

WHAT IS AN APPRENTICESHIP?

10 key facts you need to know



An apprenticeship is a real job
Available to individuals aged 16+ (with no upper age limit).*



Apprentices are paid a salary
All apprentices will earn a salary, which will vary depending on the role, but must be at least the National Minimum Wage for apprentices, which is currently £8 per hour.**



Duration of apprenticeships
Most apprenticeships typically take between 8 months and 6 years to complete.



Apprenticeships levels
Apprenticeship levels range from level 2 (foundation and intermediate) through to level 7 (master's level).



Apprentices do not pay for their training
Apprenticeship training costs are paid for by the employer and/or the government.



Apprentices receive paid off-the-job training (OTJT)
Each apprenticeship now has its own minimum paid OTJT, which apprentices spend gaining valuable skills and qualifications.



Apprentices will spend the majority of their time on-the-job
Most of an apprentice's paid time will be spent on-the-job, working with colleagues to learn new skills and gain experience of the workplace.

700

There are hundreds of apprenticeship standards
There are now nearly 700 apprenticeship standards. Find out more about them here: amapps.uk/a-zstandards

70%

The range of occupations is huge
According to Government statistics, nearly 70% of occupations can now be entered via an apprenticeship.***



There are thousands of apprenticeship roles
New apprenticeships are advertised throughout the year, covering a wide range of job roles.



Linked resource

Explore our other new and recently updated Rapid Reads (see link below).



[Click here](#) to view or scan the QR code



*some standards only funded for those aged 22+ if eligibility is met

**correct as of April 2026

***[Apprenticeship achievements - An update for the sector](#)