

ETC2



**A parent/
supporter
guide to
apprenticeships**

Are you interested in finding out if an apprenticeship might be the right option for your child, or someone who you care for?

We've created this guide to assist you in supporting young people to make an informed decision about their future.

This guide provides:

- Answers to commonly asked questions on apprenticeships
- The types of apprenticeships available
- The choice between an apprenticeships or university?
- Information on T Levels relation to apprenticeships

What is an apprenticeship?

An apprenticeship is a paid role that includes a minimum of 20% off-the-job training for an individual looking to gain experience in the field. In addition to this, the organisation that the apprentice is employed by will provide the funding for the apprentice to undertake the qualifications and learning to become occupationally competent in that role. An apprenticeship is available for individuals over the age of 16 and typically last between 12–24 months.

Why choose an apprenticeship?

An apprenticeships is a great way to get a head start in the working world. Not only does it equip individuals with real-world workplace experience, it also gives the apprentice the chance to earn while they learn. Apprenticeships are highly regarded by employers with 85% of apprentices remaining in employment once their apprenticeship has ended.

Apprenticeships are also a fitting option for individuals who don't have any GCSEs. During their programme, an apprentice will undertake a Functional Skills qualification that is the equivalent to GCSE English and maths.*

*if achieved at Level 2

Types of apprenticeships

There are 4 types of apprenticeships available:

Intermediate Level 2	This apprenticeship is the equivalent to five GCSEs
Advanced Level 3	This apprenticeship is the equivalent to two A Levels
Higher Level 4-7	This apprenticeship is the equivalent to a certificate of higher education or foundation degree as high as a master's degree .
Degree Level 6-7	Guarantees a bachelor's or master's degree on successful completion.

Which industries offer apprenticeships?

Apprenticeships are available across a number of different industries. Here are just a few of the industries you could apply for an apprenticeship within:



Health



Business Services



Digital



Early Years



Education



Finance and compliance



Leadership management



Social care.

What is the difference between an apprenticeship and university?

With an apprenticeship, an apprentice is not responsible for the cost of study. The employer will fund the apprenticeship – including the qualifications undertaken by the apprentice.

Apprenticeships also provide a more practical approach to learning and help provide a high level of workplace experience. If the young person in your care works more effectively in an academic setting, university may be the favoured option between the two.

What is a T Level in relation to an apprenticeship?

Alongside apprenticeships, a T Level is another alternative option to A Levels available to young people once they have completed their GCSEs. These 2-year courses are equivalent to 3 A Levels and have been designed alongside employers based on the same standards as apprenticeships. Like an apprenticeship, T Levels have been designed to offer a more vocational option for young people which combines a work placement with classroom-based learning.

T Levels differ from apprenticeships in that learners spend 80% of their time engaged in classroom learning and 20% of their time on an industry placement. Unlike an apprenticeship, learners are not paid a salary while they undertake a T Level. T Levels do offer direct progression on to higher level apprenticeships, university, or the work place so are an excellent choice for learners who want to maintain an element of flexibility when it comes to their future progression options.

Who is NCFE?

We are an educational charity and awarding organisation that specialises in vocational and technical education. We work with training providers and employers to provide the right qualifications and apprenticeship solutions for learners. We offer an end-to-end solution for apprenticeships including pre-programme assessment, on programme learning – which includes a range of mandatory and complementary qualifications to support your delivery – and an award-winning end point assessment service.

Our offer spans across industries with a growing workforce need. These include; healthcare, business services, leadership management, early years, education, social care, finance and compliance. Although NCFE does not offer apprenticeships to learners directly, our core purpose is to assist the organisations we work with to deliver our qualifications effectively and help shape smarter learning.



Within apprenticeships, we offer:

[Pre-programme assessment](#)

[On programme learning](#)

[An award winning end-point assessment \(EPA\) service](#)



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[ncfe.org.uk](https://www.ncfe.org.uk)