



What are apprenticeships?

Earn while you learn

16+ | Levels 2 to 7 | Foundation apprenticeships for 16 to 21

? What is an apprenticeship?

An apprenticeship is a real, paid job with training. You work for an employer and spend part of your time learning, usually with a college or training provider. At the end you get a qualification.



Levels

- **Foundation apprenticeship:** a starting point for people new to work, usually around 8 months, in sectors such as construction, health and social care, digital, hospitality and retail
- **Intermediate (Level 2):** like GCSEs
- **Advanced (Level 3):** like A levels
- **Higher and degree (Levels 4 to 7):** up to degree level



Who can do one?

- Anyone aged 16 or over in England who isn't in full-time education
- Foundation apprenticeships are for 16 to 21 year olds, or up to 24 for people with an EHCP or who are care leavers
- No previous qualifications are needed for foundation apprenticeships
- You'll work on English and maths if you need to



Pay

Apprentices are paid at least the apprentice rate (£8.00 an hour from April 2026) if they're under 19 or in their first year. After that, the normal minimum wage for their age applies. Many employers pay more.



How to find one

- Find an apprenticeship on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)
- Employers' own careers sites, such as the NHS, councils and big retailers
- Ask your careers adviser

Where next? [Supported internships](#) · [Work-Based Pathways](#) · [Find a Job](#) — www.tags.careers/guides.html