reflects the skills, knowledge and behaviours an apprentice will need for a particular occupation.', and 'Apprenticeship training is of a high standard and only training providers who are on the register of apprenticeship training providers can deliver the training.' A fourth paragraph starts with 'Working as an apprentice means they earn as they learn...' and is partially cut off. To the right of the main content is a sidebar with a green 'Apprentices' tag, the heading 'Browse apprenticeships', and the text 'Search to browse apprenticeships based on interest and location.' Below this is a green button labeled 'BROWSE APPRENTICESHIPS'.



# What local support is available?

For students seeking an apprenticeship and who need some **extra support**, our region will offer an **enhanced support package to students**, which could include:

- Linking with employers in the area, helping them to broaden their search to consider a wider range of vacancies.
- Support with applications, interviews and employability skills.
- Additional support where individuals are not initially successful.



# Get An Apprenticeship Adviser

## Why

- Harder to find and apply for apprenticeships than university or college courses.
- One size does not fit all.
- Partners in local areas understand opportunities and challenges.



## Who

- For anyone in year 13 at school or college interested in securing an apprenticeship this year.
- They may or may not have applied to university and have offers.



## What

- Share your details securely on digital service to be sent to the right people.
- Tailored support from partners in your area by phone or email.
- Free service.



## How

- Apply directly via an online form.
- Contacted within 3 working days of completing form.





# Local referral Links



**North East**

<https://earlyconnect.apprenticeships.education.gov.uk/E37000025>



**London**

<https://earlyconnect.apprenticeships.education.gov.uk/E37000051>



**Lancashire**

<https://earlyconnect.apprenticeships.education.gov.uk/E37000019>





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they can be it**

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and advice on future  
pathways for your  
students.

