

# Apprenticeships

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## Introduction

Apprenticeships are real jobs with real employers that allow claimants to work, earn a salary, and gain valuable qualifications and experience. Apprenticeships combine on-the-job training with academic study.

## Apprenticeships in England

For information about what an Apprenticeship is and what claimants can gain by participating in them, see the Introduction

## Eligibility

Claimants must be:

- 16 or over
- living in England
- not in full-time education

Apprentices will:

- be an employee
- earning a wage and get holiday pay ([see Become an Apprentice: pay and conditions on GOV.UK](#))
- work alongside experienced staff
- gain job specific skills
- get time for training and study related to the role (at least 6 hours per week, 20% of a 30 hour week).

Apprentices are entitled to the apprentice minimum wage if aged under 19 or aged 19 or over and in the first year of their apprenticeship. In all other cases, claimants are entitled to the minimum rate for their age.

The National Minimum Wage for apprentices is reviewed each April.

An apprenticeship is a job and earnings for Universal Credit claimants are treated in the same way as any other job.

## **Levels of apprenticeship**

The levels of apprenticeship range from level 2 (equivalent to GCSE) to level 7 (equivalent to a degree).

Some apprenticeships may also give an additional qualification, such as a diploma. There are thousands of apprenticeships in more than 170 industries. New apprenticeships are advertised each week covering a wide range of job roles. Suitable claimants should be signposted to [Find an Apprenticeship](#)

## **Bursaries for Apprenticeships in England**

There is a bursary payable to eligible care leavers who participate in an Apprenticeship in England.

For an overview, payment and eligibility criteria refer to the following: [Apprenticeships care leavers' bursary guidance on GOV.UK](#)

Claimants receiving the bursary will need to report this on their Universal credit claim and it will be treated as capital. See Treatment of capital and Care Leavers guidance.

## **Apprenticeships in Wales**

For information about what an Apprenticeship is and what claimants can gain by participating in them, see: Introduction

### **Eligibility**

Claimants must be:

- 16 or over
- living in Wales
- have the right to live in the UK
- not in full-time education

Apprentices will:

- earning a wage and get holiday pay ([see Become an Apprentice: pay and conditions on GOV.UK](#))
- work alongside experienced staff
- gain job-specific skills
- get time for training and study related to the role

Apprentices are entitled to the apprentice minimum wage if aged under 19 or aged 19 or over, and in the first year of the apprenticeship. In all other cases, claimants are entitled to the minimum rate for their age.

An apprenticeship is a job and earnings for Universal Credit claimants are treated in the same way as any other job.

## **Levels of apprenticeship**

The levels of apprenticeship range from level 2 (equivalent to GCSE) to level 7 (equivalent to a degree).

For information on the different levels available see [What is an Apprenticeship?](#) on the Careers Wales site.

Suitable candidates should be signposted to [Apprenticeship search](#) on the Careers Wales site.

For further information see: [Apprenticeships](#) on the Careers Wales site

## **Apprenticeships in Scotland**

For information about what an Apprenticeship is and what claimants can gain by participating in them, see: Introduction

### **Eligibility**

Claimants must be:

- 16 or over
- living in Scotland
- have the right to live in the UK
- not in full-time education

Apprentices will:

- earning a wage and get holiday pay ([see Become an Apprentice: pay and conditions on GOV.UK](#))
- work alongside experienced staff
- gain job-specific skills
- get time for training and study related to the role

Apprentices are entitled to the apprentice minimum wage if aged under 19 or aged 19 or over and in the first year of the apprenticeship. In all other cases, claimants are entitled to the minimum rate for their age.

An apprenticeship is a job and earnings for Universal Credit claimants are treated in the same way as any other job.

## **Levels of apprenticeship**

### **Modern apprenticeships**

Modern Apprentices learn on the job – gaining skills, experience and qualifications to kick-start their career.

Participants learn real-life industry skills while working towards an industry recognised qualification.

Suitable candidates should be signposted to [Find and apply for a vacancy](#) on Apprenticeships Scotland.

For further information see: [Apprenticeships in Scotland](#)

### **Graduate Apprenticeships**

Participants gain full-time industry experience and a wage while working towards a degree. Time is split between studying at university while working.

Most Graduate Apprenticeships have entry requirements that are similar to an undergraduate degree but will also take into consideration alternative paths of learning. Previous completion of a Foundation Apprenticeship is desirable.

All Graduate apprentices must apply directly to Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS) for funding. For more information on [How to apply, visit the SAAS website](#).

Graduate Apprenticeships have flexible entry and exit points in the programme so participants can begin and leave the course at the right point, ensuring any previous learning will not be repeated.

Suitable candidates should be signposted to [Find and apply for a vacancy](#) on Apprenticeships Scotland.

For further information see: [Become an apprentice on Apprenticeships in Scotland](#)