

# PiXL'S APPRENTICESHIP BULLETIN

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## INSIDE THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

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**BECOMING AN APPRENTICE**



**HOW APPRENTICESHIPS WORK**



**TEN REASONS TO BECOME AN APPRENTICE**



**INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT APPRENTICESHIPS**



**POPULAR APPRENTICESHIPS**



**REAL STORIES - APPRENTICES IN ACTION**



**IN THE SPOTLIGHT - NETWORK RAIL**



**STUDENT CHALLENGE**



**SUPPORT RESOURCES**

Welcome to our first apprenticeship bulletin which will give you valuable information to help you understand more about apprenticeships. An apprenticeship may be an exciting option for you when you leave school or college. Take some time to explore what apprenticeships are, which apprenticeships are available, and read some inspirational stories.

### BECOMING AN APPRENTICE

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Apprenticeships combine practical training in a job alongside studying. An apprenticeship is where you have a real job, gain experience, and get paid! You will have a contract with an employer, are classed as an employee, and receive holiday leave. The aim is that by the end of your apprenticeship you will have gained the right skills and knowledge needed for your chosen career.

To become an apprentice, you must:

- be 16 or over
- not already be in full-time education
- live in England.

#### Levels of apprenticeship

Apprenticeships can take between one and size years depending on the one you have chosen, your previous experience and the level you are studying at. It is funded through contributions from the government and your employer.

|              |                     |                               |
|--------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Intermediate | Level 2             | GCSE equivalent               |
| Advanced     | Level 3             | A Level equivalent            |
| Higher       | Level 4, 5, 6 and 7 | Foundation degree and above   |
| Degree       | Level 6 and 7       | Bachelor's or Master's degree |

#### As an apprentice you will:

- train and learn about a specific job
- get paid and receive holiday leave
- get practical experience in a real job
- study for at least 20% of your working hours – usually at a college, university or with a training provider
- complete assessments during and at the end of your apprenticeship
- be on a career path with lots of future potential.

## HOW DO APPRENTICESHIPS WORK?

An apprentice will follow an approved programme of study, designed for the job they're training for. The employer will decide the structure of the training, but apprenticeships generally combine:

- a detailed training plan
- regular progress reviews
- practical training on the job
- theoretical study at a college
- assessment testing at a training facility
- mentoring and support throughout your apprenticeship.

The aim is that by the end of the course, apprentices should have gained the qualifications, skills and experience potential employers in the field are looking for.

Apprentices should work for a minimum of 30 hours a week and a maximum of 40. The time not spent on the job working will be at college or doing training which is all included in this time. Part-time apprenticeships can also be agreed by an employer, at a minimum of 16 hours per week.

### Finding an apprenticeship

You firstly need to find an apprenticeship which interests you by visiting any of these websites:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

<https://careerfinder.ucas.com/jobs/apprenticeship/>

<https://uk.indeed.com/Apprenticeship-Vacancy-jobs?vjk=9e8866380abdf513>

<https://www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk/search?show=jobs>

You can search vacancies by employer, location or job role. You will also find direct application links next to many vacancies that will enable you to apply.

## TEN REASONS TO BECOME AN APPRENTICE

1. You can earn money whilst you learn!
2. You can learn great skills from the best people.
3. There are thousands of vacancies across different sectors to choose from.
4. An apprenticeship can give you a head start with your career.
5. Apprenticeships provide employment opportunities.
6. You gain vital employability skills.
7. It is a rewarding experience.
8. It will help build your CV and your future.
9. You get mentored by great leaders.
10. You gain an accredited qualification at the same time as working.



## INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT APPRENTICESHIPS

- Apprenticeships are on the rise, and they're now preferred by many as an alternative to traditional university degrees.
- You can start an apprenticeship whether you're 16 or 60 – there's no age limit!
- Most apprenticeships are funded 95% by the government.
- Apprentices are in high demand by both employers and learners.
- After finishing, most apprentices (90%) stay in employment.
- A quarter of former apprentices had been promoted (23%) within 12 months of finishing.
- 89% of apprentices are satisfied with their apprenticeship; 85% of apprentices said their ability to do the job had improved, and 83% of apprentices said their career prospects had improved.
- Those completing a higher apprenticeship could see increased earnings over their lifetime.
- Employers say that qualified apprentices are 15% more employable than those with other qualifications.
- Apprenticeships are available in 1,500 job roles, covering more than 170 industries.

