

Apprenticeships

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Success is all about finding people who will help make any business grow, especially in times like these. It's important that employers take Apprenticeships seriously - apprentices make things happen and can help a business to grow and thrive.¹

Lord Sugar

What is an Apprenticeship?

An apprenticeship is on-the-job training available to those aged 16 and over, and is often combined with a nationally recognised qualification - for example a BTEC Apprenticeship.

The Government is currently introducing a new kind of apprenticeship which will eventually replace the old ones. Designed by employers and sometimes called a 'Trailblazer apprenticeship', it hopes these new style of apprenticeships will better meet the changing needs of learners and employers alike.

There are various levels and kinds of apprenticeships on offer. Your options include:

- **Intermediate apprenticeship (Level 2)** – such as a Level 2 BTEC Apprenticeship or new 'Trailblazer' style apprenticeship equivalent to 5 A*-C GCSEs.
- **Advanced apprenticeship (Level 3)** – such as a Level 3 BTEC Apprenticeship or new style 'Trailblazer' apprenticeship equivalent to 2 A levels.
- **Higher apprenticeship (Level 4 to Level 7)** such as BTEC Higher Apprenticeship or new style 'Trailblazer' degree apprenticeship.

¹Source: Lewisham College website.

Where can an Apprenticeship take you?

Once your Apprenticeship is complete, you'll have the opportunity to carry on working as a full-time employee, with chances of promotions and career progression. Alternatively, you can apply to work at other organisations in a similar role.

As an apprentice you will:

- earn a wage and get holiday pay
- work alongside experienced staff
- gain job-specific skills and knowledge
- get time for study related to your role (usually one day a week) and, in some instances, can achieve nationally recognised qualifications as part of your apprenticeship

What are my next steps?

1. Search for an apprenticeship at – www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch
2. **Further Education Colleges**
We work closely with almost every Further Education (FE) College in the UK to develop our BTEC Apprenticeships across a wide range of subjects and sectors. FE Colleges work with local employers to source job vacancies and match apprentices to those jobs. You can to see what Apprenticeships are available by checking out your local FE College website, or contacting them directly.
3. **Training Providers**
There are a number of local training providers in your area who work closely with employers to take on apprentices. You will be able to find them through your local Connexions office, through the National Apprenticeships Service and also through local job advertisements and postings. For more information visit: www.apprenticeships.org.uk



3. Employers

A number of well-known and large UK-based employers often recruit apprentices directly. For instance, BT and Flybe have a direct recruitment programme for apprentices. To apply directly to a large employer, you will need to:

- Search for the company you are interested in working for and check the recruitment areas on their website
- Keep your eye on the local jobs seen through newspapers and recruitment websites
- Write directly to an organisation enquiring if they would be willing to take you on as an apprentice.

