

# WHAT IS A DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP?

## Frequently asked questions

### What is a degree apprenticeship?

Degree apprenticeships are level 6 and level 7 programmes that lead to a full degree-level qualification. This could be a bachelor's or master's degree, or an equivalent professional qualification.

### Who are they for?

Degree apprenticeships can be for new recruits into apprenticeship roles (for example, those leaving school or college) or they can be for an existing employee who is looking to upskill or retrain in their job role. Significant changes were made to the funding of level 7 apprenticeships as of the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026. Please see page 2 for further information.

### How long do they take to complete?

Degree apprenticeships typically take between 2 - 6 years to complete, depending on the level, programme design, and the prior experience and qualifications of the apprentice. The apprentice will split their time between work and study. The study through the training provider is called Off-The-Job-Training (OTJT).

### Do employers value degree apprentices as highly as traditional graduates?

Yes! Employers really do value degree apprentices because you will be applying what you learn immediately in the workplace, and helping to introduce and suggest new ideas and approaches.

### How much do they cost?

The apprentice will not be required to pay towards the cost of training, this will be funded by the employer and/or government\*. The apprentice will earn a salary throughout their apprenticeship, which means they are being paid to learn and will not incur student fees.

\*Please see page 2 of this guide for important changes to level 7 funding that were implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026.

### Do I apply to the employer or the university?

You will need to apply for, and secure, an apprenticeship with an employer. The employer will decide which training provider is best suited to the needs of their business - this could be a university, independent training provider or other Higher Education provider. Therefore, you do not apply directly to university for degree apprenticeships.



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### Will I have to pay the fees back?

Apprentices should never be expected to pay back the apprenticeship training costs. However, you are advised to check your contract of employment closely and speak to your employer and/or training provider if you have any questions on this.

### Do apprentices have a social life?

Absolutely! You will have the benefit of meeting new people at your workplace, and through your programme. There are also many networks that you can join as an apprentice to meet others, as well as applying for discount cards to access fantastic discounts and benefits.

### Is a degree apprenticeship a real degree?

If the degree apprenticeship includes a full degree, it will be exactly the same degree that you would be studying full-time. The main difference is the way that you will study as you will typically be working full-time, and studying part-time.

### What are the entry requirements for degree apprenticeships?

Entry requirements will vary between different employers and job roles. This will sometimes be a requirement of the apprenticeship standard, or could be a requirement of the employer or training provider.

### Can I progress from an advanced (level 3) apprenticeship to a degree apprenticeship?

Potentially, yes. If you want to progress to another apprenticeship with your current employer, speak to them and your training provider about the routes and programmes available.

If you are applying for a new role, you may need to check the entry criteria. If an advanced apprenticeship is not listed as an option, you could reach out to the employer and check with them.



### What has changed?

As of 1st January 2026, level 7 apprenticeships are only government-funded for young people aged 16-21, and aged 22-24 for care leavers and those with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan at the start of their apprenticeship in England.

You can read more about the changes to level 7 apprenticeships through the Government website (see link below).



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



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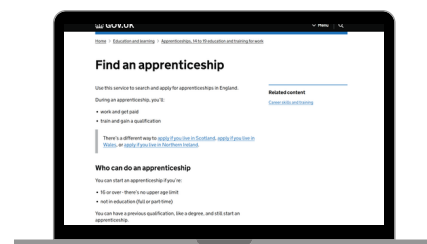
## HOW DO YOU FIND A DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP?

1

### Find an apprenticeship

[gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship](https://gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship)

This is the Government website where you can set up an account to search, apply and receive alerts for different vacancies.



2

### Higher & Degree apprenticeship listing

[amazingapprenticeships.com/higher-degree-listing](https://amazingapprenticeships.com/higher-degree-listing)

Three times a year (October, January & April), a listing of higher and degree apprenticeship vacancies is published by Amazing Apprenticeships, containing a wide selection of opportunities and links to apply.

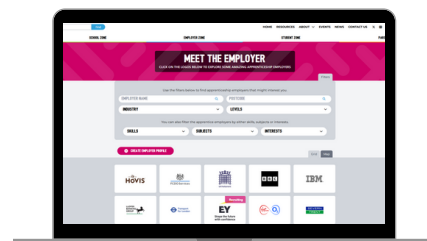


3

### Meet The Employer

[amazingapprenticeships.com/meet-the-employer](https://amazingapprenticeships.com/meet-the-employer)

Visit the Meet The Employer platform to discover employers advertising their positions, the locations and what to expect from the recruitment process.



4

### Other websites

There are many other job sites that you may find useful for locating degree apprenticeships, including:

- Get My First Job
- Not Going To Uni
- UCAS Career Finder

If you have a particular employer in mind, you can also search directly on employer websites and through their social media.