## POPULAR APPRENTICESHIPS

Apprenticeships come in all shapes and sizes and new apprenticeship opportunities arise each year. Apprenticeships can fall into different types, for example:

- Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care
- Arts, Media and Publishing
- Business, Administration and Law
- Construction, Planning and the Built Environment
- Education and Training
- Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies
- Health, Public Services and Care
- Information and Communication Technology
- Languages
- Literature and Culture
- Leisure, Travel and Tourism
- Preparation for Life and Work
- Retail and Commercial Enterprise
- Science
- Mathematics

Every year, the government announce the top 100 of the very best of England's large apprenticeship employers. The last announcement was in 2020 due to COVID-19 but they are back again this year. The Top 10 Apprenticeship Employers for 2020 were:

1. British Army
2. HMRC
3. Royal Navy
4. BT
5. MTR Elizabeth Line
6. Mazars LLP
7. Optionis Group
8. Mitchells and Butlers
9. Greene King
10. Royal Air Force

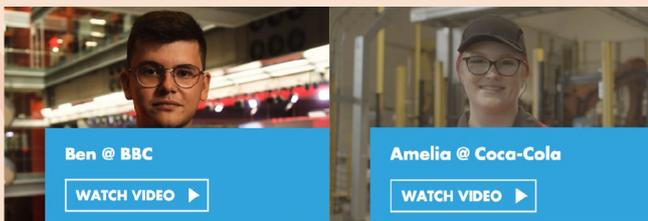


### REAL STORIES

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You can hear real stories from apprentices about their experiences online. Amazing apprenticeships is a fantastic website with a collection of short apprentice story films to showcase the variety of apprenticeships, including firefighting, engineering, broadcasting, zookeeping, and more.

Visit Amazing Apprenticeships and watch some of the stories. Click on the images below to view the short films about Ben at the BBC and Amelia at Coca-Cola.



The government website also has apprentice ambassadors who have shared their personal experiences through videos and blogs.

<https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/apprentices/ambassador-stories>

Watch Ben's apprenticeship story at Somerset County Council.



Watch Ella's apprenticeship story at Exeter College.



## APPRENTICESHIP IN THE SPOTLIGHT: NETWORK RAIL

How to become an Engineering apprentice with Network Rail

Network Rail are one of the UK's largest apprenticeship employers, offering some fantastic opportunities and expert training. They offer a great structure, support and experience to help apprentices grow and develop.

Hear more about Network Rail's apprenticeship success by watching the video:

<https://www.networkrail.co.uk/careers/early-careers/apprenticeships/>

At Network Rail, a popular apprenticeship is the Level 3 Engineering apprenticeship. The entry requirements are:

- Four GCSEs:
- Maths, grade 9-5 (A\*-C)
- English language, grade 9-4 (A\*-C)
- A science or engineering subject, grade 9-4 (A\*-C)
- One other subject, grade 9-4 (A\*-C)

To apply for this apprenticeship at Network Rail you would need to complete the following steps:

**Step 1:** Complete an online application form.

**Step 2:** Complete online testing – this is like a multiple-choice quiz with scenarios you may face in the job role. There is no time limit, but you must complete it in one go. You can't save it and return to it.

**Step 3:** Complete a video scenario – you will be given an exercise to complete where you will give your thoughts and opinions on what you would do in each scenario. You will record your answers on camera and send this in.

**Step 4:** Attend an assessment centre. These might be virtual or onsite at various locations. On the day, you'll take part in a few exercises. You'll need to show you understand our purpose, explain why this scheme is for you, prove you can work collaboratively and articulate your approach to problem solving.

**Step 5:** Receive an outcome and feedback. You will be told if you have been successful as soon as possible.



### STUDENT CHALLENGE

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The government has a fantastic website where you can learn more about the range of apprenticeships available, how to search and apply for apprenticeships, what roles are available by interest area, and more.

Spend some time learning about apprenticeships and the exciting careers available. Visit: [www.apprenticeships.gov.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk)

Research the different apprenticeships available to you and write down a list of the top five that are most appealing to you. Write a covering letter to your favourite employer to explain why you would like to be an apprentice and what you could bring to the job role and organisation.

Remember that a great way to try an industry before committing to an apprenticeship is by taking part in work experience which allows you to experience a particular industry or job role.



### EXPLORING APPRENTICESHIPS

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Explore a range of resources designed to help inspire and support the apprentices of tomorrow.



<https://careermap.co.uk/careers/apprentice>



[www.apprenticeships.gov.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk)



<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/news/>



<https://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/>



<https://activateapprenticeships.co.uk/>



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